

Mid-Term Progress Report Colombia

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Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
(FCPF)

Readiness Fund



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

Nota: La [Nota FMT 2012-7 rev](#) establece el proceso para que los Países Participantes REDD presenten, y el Comité de Participantes (PC) revise, los informes de avance de medio término y las solicitudes de financiamiento adicional hasta por US\$ 5 millones.



MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry and other land use
EDA	Early Deforestation Alerts
CAR	Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales y de Desarrollo Sostenible [Regional Autonomous and Sustainable Development Corporations] (regional environmental authorities)
CI	Conservation International – Colombia
CICC	Comisión Intersectorial de Cambio Climático [Inter-Sector Commission on Climate Change]
CIT	Comisión Indígena Tayrona [Tayrona Indigenous Commission]
CMDR	Consejo Municipal de Desarrollo Rural [Municipal Council for Rural Development]
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CONPES	Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social [National Council for Economic and Social Policy]
CTP	Consejo Territorial de Planeación [Territorial Planning Council]
DCSAC	Distrito de Conservación de Suelos y Aguas del Caquetá [Caquetá Land and Water Conservation District]
CLCDS	Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy
REDD+ NS	National Strategy on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH [German International Cooperation Agency]
IAvH	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt [Alexander von Humboldt Institute]
IDEAM	Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales de Colombia [Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies]
NGGI	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory
NFI	National Forestry Inventory
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAIF	Latin American Investment Facility
MADR	Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural [Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development]
MADS	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible [Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development]
MGAS	Environmental and Social Management Framework
MIACC	Mesa Indígena Amazónica de Cambio Climático [Amazon Indigenous Roundtable on Climate Change]
DH	Deforestation Hotspots
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NRCC	Nodo Regional de Cambio Climático [Regional Climate Change Node]
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
ONIC	Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia [National Indigenous Organization of Colombia]
UN-REDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
OPIAC	Organización de Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana [Colombian Amazon Indigenous Peoples Organization]
NTFP	National Forest Management Plan
NAP	National Climate Change Adaptation Plan
PND	National Development Plan
RCCSG	Requests, complaints, claims, suggestions and grievances
REM	REDD Early Movers Programme
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIAC	Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia [Colombian Environmental Information System]
SIS	Safeguards information System

SISCLIMA	National Climate Change System
FCMS	Forest Carbon Monitoring System
SNS	National Safeguards System
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

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1. Introduction

The Government of Colombia, with a view to developing activities for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), is formulating the REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+ NS) that forms part of the 2014–2018 National Development Plan (NDP). The implementation of the REDD+ NS seeks to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the country and positively impact the livelihoods and human well-being of indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and campesino communities that depend on the forests or interact with them, in accordance with their capacities and facilitated by international support in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The formulation of the REDD+ NS is led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible; MADS) in coordination with the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales de Colombia; IDEAM), backed by the FCPF REDD+ readiness support program, the UN-REDD program and the GIZ Protection of Forests and Climate/REDD+ Programme. The institutional architecture has been strengthened within the framework of the National Climate Change System (Sistema Nacional de Cambio Climático; SISCLIMA), which establishes authorities for inter-sector coordination at the national level and defines the Regional Climate Change Nodes (Nodos Regional de Cambio Climático; NRCCs) at the regional level in order to approach mitigation and adaptation in a comprehensive manner with the active engagement of different stakeholders. The REDD+ readiness process has been engaging the relevant stakeholders, in an exercise that includes actions for disseminating information, dialogue and communication, capacity building and strengthening participation platforms.

The country has advanced with the generation of relevant and reliable information and technical protocols for understanding and tackling the causes and agents of deforestation, and has also developed approaches, principles and criteria for complying with the UNFCCC safeguards under a national interpretation, which forms part of the Colombian Environmental Information System (Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia; SIAC) and includes the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

On the other hand, REDD+ measures and actions have been defined, and their possible risks, benefits and applicable safeguards are being analyzed. Meanwhile, pilot projects are being developed to apply these measures and actions in high deforestation areas, with the active participation of the communities.

In conjunction with this readiness process, Colombia has been designing and implementing illustrative actions through performance-related pay schemes. In this regard, a Joint Statement of Interest was signed with the governments of Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom with two scopes at the national level. The first corresponds to the design and implementation of policies and structures that permit the reduction of emissions from deforestation by promoting a low-carbon economy, and the second to a performance-related pay scheme.

In the Amazon region, with the development of the REM/Amazon Vision program, and in the Orinoquía region, with the Sustainable Forest Landscapes Initiative (of the BioCarbon Fund), the country is directing its activities towards an alternative territory intervention model based on the reduction of deforestation and on the



conservation of forests, guaranteeing the participation of community organizations to achieve zero net deforestation by 2020. This scheme, which it is sought to replicate in other regions of the country, includes the strengthening of forestry governance, sustainable agro-environmental development, environmental territory planning, and the control of deforestation with the participation of regional administrative authorities and law enforcement, among other actions.

These actions, related both to readiness and implementation, are coupled with efforts aimed at the fulfillment of the National Contribution, which Colombia committed to in the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties. Within this context, this report presents the significant progress, as well as the gaps and solutions for facing the problems identified and the funding needs of the country to continue progressing with the formulation and implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy.

The request for additional funding to the FCPF focuses on the following components for reducing deforestation in Colombia: (1) consultation and participation through local dialogues and dissemination with the indigenous and Afro-Colombian sectors, dialogue spaces and communication with civil society at the subnational level and the promotion of national/international instances for dialogue and dissemination of REDD+NS; (2) preparation of REDD+NS through the development of enabling measures for REDD+ pilot projects and national and regional institutional strengthening; and (3) forest monitoring and safeguards system with the implementation of the community monitoring protocol, the monitoring of causes and agents of deforestation, the operation of the Safeguards Information System, reporting and the follow-up safeguards implementation.



2. Overview of progress made on the implementation of the R-PP

1. REDD+ readiness organization and consultation

1a. National readiness management arrangements

Colombia shares the global challenge of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In this context, deforestation is the greatest source of emissions for the country, accounting for 36% of emissions in 2012. In order to tackle this problem, in its 2014–2018 NDP, the Government establishes green growth and low-carbon development commitments, proposing the design and implementation of a REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+ NS), with all of the inter-sector structuring and regulation, public policy, capacity building, monitoring and verification actions, among others, to achieve the proposed goals, and a Policy to Combat Deforestation, formulated with the participation of the productive trade unions.

In this context, REDD+ is currently a key element of the Colombian forest management framework with regard to climate change and the main source of funding. The country has managed to leverage a forest area planning process with civil society, the private sector and the institutional structure of the Colombian State. This has materialized in:

- The 2014–2018 NDP, which creates the mandate to construct two policies: the REDD+ National Strategy and the Policy to Combat Deforestation.
- The successful management of the search for funding for reducing deforestation through readiness support programs, as well as illustrative actions (Joint Declaration, REM Amazon Vision Program and BioCarbon Fund).
- The inclusion of reducing deforestation in sectoral agendas and in regional planning instruments, for example via the Comprehensive Climate Change Plans, the Sectoral Action Plans, Inter-Ministerial Agendas and in the commitments of the Inter-Sector Commission on Climate Change (Comisión Intersectorial de Cambio Climático; CICC).
- And the creation of a robust forest carbon monitoring system in Colombia, which allows changes in cover to be detected by analyzing satellite images as well as providing knowledge on carbon content in each type of forest. This provides the basic information source for generating Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs) and the respective performance reports for accessing performance-based payment schemes.

As a result, the REDD+ readiness process has strengthened the **technical capacity** of MADS and IDEAM, achieving significant progress on monitoring forest cover and its changes, the AFOLU National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI), the National Forestry Inventory (NFI), the estimation of FRELs, modelling of deforestation, analysis and characterization of the causes and agents of deforestation and degradation, the identification and design of REDD+ measures and actions, and the analysis of the multiple risks and benefits associated with the REDD+ measures and actions.



Capacity building has also been achieved through the consolidation of opportunities for improving knowledge on REDD+ and climate change of stakeholders relevant to the national strategy, such as representatives and leaders of community organizations, environmental authorities, academia and research institutions. These opportunities include, among others, REDD+ National School sessions, workshops for exchanging experiences and techniques on the analysis of forest inventory data, FRELs, classification of land cover and safeguards, among others. Nearly 700 people from ethnic and social organizations and public institutions have improved their knowledge of REDD+ and climate change, they have been informed of the advances that the national government is generating in this area, which has allowed for qualification and more effective participation of these actors in the construction of the REDD+NS.

Similarly, events have been held to disseminate and discuss the progress made in the formulation of the REDD+NS, including: (i) "First national annual seminar on monitoring of forest cover" (October 2016), which had the main objective of socializing the National Strategy for National Emission Reduction (REDD+NS) and the advances that the country has in the main pillars it addresses (National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, Forest Reference Emission Level and the National Safeguards Information System); and (ii) X Latin American Congress on Forest Law (November 2016), whose theme was "Forests, People and Peace, an opportunity for post-conflict", where leaders of the Afro-Colombian Common Agenda, ONIC, OPIAC and MADS, as well as different experts from Bolivia, Peru and Brazil.

1b. Consultation, participation and outreach

The platforms and opportunities for participation that were identified during the preparation of the R-PP have been involved in the process for formulating the REDD+ NS, with the leadership of MADS and the support of the cooperation programs for REDD+. Nevertheless, the past two years has seen the identification of new opportunities and stakeholders with an interest in being informed on, participating in and contributing from their viewpoint to the construction of the REDD+ NS.

Engagement has been initiated in the **Amazon and Pacific** regions, which concentrate the majority of the country's natural forests, where important progress was also made during the preparation of the R-PP at the level of early dialogue and information, definition of specific actions for the communications strategy, and performing the SESA, in which only the regional meeting where the different stakeholders are located is yet to be performed. The Orinoquía region has been engaged by approaching the key stakeholders, such as the departmental roundtables and the regional node, to define a roadmap that only permits participative construction of the REDD+ NS.

In this regard, participation opportunities have been promoted and consolidated, such as the platform with **Afro-Colombian** communities of the Pacific region, based on which the Afro roundtable on climate change and REDD+ was created, as well as a specific roundtable for women in order to develop a gender-based approach, given their differential relationship with the causes and impacts of climate change, deforestation and the measures and actions. Likewise, the roundtable with **indigenous** people from the Amazon (MIACC) was reactivated and opportunities have been sought with indigenous people from national (ONIC) and regional (CIT) level organizations, including bodies for agreement with the national government for implementing the NDP. With **campesino** communities, the engagement process began, in accordance with the provisions of the R-PP, with organizations of national scope. Nevertheless, participation in the construction of the REDD+ NS has been made conditional on political dialogue and the establishment of agreements that exceed the scope of



REDD+, meaning that less progress has been made, but as of the date of this report there are adequate conditions to carry out the required information, consultation and participation actions.

Continuous participation in the different organizational levels of the representative and dialogue bodies of the communities (national, regional and local) requires additional funds to make the engagement of Afro-Colombian, indigenous and campesino communities sustainable. It is also necessary to develop the dialogue and participation process in the Orinoquía, Andean and Caribbean regions.

In relation to **institutional stakeholders**, opportunities have been promoted with the Autonomous Regional Corporations (Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales; CAR) that present the highest levels of deforestation in the territory, with visits and meetings for defining work plans, identifying lines of action to reduce deforestation and involvement in workshops, exchanges and training events such as the REDD+ School. Within the institutional arrangements to coordinate climate change actions in 2016, the organization of SISCLIMA and the NRCCs was established, which involve social, private and academic stakeholders as well as government stakeholders. Nevertheless, additional funds are required to strengthen the CARs and improve their institutional governance capacities, especially in control and surveillance processes that directly impact the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

In terms of inter-sector coordination, the improvement of communication channels and opportunities between sectors such as agriculture, transport, mining and defense has been achieved, and these actions have also been incorporated into the Inter-Sector Commission on Climate Change. Furthermore, the Inter-Sector Pact for Legal Timber in Colombia (Pacto Intersectorial por la Madera Legal en Colombia; PIMLC) has been supported, which is a voluntary agreement between public and private bodies in the country with the objective of ensuring that the wood extracted, transported, sold and used comes exclusively from legal sources.

The activities developed strengthen forestry governance of the communities, municipalities and regions, creating favourable conditions for implementing the REDD+ NS, as well as establishing regional forest roundtables, forestry roundtables and departmental roundtables on climate change in conjunction with the Climate Change Nodes, seeking the active participation of the different groups of interest in the construction of the REDD+ NS.

The current progress in the process of national involvement of the different stakeholders is 60%, taking into account the consolidation of spaces at national and regional levels. With the regulation of the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA), the appropriate authorities at the national (Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change) and regional levels (Regional Climate Change Nodes) are able to deal with REDD+ in conjunction with other strategies, particularly the Low carbon development strategy and the adaptation plan. On the other hand, in the Amazon and the Pacific regions, that concentrates most of the country's natural forests, mainly owned by indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. In this regard, the spaces for participation established by national legislation as well as those defined by community organization have been consolidated and strengthened to maintain a permanent dialogue with the government on climate change and REDD+.

With the involvement of different stakeholders, the formation and launch of the National REDD+ Roundtable will be achieved in 2017, for the functioning of which **additional funding** is requested, given the diversity of local-scope stakeholders who will participate in this initiative and the minimum number of sessions (at least two sessions per year).



The consolidation of the participatory process for the REDD+ NS has resulted in a challenge for Colombia, given its territorial extension, multicultural wealth, high biodiversity and the socioeconomic and institutional dynamics associated with the peace process. As a result, MADS requires **additional support** to finalize the implementation of the Stakeholders Participation Plan (SPP) aimed at ensuring the design and implementation of the REDD+ NS with the effective participation of relevant stakeholders, prioritizing indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and campesino organizations.

On the other hand, it is important to point out that the informed participation of the different stakeholders is supported by the **communications strategy**, which was updated in 2016, including the following Theory of Change: if communities and the general public are informed, they will actively participate in REDD+ decision-making and in the construction of the REDD+ National Strategy. For this reason, the main objective of the communications strategy is to publicize the importance of REDD+ to the target audience motivating the informed participation in the inclusive construction and the differentiated approach of the REDD+NS. Among the target audiences, priority was given to forestry communities dependent on forests: black, indigenous and campesino communities, with special emphasis and interest on young people and women as agents of change in these communities; and then the other target audiences, as follows: 2) public sector: national government and local and regional authorities; 3) private sector; 4) cooperating agencies; 5) academy; 6) NGOs and 7) environmental authorities.

The communications strategy has been built with the participation of forest communities, which will also be trained for the production of their own communications products (this has started with Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific region, as explained in Chapter 3). This capacity-building exercise to communicate REDD+ will be part of the approach with indigenous and campesino communities, so that the communications strategy is appropriate, validated and agreed across sectors and regions.

The greatest impact on communication has been achieved through the unity in the REDD+ identity, constructing a logo for Colombia through cooperation and consensus between the bodies and communities participating in the process. Furthermore, an impact has been made on the general public informing and generating their own content through the social networks of the bodies on the activities performed in the context of the REDD+ NS. The impact has also been achieved with publications in the national and local media, reaching a wide audience. The above was achieved by designing a logo and image manual for the REDD+ NS; preparing documents for decision-making; designing, editing and publishing three "REDD+ Diversa" institutional bulletins; producing and disseminating early deforestation alert newsletters; preparing news items for websites and content for social media for the socialization of events and information of interest on climate change and REDD+; producing printed materials (computer graphics on figures, causes and agents of deforestation) and audiovisual materials (animated information video on the UN-REDD program, clips on the communication actions in the Pacific region and on the workshops with the participation of Afro-Colombian communities); and creating a website (currently content is being generated and tests performed for it to go live in March 2017). The communications work has been performed in a coordinated manner between the cooperative programs for REDD+, given that a roundtable was set up that involves specialists from MADS, IDEAM, UN-REDD and GIZ.

In this same context, "The Pacific talks about REDD+" strategy was formulated and launched, which develops an appropriate approach to Afro-Colombian communities based on the culture, ways of life and needs of this stakeholder. The actions developed include training community reporters who support the generation and



dissemination of content. Likewise, tours have been performed on the “Chocó – Darién Conservation Corridor” project in collective territory of the community council COCOMASUR, the purpose of which was to introduce community representatives, environmental authorities and partners to an early REDD+ initiative to learn from the experience, achievements, problems and challenges of the process and, especially, from the actions implemented to avoid deforestation and increase forestry governance. Also, in partnership with the Instituto Caro y Cuervo, a body attached to the Ministry of Culture, the Pacific Diploma in Creative Writing was carried out, the objective of which was to prepare new accounts of the forest (jungle) and territory in Afro-Colombian and black communities of the Colombian Pacific region. Both the tours and the diploma produced outreach material, such as videos, articles in the regional and national press, and radio programs on community stations.

2. Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy

2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

The most recent figures indicate that 52.2% of Colombian continental territory remains natural forest and that the main remaining forest areas are found in the biomes of the Amazon, Andes and Colombian Pacific. In terms of deforestation, 124,035 lost hectares were recorded in 2015, concentrated mainly in the north-west Amazon, Magdalena Medio and northern Colombian Pacific regions.

In order to itemize the information related to forests and the drivers of change, the strengthening of the technical capacities of IDEAM has been brought forward with the incorporation of a solid team of professionals and regional capacity building through the training of professionals in the CARs and National Parks.

With regard to the component of characterizing the causes and agents of deforestation in Colombia, one of the significant advances has been the formulation and pilot implementation by IDEAM, in collaboration with MADS, of the methodological framework for “Characterization of the causes and agents for the six Deforestation Hotspots identified for the 2005-2015 period” (publication in process). This framework considerably reduces the theoretical ambiguities, by generating a classification of the direct causes (expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier, mining, expansion of infrastructure, logging and biophysical and social factors), the underlying causes (demographic factors, economic and technological factors, biophysical factors, political and institutional factors and cultural factors) and the agents (economic, cultural and social organization interests) of deforestation in Colombia (national and/or regional level), as well as the criteria for their classification.

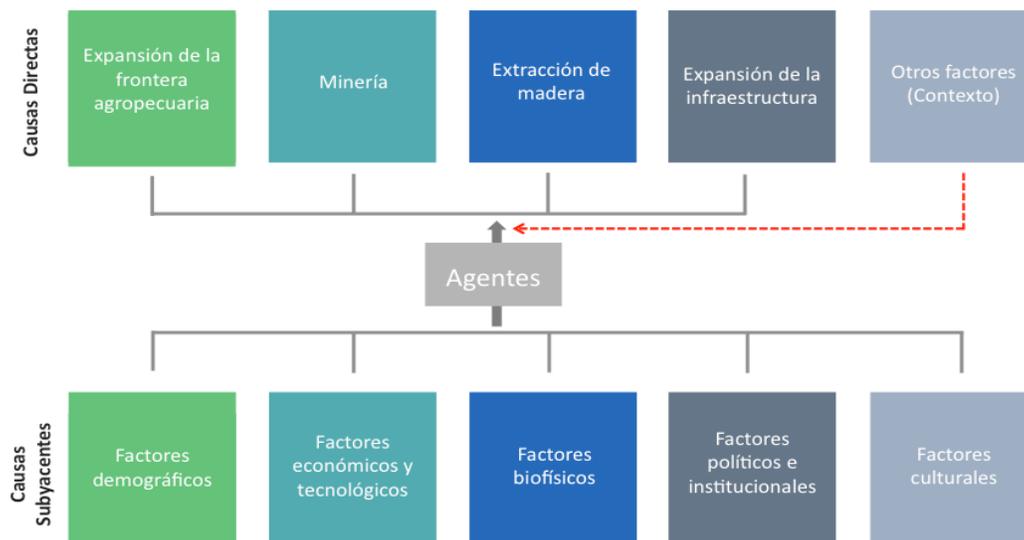


Figure 1. Classification of the underlying causes of the reduction in forests. Modified from Geist & Lambin (2006) and González et al. IDEAM (2011)¹.

This methodology was applied to the characterization of the main historical deforestation hotspots in the 2005–2015 period. For each of the hotspots (North Andes, Central North Andes, South Andes, North Amazon, Central Pacific and South Pacific), its location, deforestation percentage with respect to the national total, different usage and management figures (natural national parks and indigenous reservations inside), and departments and municipalities that it comprises are identified in order to finally describe and characterize the direct causes of deforestation and associated agents. The importance of the conceptual framework lies in a solid methodology that takes into account the most significant elements for understanding and analyzing the phenomenon, whilst managing to adapt to the characteristics of the territory that needs to be studied. The consolidation of a national database of causes and agents of deforestation allows the studies to be based on a common conceptual foundation, allowing the standardization and use of information compiled at local, regional or national levels in the design of measures and potential mitigation actions. Currently, opportunities are available for the implementation of this methodology with the participation of regional stakeholders.

At the regional level, it is important to mention that progress has been made on studies of drivers of deforestation in the departments of Santander and North Santander, with which it has been possible to generate regional participation opportunities, and the progress made with the regional node and the forestry roundtable of Santander is particularly noteworthy. On the other hand, the recommendation of the studies of drivers which have been under way in the Amazon region and the North Andes are now reflected in policies, strategies and regional plans, specifically the Amazon Vision program and the development plans of some departments.

In relation to the Carbon Monitoring component, the necessary information has been generated to estimate the carbon content in the natural forests of Colombia and the emissions associated with deforestation. It is

¹ González, J. Cubillos, M., Arias, A., Chadid, M. Cubillos, M., Joubert, F. Cabrera, E. 2016 (*publication in process*). Caracterización de las principales causas y agentes de deforestación a nivel nacional período 2005–2015 [Characterization of the main causes and agents of deforestation at the national level for the 2005–2015 period]. IDEAM. UN-REDD Colombia Programme.



expected that, with the implementation of the first National Forestry Inventory (2015), the emission factors in natural forests and other cover will be updated. Finally, the inter-institutional structuring that has facilitated its implementation with environmental research institutions and regional environmental authorities is notable.

Colombia has the challenge of administering 59.8 million hectares of natural forests and approximately 7 million hectares suitable for the establishment of forest plantations, under regulatory guidelines generated by MADS in the case of natural forests and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural; MADR) in the case of forestry crops for commercial purposes. This means that the contributions and structure of the following are available to administer the natural forests: MADS, the 33 Regional Autonomous and Sustainable Development Corporations, the 8 Environmental Authorities of Large Urban Centers, the 4 Research Institutions, Natural National Parks and the National Authority for Environmental Licenses (Autoridad Nacional de Licencias Ambientales; ANLA).

This administration is governed by a complete regulatory framework on forest management. Specifically the regulations on REDD+ are formulated by MADS, which according to paragraph 5 of Article 170 of Law 1753 of 2015 is the body that "...shall direct the implementation of the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), in coordination with other ministries and public bodies and the private sector as part of the national policy on climate change...".

In accordance with the above, Article 175 of Law 1753 of 2015 stipulated the creation of "... the National Registry on Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, which the National Registry of Programs and Projects on Actions for Reducing Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Colombia (REDD+) shall form part of. These shall be regulated and administered by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development."

These regulatory advances for REDD+ are framed within the provisions of the Forests Policy –Document CONPES 2834 of 1996 – which ordered the Ministry of Environment, in coordination with the bodies of the National Environmental System, to formulate and implement a joint strategy for control and surveillance of the exploitation, transport, storage and transformation of products. Likewise, the 2000–2025 National Forestry Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal 2000–2025; PNDF) stresses the role of forestry governance as the correct approach to improve administration of this resource and highlight the role of forests in the sustainable development of the country.

As a result, the Technical Foundations of the 2014–2018 NDP "Todos por un Nuevo País" ("United for a new country"), prepared by the National Government with the participation of the High Council of the Judiciary (Consejo Superior de la Judicatura) and the National Planning Council (Consejo Nacional de Planeación) established the Cross-Sectional Strategy of Green Growth in goal 2: Protect and ensure the sustainable use of natural capital and improve environmental quality, in Strategy 1: Conserve and ensure the sustainable use of the marine and continental natural capital of the nation and specifically in the action to reduce deforestation, including the following activities: (1) promotion of the legality of the supply and demand of timber products, through the Inter-Sector Pact for Legal Timber; (3) implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Illegal Trafficking in Wildlife Species and of the National Strategy for Forestry Prevention, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance.

As such, the REDD+ measures and actions have been strengthening Forestry Governance through the promotion of instruments such as the Inter-Sector Pact for Legal Timber in Colombia and the creation of a



protocol for joint action by deforestation control bodies (Ministry of Defense, military forces, National Police and Prosecutor's Office, among others).

Additionally, Colombia has joined a public-private coalition (Tropical Forest Alliance) that seeks agreements with the key stakeholders of the chains associated with deforestation (meat, milk, palms and wood), as well as establishing a sectoral agenda for approaching the problems of illegal mining and the presence of illicit crops, and incentives for Sustainable Forest Management as a viable economic alternative in areas with forests and that were subject to the presence of armed conflict in the country.

For these purposes, the REDD+ NS structures the funding sources for readiness and for the development of illustrative actions for funding for improving forestry governance where the support of the European Union and the Republic of Colombia are notable. The objective of this is to contribute to overcoming the social and economic disadvantages of the marginalized and affected regions due to the conflict in Colombia, as a means to obtaining an equitable country and a lasting peace, supporting the implementation of the Green Growth Policy, which focuses on the reduction of the development gap in these specific regions and which includes among the results the "Improvement of forestry governance by local environmental authorities for improving access of populations in the territory to productive activities with sustainable alternatives that comply with the legal framework". Within this, the development of the following instruments and recognition schemes is notable: the evaluation of forest management plans, the monitoring and control of permits and authorizations for forest exploitation, and the transport of forest products, warehouses and timber transformation centers.

At the national level, the main drivers of deforestation are the expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier (small-scale and agro-industrial), the expansion of infrastructure (mainly roads) and extractive activities (e.g. extraction of minerals and hydrocarbons, logging) performed legally and illegally. In general terms, the forest intervention process in Colombia follows a trend characterized by the arrival of illegal activities (e.g. crops for illegal uses and illegal extraction of minerals) and/or legal activities (e.g. projects for exploiting hydrocarbons and mining) which perforate the forest and allow for the arrival of other land uses such as agriculture and livestock, which in turn improve accessibility and incentivize population growth.

In terms of illegal activities, it is estimated that in the 2001–2013 period, 275,588 hectares were deforested for direct sowing of coca. In 2001, the percentage of coca crops that originated from deforestation processes was 48% and this reduced over time to reach 25% in 2011, and then increased again to 31% in 2015. In 2015, direct deforestation associated with alluvial gold mining ascended to 7,890 ha (7% of the national total) and was mainly concentrated in three areas of the country (Antioquia-Bolívar, Chocó and Nariño-Cauca).

Within the group of drivers associated with the expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier, the phenomenon of grassification (the conversion of forest areas to unproductive grazing land associated with cattle) is notable, with a high impact on the main deforestation hotspot (North Amazon), where 35% of national deforestation was concentrated in the 2005–2015 period. In the Amazon region, grassland increases annually, having gone from 25,000 km² in 2002 to 37,000 km² in 2014. Ninety-four percent of the increase in grassland reported in the 2012–2014 period is principally explained by the transformation of forests and secondary vegetation. The majority of this new grassland is located in the colonization frontiers of the region.

Finally, the expansion of infrastructure is the most important driver in forest intervention processes in Colombia. No deforestation process can occur without deforestation agents having access to the forest. The



expansion and improvement of the road network (formal and informal) of the country, particularly in the regions with greatest natural forest cover, is a determining factor in the magnitude of this impact. In the Amazon biome, between the years of 2000 and 2012, 50% of the deforested areas were found within a distance of less than 2 km of a road section and the size of the deforested patch in the areas close to roads averages 4.55 ha. An initial calculation of the impact of marginal roads in the jungle, located within the biome, allowed for the estimation that in the direct area of influence of this road corridor almost 12,000 hectares of natural forest were deforested between the year 2000 and 2015.

2b. REDD+ strategy options

In accordance with the review of international concepts and the methodological development of economic and public policy analyses related to characterizing causes and agents of deforestation, a conceptual structure is proposed on the issue of REDD+ policies, measures and actions in Colombia. This structure is based on a hierarchy in which the policies represent the set of government decisions that are defined to guide the management of the country towards solving the problems with deforestation and under which REDD+ is developed. With this political framework, a number of REDD+ national strategy options are defined, which propose and prioritize REDD+ measures in response to the direct and indirect causes of deforestation, according to the technical analyses and inputs compiled with the stakeholders and the realities of the territories. Finally, specific actions (for each measure) in priority REDD+ intervention areas are specified (**Figure 2**).

In this context, the following definitions are proposed:

- **Policies:** These represent the orientations and decisions as a whole of the political-administrative authorities in response to a public problem: deforestation and forest degradation. Considered within this framework are the current policies related to climate change, forests and biodiversity, territory planning (land use, rural property, and protected areas), sectors (specifically those related to the direct causes of deforestation) and ethnic communities (participation). Likewise, policies in the process of formulation such as the comprehensive policy on climate change, the policy to combat deforestation and the post-conflict policy are considered.

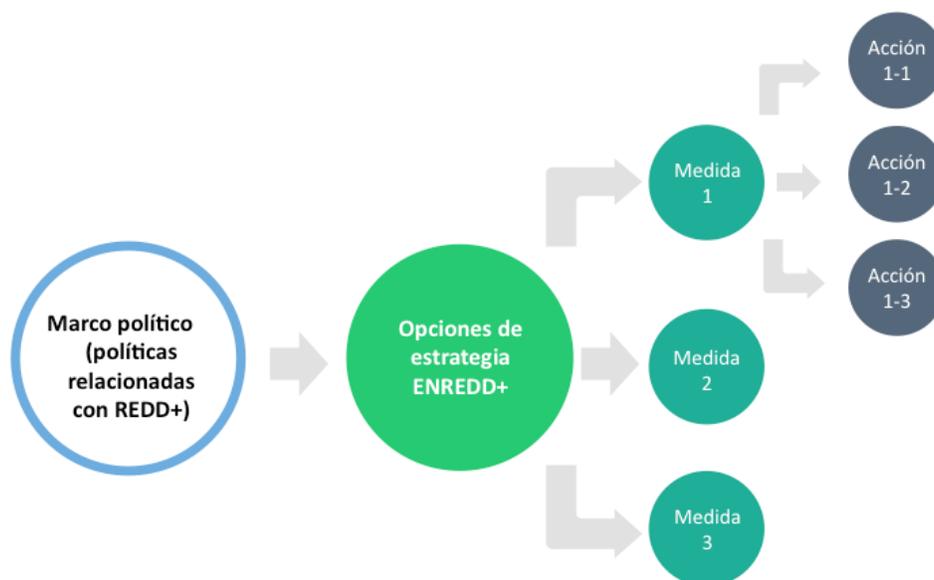


Figure 2. Hierarchy of REDD+ policies, measures and actions

- Strategy options:** These are the strategic lines that thematically group together the activities proposed by the country to slow the drivers of deforestation, focused on identifying multi-stakeholder and multi-level actions that are cost-effective and contribute to environmental planning of the territory and sustainable management of natural forests. **Figure 3** presents the REDD+ strategy options in Colombia.



Figure 3. REDD+ Colombia strategy options

- Measures:** These are interventions performed to implement REDD+ activities on national, sub-national and/or local scales. The measures are framed within the REDD+ policies and national strategy options, and are directed at providing solutions to the causes and agents of forest transformation. They include legal and regulatory instruments, programs and other intervention initiatives, incentives and other



financial instruments, among others, and seek to generate changes at all levels to reach the objectives of the five REDD+ activities.

- **Actions:** These correspond to the specific activities to be performed within each of the REDD+ measures defined and prioritized for intervention in specific territories.

Preliminary portfolio of REDD+ measures and actions

In order to define a preliminary portfolio of REDD+ measures and actions, a set of recommendations, measures in effect, and proposals from different stakeholders have been compiled at national, sectoral, territorial/institutional and territorial/community scales. Likewise, the processes that are being carried out in the country, such as the construction of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Agrarian Summit roundtable², the post-conflict process, among others, have been taken into account. The analysis emphasizes the measures that tend to control or reduce deforestation, with one of the challenges of the process being the consideration and inclusion of conservation actions developed by stakeholders that contribute to safeguarding the forests in the country.

The specific objectives of the measures and actions portfolio are:

- To provide technical inputs for the REDD+ NS and, additionally, for the formulation of the National Policy to Combat Deforestation, taking into account that the process for constructing these two documents must be interrelated in order to achieve consistency in the implementation of the measures and actions.
- To establish synergies with policy instruments such as the Comprehensive Climate Change Plans (Planes Integrales de Cambio Climático; PICC), the Sector Action Plans (Planes de Acción Sectorial; PAS) of the Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy (CLCDS), as well as investments for post-conflict, sub-national strategies such as Amazon Vision and the regional and local development instruments, among others.

In this context, measures are identified and categorized with a dual approach:

- **Sectoral:** Measures and actions that tend to control or reduce deforestation and that fall under the authority (partially or totally) of MADS, based on the assignment of responsibilities according to the ministerial portfolios worked on for the NDCs and their goals of reducing GHG emissions by 2030.
- **Territorial:** Measures and actions referencing the territorial priorities in terms of controlling deforestation and/or improving forest management. The above has a special emphasis on the areas of the Deforestation Hotspots (DHs) in the country for the 2005–2015 period and taking into account the

² In March 2013, the Agrarian Summit (Cumbre Agraria) came about in Colombia as a result of the agrarian strike, comprising a set of diverse movements, organizations and national-level trade unions in the different sectors: peasants, Afro-Colombians, indigenous people and civil society in general. The national Government has created opportunities for dialogue and negotiation with the Summit on issues related to the needs of the countryside.



occupation processes, the socio-ecological conditions of the region, and the customs and visions of autonomous development of the local communities.

Currently there is a preliminary portfolio with 143 measures grouped into 9 categories, that are coordinated with the strategic options proposed in Colombia's R-PP. The document and sectorial and territorial measures portfolios are being developed by IDEAM with MADS and other stakeholders.

2c. Implementation framework

The general public policy framework mainly comprises the provisions of the NDP in terms of the green growth strategy and the provisions related to the subject, the statements in the peace agreement in terms of closing the agricultural frontier, as well as international commitments taken on by the Colombian State in terms of climate change and reducing emissions. The above are contributing to the construction of the legal, institutional and public policy execution framework required for the implementation of the REDD+ NS.

The main objective of the 2014–2018 NDP “Todos por un nuevo país”, issued by Law 1753 of 2015, is to construct the foundations for peace and a better and more equitable territorial development that is truly sustainable. The NDP integrates the national processes and proposes transformational changes to achieve equitable development of rural Colombia, while prioritizing the consolidation of peace in the areas worst affected by the conflict.

It expressly established the need for the National Government to formulate a long-term green growth policy that defines sustainable economic growth targets and goals. Likewise, it ordered the review of existing market mechanisms and instruments that may have adverse effects on the environment, in order to propose their gradual disassembly and replacement with those that promote green growth. In the same regard, it ordered the formulation and implementation of sectoral climate change adaptation and mitigation plans of the CLCDS³.

The aforementioned NDP stated that MADS would design the implementation of the REDD+ NS, in coordination with other ministries, public bodies and the private sector within the national climate change policy framework. The construction of the REDD+ NS also requires coordination with stakeholders from civil society and ethnic groups, among others, such that their viewpoints and interests can be reflected in the strategy. Additionally, the NDP established that MADS would prepare a national policy to combat deforestation that would contain an action plan aimed at preventing natural forest loss by 2030.⁴ It also ordered the creation of the National Registry on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, which the National Registry of Programs and Projects on Actions for Reducing Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Colombia (REDD+) shall form part of, making registration mandatory for all persons seeking to qualify for performance-based payments or similar compensation⁵. The regulation of the latter registry has been put forward by MADS and is at an advanced stage.

Likewise, the NDP established ambitious environmental objectives that contribute to both the national development priorities and the mitigation of climate change, including: (1) reducing annual deforestation in Colombia to 90,000 hectares or less by 2018; (2) achieving zero net deforestation in the Colombian Amazon by

³ Law 1753 of 2015, Article 170.

⁴ Law 1753 of 2015, Articles 170 and 171.

⁵ Law 1753 of 2015, Article 175.



2020; (3) restoring 210,000 new hectares in 2018 and 700,000 more in 2020; (4) ending natural forest loss by 2030⁶.

Meanwhile, the Peace Agreements signed by the National Government and the FARC–EP, in the point related to Comprehensive Rural Reform, state that “*a genuine structural transformation of the countryside requires the **adoption of measures to promote appropriate use of land** in accordance with its suitable purposes and to stimulate the registration, restitution and equitable distribution thereof, by guaranteeing progressive access to rural property to those who live in the countryside, and, in particular, to rural women and to the most vulnerable communities, and by legalizing and democratizing property and promoting broader ownership of land, so that it fulfills its social function.*” (emphasis not present in the original).

In terms of closing the agricultural frontier, protecting reserve areas, areas of special environmental interest and generating balanced alternatives for the population who occupy them or their border areas, the aforementioned agreement stated that the National Government would develop within a period of no more than two years “*an **environmental zoning plan to delimit the agricultural frontier and to enable updating, where necessary, expanding the inventory, and characterizing the use of areas requiring proper environmental management**, such as: forest reserve areas, zones of high biodiversity, fragile and strategic ecosystems, watersheds, moorland and wetlands, and other water-related sources and resources, with a view to safeguarding biodiversity and the progressive right to water, and the promotion of its rational use*”⁸ (emphasis not present in the original).

Colombia, in fulfilment of the stipulations of the NDP, has been working on legal and policy execution aspects related to: (1) The bill on the *Resolution regulating the procedure for enrolment in the National REDD+ Initiatives Registry*, (2) The legislative bill for the *creation of the National Forestry Information System (Sistema Nacional de Información Forestal; SNIF)*, (3) *The National Forestry Inventory (NFI)* and (4) *The Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS)*. Also initiated was the process for constructing 5) *The public policy to combat deforestation*, as well as 6) *The design of the institutional framework in terms of safeguards and the analysis of legal instruments for their fulfilment*. In terms of that agreed in the Peace Agreements, a legislative package is being worked on that seeks to comply with the commitments made, in particular in terms of that corresponding to the closure of the agricultural frontier and the protection of areas of special ecological importance.

Within the REDD+ NS readiness framework, a document was prepared analyzing the legal perspectives of the REDD+ NS and that considers the following to be its fundamental core lines: the regime of forest exploitation, the land tenure and use regime, social and environmental land planning and social and environmental safeguards. In 2017, with the funds donated by the FCPF, planning will continue on the legislative instruments that regulate and develop the mandates of the NDP in terms of REDD+, on the analysis of legal measures required to comply with the Paris Agreement, on the institutional amendments required to execute the REDD+ NS, legal analysis and draft bills and institutional amendments in terms of monitoring and safeguards, as well as the approval and implementation of legislation that permits compliance with the agreements made in the peace process, where relevant to the subject.

⁶ <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/cdt/prensa/bases%20plan%20nacional%20de%20desarrollo%202014-2018.pdf>

⁷ Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace. Chapter 1: Towards a New Colombian Countryside: Comprehensive Rural Reform.

⁸ Ibid.



The incorporation of climate change into territorial and sectoral planning in Colombia is the result of its adoption as a development issue that involves a range of national, regional and local stakeholders. As such, the Colombian State, through document CONPES 3700 of 2011, adopted its Institutional Strategy for Structuring Policies and Actions on the Subject of Climate Change in Colombia, which was subsequently stipulated by means of Decree 298 of 2016. This Decree establishes the organization and establishment of SISCLIMA, which frames the formulation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP), the CLCDS, the REDD+ NS and the Financial Strategy to Protect against Disasters.

On the other hand, in 2016, during the REDD+ NS formulation process and the construction of a plan to implement the NDC, it was established that a vital task is the consolidation of workspaces with the sectors, in which actions are structurally developed to counteract the process of forest loss based on their direct and/or indirect participation. In this context, the Technical Roundtable on Deforestation met for the first time, complying with the commitments acquired in the CICC, with which it is sought to build capacities and introduce the progress of REDD+ in the country to the sectors. During this event, each ministry constructed a roadmap that consolidates the steps, dates and responsible parties for structuring the portfolio of actions to progress towards the reduction of emissions due to deforestation to be implemented in the coming years.

2d. Social and environmental impact assessment

The social and environmental impact assessment is being developed in accordance with a roadmap that includes a dialogue and information phase, followed by the analysis of the possible risks and benefits of the strategy options and, subsequently, the construction of the ESMF. The SESA process has an analytical component and a participatory one, which it is sought to balance in order to progress with understanding the causes, agents and drivers of deforestation, as well as the definition of measures and actions that allow them to be tackled. Based on the above, a proposal was put together for a methodology to systematize the results of the two components, in order to facilitate their incorporation into the REDD+ NS in an efficient and transparent manner.

The dialogue and risks and benefits analysis phase was concluded in the Pacific region in a process which engaged the Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, government bodies, NGOs, the private sector, academia and research institutions. As a result of the process, which took place between 2013 and 2016, the main causes of deforestation identified were mining, livestock, illicit crops and spraying, infrastructure, logging and oil palm monocultures. With respect to these causes, strategic options were analysed, which were recorded in the R-PP and in 2016, action measures were identified with Afro-Colombian communities in Chocó, such as:

- Development of alternative productive projects targeting food security with a differentiated approach and territorial peace.
- Recognition to community councils regarding the conservation of their territory.
- Income generation that recognizes the work of communities.
- Environmental recovery of the territories affected by illicit crops.
- Promotion of the active participation of communities and ethnic authorities in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects in their territories.

In the Amazon region, the dialogues and analysis by stakeholder and by department have been carried out during 2013 and 2014 with the support of the Forest and Climate / REDD+ (GIZ) program. In 2016, progress was



made in the definition of action measures (support to local territorial environmental management processes, integrated and sustainable forest management, institutional strengthening for the modernization of evaluation, monitoring and control systems for the sustainable use of forests Community monitoring, integrated watershed management, land restoration, and strengthening a differentiated communications strategy) for the technical support associated with strategy options. This will conclude the regional dialogue space in 2017 in order to have a regional vision against the design of measures and actions for the REDD+ NS and the REM/Amazon Vision Program.

To date a few key aspects have been identified as requiring more in-depth analysis for defining measures and actions, such as: modelling the relationship between the impacts of implementing the Peace Agreements and the conservation or loss of woods; analysis of the proposals for regulating Law 70 of 1993⁹ relating to the conservation of livelihoods and Afro-Colombian community territory; compiling proposals for REDD+ actions and measures to encourage sustainable development and good living, from the perspective of black women.

3. Forest Reference Emission Level / Reference Level

The Forest Carbon Monitoring System – FCMS - has generated sufficient data about emission factors and activities to establish Forest Reference Emission Levels - FREL - for deforestation activities in Colombia. The ability to determine these levels was established in 2009 when methodologies were formulated, operational requirements identified and resources invested in order to render forest monitoring workable in accordance with the requirements of the UNFCCC.

In December 2015, Colombia presented an initial FREL in compliance with the stipulations of paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP16 of the UNFCCC. The purpose of these steps was for the FREL to be included in the process of technical evaluation and for progress to be made with the requirements for obtaining payment for results further to reducing forest deforestation and degradation, conserving and managing forests and improving stocks in developing countries (REDD+) under the UNFCCC.

This initial FREL relating to the activity of deforestation (gross deforestation) concerned the Amazon biome (approximately 40% of the Colombian mainland) and was based on the information generated by the FCMS run by the IDEAM, following MADS directions, as well as those of the UNFCCC, together with IPCC guidelines. The FREL for the Amazon biome was based on the average emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the aerial forest biomass and the subterranean biomass generated by deforestation activities in the period 2000 – 2012 (monitored twice a year) with emission factors per forest type using information gathered from plots in floristic inventories.

⁹ This law provides the foundations for acknowledging collective ownership for black communities in the Pacific and establishes mechanisms for protecting the cultural identity and rights of the black communities in Colombia as an ethnic group, and for encouraging its economic and social development, in order to ensure that these communities actually enjoy equal opportunities in comparison with the rest of Colombian society. Two of the sections of most relevance for REDD+ are not regulated: the section corresponding to land use and the protection of natural resources and the environment, and the section relating to mining resources.



In addition, Colombia has produced reports on the results of implementing activities to reduce emissions caused by deforestation during the periods 2013 – 2014 – 2015. Within this context of producing the FREL and the respective reports on results, as well as the relevant feedback from the UNFCCC experts, the following options for improvement were identified:

- to generate maps of deforestation at national level twice a year.
- to continue to develop a National Forestry Inventory, within the context of improving emission factors relating to the forest category.
- to make progress with developing methodologies for monitoring other REDD+ activities (degradation).
- to continue the analysis, providing more details about the causes and agents of deforestation.
- to implement and strengthen quality control procedures in order to reduce errors in reporting results.

After these improvement options were identified, the Colombian government established the following targets:

- to publish maps showing deforestation on a national scale on a biennial basis for the period between 2000 and 2012 and on an annual basis for the period between 2013 and 2016 and to complete this by the end of 2017.
- to publish a technical article containing a methodological approach for monitoring forest degradation on a national scale by the end of 2017.
- to publish, after approval by the MADS and the IDEAM, the document entitled “Conceptual and methodological guidelines for characterizing the causes and agents of deforestation in Colombia” to act as a national, regional and local guide for characterizing causes and agents.
- to produce an analysis of the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Colombia, including logging, mining, agriculture and infrastructure.
- to publish an up to date and revised version of the Forest Carbon Map for Colombia as well as emission factors for key carbon sinks (aerial biomass, soil and debris) based on the National Forestry Inventory (NFI).
- to establish processes for checking the reductions which have been avoided, complying with the requirements for quality control, within the context of the payment for results programs

These objectives require 16 thousand million pesos (\$COP), so they have been included in the funding request for mode one of the Joint Declaration, between Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom.

4. Forestry monitoring and safeguards system

4a. National Forestry Monitoring System.

In 2009, the Forest Carbon Monitoring System – FCMS - for Colombia was set up, with the country being able to consolidate historical monitoring of the surface area covered by forest (activity data) since the system has been operating continuously, generating information about the surface area covered by forest on an annual basis, formalized via the environmental indicators used by the National Environmental System for Colombia - NESC. This meant that the FCMS strengthened the technical capacities of the IDEAM and partner organizations (research organizations, regional environmental authorities, public forces, etc.) and this has been an essential input for effective control and monitoring. The system operates using four components: i) generating early



deforestation alerts – EDA; i) annual quantification of the surface area covered by forests and deforestation; iii) characterization of the causes and agents of deforestation; and iv) carbon monitoring.

The EDA component published seven six-monthly newsletters for the period 2013-2015, identifying the localization and dynamics of active nuclei of deforestation at national level; four quarterly EDA reports will be generated for 2016. The quantification component has consolidated 25 years of monitoring (1990-2015), during which the country has lost around 6.25 million hectares. Two periods have been clearly identified, one of significant deforestation (1990-2010) and another involving less deforestation (2010-2015).

The FCMS is a tool, which means that deforestation information is always available. Surface areas of natural Forest and Non-Forest can be identified, gross/net deforestation and the areas which are regenerated over the period of analysis (change from non-forest to forest) can be quantified, as can changes in the quantity of carbon stored in different types of cover and/or compartments associated with this process.

This system was initially established at the IDEAM with the financial support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, as an instrument to monitor the state, duress and response of the forests to various natural and anthropogenic phenomena, and particularly the impact of deforestation and changes in the amount of carbon stored in the natural forests in the country. After funding from the Moore Foundation, running from 2012 to date, was finalized, the system was kept operational by using various sources of funding, including both preparation programs for REDD+ (UN-REDD), specific projects for reducing deforestation (GEF and REM Programme), as well as its own resources (agreements with the MADS and funds from ECOPETROL S.A.¹⁰).

Over the period since the System came into operation, it has become an instrument for environmental management and, more specifically, in 2015 and 2016 it was crucial for formulating public policy within a scenario for bringing an end to armed conflict. Within this context, strategies to allow social inclusion and sustainable economic activities in areas which have been historically marginalized and which may also possess extensive areas of forest were required.

In relation to the processes for assessing reference levels, and taking into account the structuration of the demonstrative actions, especially the REM programme for funding the Amazon Vision, the IDEAM and the MADS identified the following options for improving the FCMS, to be added to the proposals set out for the Forestry Emissions Reference Levels (previous section):

- To continue to generate Early Deforestation Alerts on a six-monthly basis and the rate of deforestation on an annual basis.
- To progress with monitoring other IPCC categories.
- To continue to develop the NFI.
- To guarantee long-term funding for the system.
- To progress towards formalizing the system via a regulatory instrument.
- To integrate the actions of community forestry monitoring on national level.
- To strengthen the mechanisms for circulating information.

¹⁰ ECOPETROL S.A. Is a national company of a commercial nature, partially owned by the government, and associated with the Ministry of Mining and Energy. Its aim is to develop commercial or industrial activities for, or associated with, the exploration, development, refining, transport, storage, distribution and marketing of hydrocarbons, their derivatives and products.



To achieve these aims, the Colombian Government progressed as follows in the course of 2016:

- completing 15% of the NFI.
- running the first annual national workshop about monitoring forest cover, held in the city of Medellín, in October 2016.
- developing outreach instruments for launching the annual figures on deforestation as well as NFI outreach and socialization material.
- preparing the document with a diagnosis and recommendations for compiling the proposal for sustaining the FCMS in 2017.
- defining and updating the structure of the subprograms and strategic guidelines of the Forestry Monitoring Programme.
- preparing the proposal for standardization, consolidated in order to jointly formalize the Forestry Monitoring Programme, the FCMS and the National Information System.
- preparing the first version of the proposal for community forestry monitoring.
- support for generating data about deforestation and early alerts.

In addition to these advances and their consolidation in the course of 2017, the following goals have been proposed:

- development, by the end of 2017, of a technical procedure which complies with *tier 2* methodologies, as a minimum, for categories which are significant for determining gross deforestation and their associated emissions in the forests of Colombia, and developing a Technical Proposal for institutional arrangements relevant for MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) (2017) using the best information available.
- development and implementation of the data cube for automated digital image processing, allowing activity data to be generated for the 6 IPCC categories in the fastest possible way in the course of 2017.
- approval of the regulatory instrument to formalize the FCMS.
- design of a web platform containing the results of FCMS operations.

The Colombian government requires approximately 3 thousand million pesos (\$COP) to fulfil these aims, so they have been included in the funding application for category one of the Joint Declaration, between Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom; these are in addition to those indicated in the section about reference levels.

4b. Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

Colombia has made progress with identifying and prioritizing REDD+ multiple benefits and with sites for implementing REDD+ measures and actions, which they consider to be multiple benefits. In 2016, the MADS and the IDEAM, in cooperation with the UN-REDD programme, will center their activities on formulating a proposal for tackling multiple benefits.

Conceptual development relating to tackling multiple benefits within the framework of the REDD+, contextualized within the socioeconomic, political and environmental situation in the country, will involve identifying sites of importance for implementing REDD+ measures and actions, in order to boost environmental



and social benefits at national level and for the Pacific region. The direct impact of this collective process for constructing the conceptual framework was a preliminary working proposal, which will be socialized, with feedback provided by the IDEAM and the MADS during 2017.

The main achievements attained include the following:

- Arranging the first national meeting on multiple benefits, which took place in December 2016, in which 35 institutions and 70 persons (45% women, 55% men) from a variety of national, regional, sectoral, ethnic and territorial entities participated, including representatives of the agricultural and mining sectors, CAR, National Parks, indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and campesinos.
- Developing an initial version of the conceptual document for tackling multiple benefits for REDD+ in Colombia.

With the progress made in the course of 2016, in 2017 work will be concentrated on producing spatial (cartographic) analyses in order to provide the MADS and other sectors with tools and information for taking decisions, as well as inputs for territorial management.

The national government has identified the need for **additional funding** to create workshops for validating the work and a proposed national approach for identifying multiple benefits, particularly validation of spatial analyses of the multiple benefits identified. This can be carried out within the context of regional processes for identifying and prioritizing special PAMs, (Policies And Measures) for developing pilot projects to be implemented in each biogeographical region (Pacific, Andean, Caribbean, Orinoco and Amazon regions).



3. Analysis of progress made in the activities funded by the FCPF preparation grant

The aim of the FCPF funding¹¹ is to develop a participatory process, which will include the main stakeholders involved, for preparing the national REDD+ strategy for Colombia. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the beneficiary of the grant, which is administered and implemented by the Action Fund¹², in the capacity of recipient. The expected results are:

- strengthening of the institutional capacity of MADS to carry out a participatory and inclusive process for preparing the REDD+ national strategy.
- participatory platforms for the stakeholders involved in REDD+ set up at regional and national level, for preparing the REDD + national strategy.
- producing an Environmental and Social Management Framework, including comments from the key stakeholders involved in REDD+.
- an accessible mechanism for feedback and complaint resolution for REDD+, designed and ready to be implemented.

The operation revolves around three components of the R-PP: (1) preparation of the organization and consultation for REDD+; (2) assessment of environmental and social impacts; and (3) design of the framework for monitoring and assessing the program. This section sets out the significant progress made in technical implementation, the results and achievements, the pitfalls and solutions to the problems encountered and the country's need for funding in order to continue to make progress with implementing the UN-REDD+.

Table 1. FCPF grant resources allocated, implemented and committed (figures in US\$).

Component	Budget for 2015-2018	Implemented 2015-2016	Committed	
			Under tender	Contracted
1a. National readiness management arrangements	\$1,750,000	\$246,918	\$249,476	\$592,482
1c. Consultation, participation and outreach	\$1,100,000	\$216,030	\$339,448	
2d. Environmental and social impacts	\$630,000	\$2,802	\$80,000	
6. Program monitoring and evaluation framework	\$120,000		\$100,816	
TOTAL	\$3,600,000	\$465,750	\$769,740	\$592,482
PERCENTAGES	100%	13%	21%	16%

¹¹ implementation of preparation activities for REDD+ funded by the FCPF is in line with the TF0018501 Grant Agreement of 29 April 2015, signed by the World Bank, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia and the Action Fund.

¹² the Action Fund is a charitable private Colombian foundation, set up in 2000, which works to generate significant and sustainable changes in Colombian society, by promoting a respectful relationship between the community, the environment and the integral development of boys and girls and their families. It believes that Colombian civil society has the creative power to transform conditions and generate possibilities of sustainable social development, and for this reason, promotes and jointly funds its initiatives in relation to the environment and childhood.



In December 2016 US\$ 466 thousand of the grant resources have been used (13%). Taking into account this amount and the resources which have been committed (both in the tendering process and those already contracted), this means that 51% of the resources have already been earmarked within the context of project contracts.

1. REDD+ readiness organization and consultation

The FCPF supports the efforts begun by the MADS to strengthen the institutional capacities for preparing the UN-REDD+, to create and bring into operation participatory platforms , circulate information and design a mechanism for citizen services for REDD+.

1a. National readiness management arrangements

The FCPF supports the MADS with human resources to help it prepare the UN-REDD+ and to strengthen consultation and participation by creating and operating participatory platforms , designing a mechanism for citizen service, and implementing the communications strategy. The table below indicates the progress made in relation to the environmental management and assessment indicators associated with this component of the grant.

Table 2. Advances made in the "National mechanisms for managing preparation" component in relation to the R-PP management and assessment framework

FACTOR TO BE ASSESSED	EXPECTED PRODUCT	ADVANCES (2015-2016)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
National institutional arrangement designed and operating to coordinate the actions for preparing and implementing the UN-REDD+.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support staff for preparing the REDD+ National Strategy which has been set up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support staff employed: 100% of the coordinating unit and 63% of the technical specialists . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aide-memoires of meetings of the support team for the REDD+ National Strategy Regular management reports from the national staff supporting preparation for REDD+. Committee report of MADS delegates at international events associated with REDD+.
Procedures for dealing with complaints and claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanism for interchanging information, care and/or resolving complaints and claims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting within the process of designing and bringing into operation the citizen service mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-contractual documents.

The MADS support staff, employed using resources from the grant, is completed by the national REDD+ coordinator, a communications specialist, a social specialist, a SESA specialist, a legal specialist, a regional liaison officer for the Pacific and a regional liaison officer for the Amazon; this team will be strengthened by employing a finance specialist and regional liaison officers for the Orinoco, the Caribbean and the Andean area in 2017. In addition, to allow the project to function there is a coordination unit completed by a project



coordinator, an administrative and financial coordinator, a procurement specialist, an accounts assistant and operational support.

Resources from the grant have been used to support the participation of MADS delegates in international events associated with REDD+, such as meetings of the Conference of the Parties – COP- of the UNFCCC, which were significant for the country as they were the basis for the negotiations relating to the climate agreement adopted in Paris which increased the profile and visibility of development initiatives, and they were also used to administer agreements, such as the Joint Declaration between Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom. In the same way, they supported participation in certain seminars and conferences so that experience can be shared and lessons learned from other countries.

At the moment the mechanism for dealing with requests, complaints, claims, suggestions and grievances (RCCSG), which forms part of the National Safeguards System (NSS) is in the procurement process, and is being put together with the aim of providing information about how these are being tackled in compliance with the safeguards defined by the UNFCCC for REDD+ in Colombia. The mechanism will allow citizens to access relevant information and express their concerns about the development of REDD+ within the country and at the same time will offer them better accounting, control and transparency relating to the processes and procedures carried out, thus allowing these to be dealt with. More specifically, this mechanism will deal with requests, complaints claims, suggestions and grievances concerning the application, respect or omission of safeguards when designing and implementing REDD+.

During the contracting process a technological platform for the citizen service mechanism will be designed and put into operation, incorporating elements associated with UN-REDD+ requests, complaints, claims, suggestions and grievances - RCCSG -. At the moment, expressions of interest have already been assessed and the contract is expected to begin in March 2017, covering the following general activities:

1. Producing a map of the institutions, which currently have reporting systems, being used when following up the resolution of conflicts and processing of complaints.
2. Analyzing the specific requirements of indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians, campesinos and women for accessing information, making complaints and claims and resolving conflicts.
3. Determining the current causes which may be presented in relation to claims or queries associated with the REDD+ process.
4. Identifying specific gaps and requirements.
5. Developing the mechanism and putting it into operation.
6. Guaranteeing that the proposed mechanism is transparent, lawful for the community in general, accessible, fair and that it has local representation.
7. Training various stakeholders in the content, scope and use of the mechanism.

In 2017 an assessment will be carried out in order to promote mechanisms of transparency associated with REDD+, so that possible factors of corruption can be mitigated.

From a financial point of view, US\$ 247 thousand have been used, corresponding to 14% of the resources earmarked for this component; an additional US\$ 842 thousand (48%) have been committed.



Table 3. Resources allocated, implemented and committed at December 31 2016 in the National mechanisms for managing preparation component (figures in US\$).

Activity	Budget 2015-2018	Implemented 2015 - 2016	Committed	
			Under tender	Contracted
UN-REDD+ National Coordination	\$146,898	\$41,484		\$69,463
Project Coordination	\$134,156	\$18,871		\$64,910
Administrative and financial coordination	\$121,836	\$12,708		\$63,452
Procurement specialist	\$83,848	\$10,730		\$39,820
Accounting assistance	\$43,600	\$4,486		\$20,799
Operational staff	\$43,600	\$13,236		\$32,275
Social specialist	\$112,308	\$18,333		\$60,269
Communications specialist	\$120,509	\$24,726		\$59,218
SESA specialist	\$103,763	\$16,879		\$55,684
Funding specialist for REDD+	\$49,861	\$0	\$45,404	
Legal specialist	\$80,130	\$6,651		\$62,653
Regional liaison officer for the Pacific region	\$33,629	\$1,663		\$32,041
Regional liaison officer for the Caribbean region	\$33,629	-	\$31,990	
Regional liaison officer for the Amazon region	\$33,629	-		\$31,898
Regional liaison officer for the Orinoco region	\$33,629	-	\$28,388	
Regional liaison officer for the Andean region	\$33,629	-	\$28,388	
Subtotal for Team of Experts	\$1,208,654	\$169,767	\$134,169	\$592,482
Assessment of risks of corruption	\$32,653	-	-	-
Design and start-up of the Citizen Service Mechanism	\$191,837	-	\$114,286	-
Participation of MADS delegates in relevant international events	\$59,975	\$17,315	-	-
Participation in national events	\$63,696	\$22,945	-	-
Travel to regional focal points	\$30,122	\$1,237	-	-
Telecommunications	\$2,789	\$281	\$1,021	
Office equipment	\$16,270	\$16,138	-	-
Operating costs	\$144,004	\$19,235	-	-
Subtotal	\$316,856	\$77,151	\$115,307	\$-
TOTAL	\$1,750,000	\$246,918	\$249,476	\$592,482

1c. Consultation, participation and outreach

FCPF funding is supporting the interchange of information and the consultation process on national and regional level. Consequently, existing participatory platforms have been identified and are being strengthened, and regional mechanisms supported to allow a permanent dialogue in relation to REDD+ with organizations of



indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and campesinos. In addition, technical consultations have been carried out with other key stakeholders, such as national and regional government bodies, environmental authorities and civil society organizations. The communications strategy is being implemented with actions having national and regional scope, with the best progress being made in the Pacific region and the Afro-Colombian communities. The table below indicates the progress made in relation to the environmental management and assessment indicators associated with this component of the grant.

Table 4. *Advances in the "Consultation, participation and outreach" component in the context of managing and assessing the R-PP*

FACTOR TO BE ASSESSED	EXPECTED PRODUCT	ADVANCES (2015-2016)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
Mechanism for consultation and participation defined and implemented with the participation of stakeholder groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation and Participation Plan defined with the participation of REDD+ stakeholder groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjusted Consultation and Participation Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation and Participation Plan Document.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports at stakeholder group level on action taken in relation to developing consultation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement of Afro-Colombians: Common Agenda – REDDD Afro Roundtable – ANAFRO - National Afro-Colombian Authority ▪ Involvement of women: Aso Manos Negra ▪ Involvement of indigenous peoples: ONIC – OPIAC – MNC – MIACC (MRA) ▪ Involvement of campesinos: ANZORC (Asociación Nacional De Zonas De Reserva Campesina - National Association of Zones Reserved for Campesinos) and its grassroots organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes of meetings and consultation and participation forums. ▪ Reports about the development of consultative and preparatory actions for REDD+.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inputs from the various established stakeholders included in the formulation of the UN-REDD+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inputs from Afro-Colombian, indigenous and campesino communities systematized in order to set up the UN-REDD+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes of meetings and consultation and participation forums.
Communications strategies for the national REDD+ have been designed and launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National strategy designed. ▪ Assessment of the effectiveness of communication strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document on REDD+ Communications Strategy updated and shared. ▪ Communications Strategy for Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific region "The Pacific is talking about REDD+" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documents on national communication strategies and those for Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific region. ▪ Communication materials in support of the strategy: REDD+ visual language;



FACTOR TO BE ASSESSED	EXPECTED PRODUCT	ADVANCES (2015-2016)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
		designed and in operation.	leaflet about the regional roadshows for the project entitled "Chocó-Darién" conservation corridor; videos of activities at consultation and participation workshops.
Consolidation and start-up of the UN-REDD+ - has mechanisms for accountability and socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN-REDD+ mechanisms for accountability defined ▪ UN-REDD+ published and socialized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN-REDD+ document under preparation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN-REDD+ document under preparation.

From a financial point of view, US\$ 216 thousand have been used, corresponding to 20% of the resources earmarked for this component; US\$ 340 thousand (31%) have also been committed.

Table 5. Resources earmarked and committed at December 31 2016 within the Consultation, participation and outreach component (figures in USD\$).

Activity	Budget 2015 - 2018	Implemented 2015 - 2016	Committed	
			Under tender	Contracted
Protocols and platforms for participation	\$16,327	\$3,455	-	-
Afro-Colombian platforms	\$123,469	\$40,464	\$78,122	-
Indigenous platforms	\$91,837	-	\$51,837	-
Women's platforms	\$91,837	\$11,751	\$47,347	-
Campesino platforms	\$91,837	\$22,889	\$60,000	-
Platforms for government entities	\$30,102	-	\$15,000	-
Platforms for the private sector	\$30,102	-	\$15,000	-
NGO and academia platforms	\$30,612	-	\$15,000	-
Project start-up meetings	\$20,408	\$6,628	-	-
Project close-out meetings	\$20,408	-	-	-
REDD+ national roundtable meetings	\$48,980	-	-	-
Communications training workshops	\$200,000	\$130,466	20,000	-
Compiling communication elements	\$304,081	\$377	\$37,142	-
TOTAL	\$1,100,000	\$216,030	\$339,448	\$-

The most significant advances in implementing consultation and participation activities are described below, followed by outreach and communications associated with preparations for REDD+.

Consultation and participation

This component defines the mechanisms for guaranteeing social inclusion and participation, public-private coordination and appropriate institutional arrangements needed for constructing and implementing a viable, legitimate and coherent REDD+ NS, consistent with national, regional and local interests. In addition, protection of the collective rights of communities which depend on the forests are promoted within this structure.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the country has made progress in the construction of a Participation Plan, updated with support from the FCPF grant, which includes a chart of stakeholders at national and regional levels; identification and characterization of indigenous, Afro-Colombians and campesino communities; a plan for strengthening mechanisms and platforms for each key stakeholder; targets, stages, timeframe, methodologies and expected results on a national and regional level. All this was the result of dialogue, socialization and collective construction with ethnic and territorial organizations and platforms such as the Black Communities Process - PCN, Interethnic Solidarity Choco Forum, Common Agenda, National Indigenous Organization of Colombia - ONIC and National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon - OPIAC, among others, with which private agendas were established; Spaces for strengthening technical, organizational, and resource management capabilities for REDD+ decision-making and advocacy, and communication actions directed to key stakeholders, as well as the initiation of dialogues and consultations with new stakeholders for their proper incorporation in the construction of the REDD+ NS.

Within this context, a contribution has been made to forming and operating platforms and mechanisms for stakeholder groups, in particular, campesinos, indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians, women and national government bodies. Roadmaps have been produced for each stakeholder for the adequate participation and contribution (input generation) in the preparation and implementation of the REDD+ NS, defined in terms of time and space (regional focus) and with differentiated developments and results given the technical and financial conditions, opportunities, difficulties and possibilities involved in achieving this aim. Generally speaking, it has been possible to make progress with the stages involving the information and dialogue with campesinos, indigenous peoples, women and national government bodies, a phase which gives stakeholders possibilities and empowers them to get involved, take decisions and provide an input when the strategy is created. This will continue in 2017 with the involvement of other stakeholders in order to increase participation in creating the REDD+ NS.



Figure 4. Areas of participation in the Pacific region with Afro-Colombian community platforms in the department of Chocó (left) and indigenous communities in the department of Nariño (right).



The roadmap showing the greatest progress and level of involvement concerned the **Afro-Colombian** communities, since once the stage of information and dialogue took effect, progress was made in defining and constructing perspectives, measures, actions, risks, benefits and safeguards, particularly in defining the strategy for involving black peoples in the UN-REDD+. One achievement from the work carried out is the contribution of this group of stakeholders to the document being compiled, relating to the measures and actions for the UN-REDD+, the document concerning the Afro-Colombian ethnic perspective from a national overview, the formation of the Afro Roundtable of Climate Change and REDD+, the characterization of causes and agents of deforestation in the Pacific region and the proposal for regulating Section IV of Law 70 of 1993 concerning land use and protection of natural and environmental resources).

For 2017, the plan is to create, in a participatory way, an investment portfolio for the Pacific region which consists of intervention projects (pilots) for the UN-REDD+, as well as the continued strengthening of the skills of community councils and progress with the communications strategy.

As a consequence of the significant progress made within this process, it has been possible to advance the planning and development of action with **black women** in the Colombian Pacific region by creating a women's participatory platform in 2016. In this sense, the REDD+ visual language was developed from the women's perspective and in 2017 it was agreed to construct, on the basis of the key aspects identified in the SESA, a strategy for promoting good living based on traditional, socio-cultural and production activities; carry out an analysis of the regulations for Law 70 of 1993 from the perspective of black women; and to set up a training and leadership school for black women allowing traditional and ancestral knowledge to be acknowledged and valued, and with this in mind coordination meetings with the SENA (National Apprenticeship Service) have already been brought forward³³. In this way, by starting up a gender focus for participatory action, communications and reinforcing skills, the active involvement of women in defining and analyzing options relating to REDD+ strategy, measures and actions will be achieved.

As far as **campesino** communities are concerned, dialogue has been restarted by means of creating a roadmap for campesino communities to take part in the community construction of the REDD+NS, to include stages involving information and reinforcing skills, assessment and definition of authorities and mechanisms of participation, strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA), among other analytical topics and matters associated with collective construction. Due to various protests and strikes of campesino organizations, which took place in 2016, there were delays and difficulties in implementing this agenda. These were overcome, within the framework of the political relations with the national government. As a result, the chart of stakeholders from campesino organizations was updated and the roadmap for 2017 was agreed on. This will involve increasing the participation of campesino organizations on a national and regional level, as this is the demographically largest community group in Colombia with highly fragmented political and social representation.

As far as **indigenous** communities are concerned, the national mechanisms and authorities for political, community and social representation were reinforced in order to construct an indigenous perspective (overview) of REDD+. This highlights in particular the progress with agreements and actions achieved with the

³³ The National Apprenticeship Service –SENA– is a public body, attached to the Ministry of Labor, offering free training to millions of Colombians who can enjoy the benefits of technical, technological programs as well as others focused on economic, technological and social development in the country.



Colombian Amazon Indigenous Peoples Organization – OPIAC. It will be working with this organization in 2017 to reinforce the technical and organizational skills of the Amazon Indigenous Roundtable on Climate Change – MIACC, to develop a distinctive communication strategy and to achieve the collective construction of social and environmental safeguards. Likewise, an agreement was reached with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia – ONIC- to develop activities involving the participation of indigenous peoples in various regions in 2017, including organizations which have not yet been linked up and which require actions relating to information and dialogue about REDD+. It is important to point out that the coordination of actions and agendas has been launched with the Visión Amazonía (Amazon Overview) program so that it can intervene and obtain coordinated results.

Another significant and strategic achievement has been the reinforcement of participating authorities and mechanisms in the **Orinoco** region, specifically with the Departmental Roundtables on Climate Change, which form part of the Regional Climate Change Node in the Orinoco region. Meetings were aimed at reinforcing the regional participatory platforms and at socializing matters associated with climate change, REDD+NS and SESA. Within these institutional arrangements and mechanisms, the Regional Autonomous Corporations, the departmental governments and other community and institutional institutions are key stakeholders with regard to the preparation, construction and subsequent development and implementation of the UN-REDD+.

With regard to the **regional environmental authorities**, specific agendas for involvement, dialogue and information have been defined with Cormacarena, Corporinoquía and Corpoamazonía (the first two have jurisdiction in the Orinoco region and the third in the Amazon region). These agendas will be used to compile roadmaps for the due participation and reinforcement of the corporations, but above all, for attaining inputs and contributions for the construction and subsequent implementation of the UN-REDD+. These roadmaps will be used in 2017, and other corporations, which have a major role to play in REDD+ will be involved.

With regard to the **NGOs**, in 2010 a REDD+ roundtable was set up with the intention of developing skills in forest communities and the national government for preparing the national strategy and early initiatives. This roundtable maintained a critical and constructive dialogue with the MADS for several years, tackling topics associated with participation, communications, SESA, safeguards, as well as the regulatory and legal framework. In 2016, the information generated by this authority was collected and systematized and, at the same time, a reinvigoration of the roundtable was proposed, by increasing participation in organizations with environmental and social interests, some of which are critical to the REDD+ mechanism.

In accordance with these advances per stakeholder and taking into account the expected results defined in the Participation Plan, the following processes and challenges will be tackled in 2017 – 2018:

- Processes for consultation and participation with:
 - a. Indigenous peoples: National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) – Colombian Amazon Indigenous Peoples Organization (OPIAC).
 - b. Black peoples: Common Agenda and black organizations in the Nariño department in the Pacific region.
 - c. Campesinos: National Association of Campesino Reserve Areas (ANZORC), Summit, Dignidades and National Association of Campesino Users (ANUC).
- Production and development of roadmap for the following stakeholders:
 - d. CAR (Regional Autonomous Corporations for Climate Change).



- e. Public sector: national, regional, local and public ministry.
 - f. Production trades and sectors.
 - g. Academia and research institutes
 - h. NGO: reinvigoration of the REDD+. Roundtable
 - i. Partners.
- Progress of Orinoco Route participation plan.
 - Planning and development of consultation and participation routes for the Caribbean and Andean region.

Outreach and communications

If the various stakeholders associated with the management, conservation, use and employment of the forests are to participate in compiling the REDD+ National Strategy, as well as in initiatives, measures and actions developed within the context of REDD+, these stakeholders need to be informed about the process being developed, its opportunities and risks, as well as about the mechanisms to protect the rights of communities and the environment. As a result, outreach and communication activities are carried out jointly with actions associated with consultation, participation and strengthening of skills, with a view to supporting their dissemination, in a timely fashion, using clear and culturally appropriate language. This will create a suitable environment for formulating the UN-REDD+, allowing the subsequent implementation of the REDD+ measures and actions

The **Communications Strategy** was revised and brought up to date within the context of the grant, so that communications for development purposes incorporated, via a participatory process, the vision of the relevant stakeholders, particularly Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. The document will be completed as other stakeholders become involved and revitalize participation forums, ensuring that it provides a response to the dynamics and requirements of the process, and extends to any other targeted sectors of the public.

The strategy is aimed at seven targeted sectors of the public: 1) communities depending on the forests: black, indigenous and campesino communities, focusing in particular on young people and women, as they are the instigators of change within these communities; and 2) public sector: national government and local and regional authorities; 3) private sector; 4) partners; 5) academia; 6) NGO and 7) environmental authorities.

In order to implement the strategy a **communications roundtable** was set up, made up of representatives of involved bodies such as MADS, IDEAM, UN-REDD, GIZ (Forest and Climate Protection Programme/REDD+) and Action Fund. This roundtable is a place to coordinate actions, share and circulate information and make decisions about strategic matters. As a result of the work carried out by the roundtable, a visual image of REDD+ was created. A logo and an image user manual was developed in order to give a graphic identity to all the communications products; a website was also created, as a tool to circulate, make visible and consolidate information associated with the UN-REDD+, which will be fully operational in March 2017. Coordinating the production of content in this way has improved outreach to the general public, impacting over a million accounts and producing approximately three million tweets on Twitter.

Although the strategy is a national one, in the second half of 2016 administration was focused on carrying out activities with the forest communities in the Pacific and Amazon regions, where over 50% of the existing forests in the country are concentrated. More specifically, **"El Pacífico habla de REDD+"** ("The Pacific region is

talking about REDD+) strategy was set up in the Pacific region with the Afro-Colombian communities, in order to identify key players and specific products created for the leaders, community organizations, women and young people, among others.



Figure 5. Activities associated with implementing the communications strategy entitled “El Pacífico habla de REDD+”. Group of participants in a tour of the Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor project (left) and a session of the Pacific Diploma in Creative Writing.

Following the same approach, four tours of the REDD+ project entitled “Chocó – Darién Conservation Corridor of the Community Council of the Tolo River Basin and South Coastal Zone – COCOMASUR” (town of Acandí, Chocó department) will take place to show how forest governance and community-based management of the land works. The experience was based on reinforcing skills, empowering community leaders, cherishing and respecting the land, planning and management of projects for conservation of the environment and culture, including an early REDD+ initiative for protecting and monitoring 13.465 hectares of tropical rainforest. 112 people, 45 women and 67 men, took part in the tours. They included representatives from 25 community councils in the Pacific region, indigenous communities, government bodies and partners. Results from the tours, learning experiences and significant stories are being recorded using audiovisual methods.

In addition, 23 Afro-Colombian storytellers from the Pacific region have started to produce stories about the forest (jungle) and the land. They were selected via a public competition to take part in the Pacific Diploma in Creative Writing, an educational process created with the Caro y Cuervo Institute, a body attached to the Ministry of Culture. The diploma took place over four sessions in the four departments in the Pacific region, and involved reflections on Afro-Colombian literature, popularization of scientific knowledge, culture and the local situation relating to the environment, problems associated with deforestation and REDD+. options The final element of these communications will be a “Maletín de Relatos Pacífico” (Box of Tales from the Pacific) (physical and digital version), which will be presented nationally at the Bogotá International Book Fair in 2017, as well as in regional and local cultural and environmental forums. In addition, results from the learning experiences and significant stories are being recorded using audio-visual methods.

A media campaign has also been put into effect for the Pacific region in order to generate and disseminate information about climate change, forests, forest governance and other relevant issues in the local media. For this reason a group of 11 young people and representatives of community councils, 6 women and 5 men, received training in the techniques involved in journalism in a “journalistic formats” workshop, to help them to



disseminate information at local level. Content has also been generated for the written press and radio on media offering local, regional and national cover (e.g. Community radio station Tumaco Estéreo, the main community radio station in the South Pacific; the newspaper entitled El País, with the widest circulation in the Pacific region; the national newspaper entitled El Tiempo) in order to disseminate information about activities being carried out in preparation for REDD+, encouraging the Pacific region to talk about REDD+ in its own language.

Funds from the grant which have been committed, for 2017 and 2018, to implementing the communications strategy cover the running of the website; the design and production of printed, radio and audio-visual material; dissemination of the UN-REDD+ in and on national, regional and local forums and media; generating skills in indigenous and campesino communities so that these people can be involved in activities associated with communications; creation of communications strategies for the Orinoco, Andean and Caribbean regions; using guidelines to disseminate content on the local media and the internet; continuing activities associated with the Pacific and Amazon region strategies and action focused on black women; and assessment of the effectiveness of the communications strategy.

2. Environmental and social impacts

Within this component, the FCPF supports the strategic environmental and social assessment process (SESA) by preparing and implementing a work plan, created using the results of the dialogue with the various key stakeholders, including work already carried out in the Pacific and Amazon regions. At a later date, the key aspects identified by the stakeholders involved in the participatory process for helping to design the UN-REDD+ must be analyzed.

2c. Social and environmental impact assessment

The strategic environmental and social assessment -SESA - will be completed using FCPF funding. A SESA work plan will be produced as well as the environmental and social management framework - ESMF - for REDD+. The table below indicates the progress made in relation to the environmental management and assessment indicators associated with this component of the grant.

Table 6. Progress made in the "Assessment of environmental and social impacts" component with regard to the R-PP assessment and management framework"

FACTOR TO BE ASSESSED	EXPECTED PRODUCT	ADVANCES (2015-2016)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
A Technical Proposal for Assessing impacts (SESA) and a Framework for Managing Impacts (ESFM) are being developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Proposal for Assessing impacts (SESA) and a Framework for Managing Impacts (ESFM). ▪ Publication of SESA and ESMF ▪ SESA Work Plan agreed with the relevant stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SESA roadmap document for the Orinoco region ▪ Preliminary document for the Environmental and Social Management Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roadmap document ▪ Progress report on SESA process for the Orinoco region ▪ Preliminary ESMF proposal document



The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment process –SESA –, consistent with the regional approach taken by Colombia when preparing the UN-REDD+, began with dialogues in each of the regions in order to analyze the strategic options and the REDD measures; the initial two regions were the Pacific and the Amazon (since the majority of the forests in the country are concentrated here) followed by the Orinoco, Caribbean and Andean regions. Subsequently a national forum will be set up, and studies will be carried out about the key aspects identified and an Environmental and Social Management Framework will be compiled in order to bring the REDD+ into operation in the country.

Analysis of the possible risks and benefits relating to the REDD+ measures and the applicable safeguards will take the form of collective and participatory exercises with the local communities and stakeholders alongside the technical analysis. Below you will find, providing an example and model, which can be replicated, the results of the work carried out in Manungará (town of Tadó, department of Chocó) between 18 and 21 of October 2016 with Afro-Colombian communities. This was used to review the proposal for measures and actions to be taken as possible solutions for reducing deforestation in the region, tackling the main causes and agents of deforestation.

Table 7. Analytic model of possible risks and benefits relating to the REDD+ measures defined, as well as the applicable safeguards. Compiled on the basis of the exercise carried out with Afro-Colombian communities in the department of Chocó (Pacific region).

MEASURES	POSSIBLE BENEFITS	POSSIBLE RISKS	SAFEGUARDS
Development of alternative production projects for food security with a differentiated approach and peace in the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase of food sovereignty. ▪ Support with land regulation. ▪ Support with the process of population return. ▪ Improving quality of life (increased income). ▪ Generating business. ▪ Acknowledgement of ancestral knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marketing. Who are your customers? ▪ Increase in deforestation. Extending borders? ▪ Disrupting the ecosystem. ▪ Reduction of biological resources (Biodiversity). ▪ Conflict of interests within the community. ▪ False Expectations. ▪ Lack of interest or motivation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Transparency and access to information (Assemblies). 10. Participation and socialization. 4. Forest governance. 14. Territorial and environmental management. 11. Conservation of forests and its diversity. 7. Ancestral knowledge 13. Multiple benefits (food security).

In the Amazon region, during the 2013-2014 period, the first stage of the dialogue with stakeholders and departments was carried out, which resulted in the evaluation and analysis of causes and agents of deforestation, timeline of underlying causes, risk analysis and benefits of the strategy options and their recommendations. Based on this, in 2016, lines of work were defined with CORPOAMAZONIA¹⁴, the environmental authority and key stakeholder which forms part of the Regional Climate Change Node – NRCC - in the region, for designing action initiatives for each strategy option. This will be discussed in the regional workshop, which will take place in order to conclude this initial phase.

¹⁴ CORPOAMAZONIA, the corporation for the sustainable development of the south Amazon region, covers the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá and Putumayo within its jurisdiction.



Table 8. Lines of work in the face of the strategy options and action measures agreed with CORPOAMAZONIA

STRATEGY OPTIONS	ACTION MEASURES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PLAYERS
Environmental land use planning for the territory	Support for the local territorial environmental land use planning processes	Technical support for the definition of particular land use and organization models	Territorial Planning councils, Municipal Councils for rural development, territorial institutions
		Mapping of initiatives in REDD+ in Amazonia by the various players.	CI, Corpoamazonia, FCPF
		Guarantee the participation of the players	
		Strengthen the communications strategy	
		Incorporate climate change issues in planning instruments	Territorial Planning councils, Municipal Councils for rural development, territorial institutions
		Involvement of the local coordination authorities (CTP, CDMR)	
Forest Governance and Management	Integrated sustainable forest planning	Updating of the forest planning plans, knowledge of NFMP for exploitation by communities	MADS - Corpoamazonia - International Cooperation - Communities- Vision Amazonia
		Strengthen the communications strategy	
	Strengthening of institutions - modernization of the evaluation, monitoring and control, and supervision systems for the sustainable exploitation of the forests	Technical and operational human resources support for field data capture. Technical support for the development and functioning of information systems instruments	Vision Amazonia - Compensation Fund – WCS
		Socialization of instruments and procedures developed for sustainable forest management by communities	
Community Monitoring (GIZ)	Smallholding monitoring	IDEAM - NGO - Corpoamazonia	
Sustainable management and restoration	IRBM - Integrated river basin management. Land restoration	Conception of projects with a productive chain and value chains	Ethnic, farming and Afro-Colombian communities
Management of SINAP [National System of Protected Areas] and buffer zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formulation of the DCSAC management plan ▪ Implementation of the DCSAC and Bajo Caguan Management Plan ▪ Proposal for regional protected areas 	Building of capacities of the REDD+ NS project (prior consultation, prior consent, internal training)	OPIAC and other indigenous, Afro-Colombian and farming communities



STRATEGY OPTIONS	ACTION MEASURES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PLAYERS
Sustainable development of crops other than illegal ones	Establishment, management, transformation and marketing project for cacao, according to the criteria of zero deforestation and fair prices	Conception of projects with a productive chain and value chains	Ethnic, farming and Afro-Colombian communities
Climate change	NRCC-Amazonia	Strengthen the communications strategy	MADS, FCPF, OPIAC, Corpoamazonia, CDA [North and West Amazonian Sustainable Development Corporation], Ethnic communities, farmers, trades unions, research institutions, academia, territorial institutions
	Formulation of the PRICC-SAC [Climate Change Integrated Regional Plan - Special Area of Conservation]	Activation of the NRCC-Amazonia	

In the Orinoquia region, a state of the art initiative was undertaken for the development of REDD+ as a basis for the creation of SESA dialogue forums and the coordination of actions between cooperation programs which seek to reduce deforestation with land use planning models, which contain conservation and low emission development measures. The above is based on the *Nodo Regional de Cambio Climático* [Regional Climate Change Node] work, as a coordinating authority in Orinoquia, the departmental round tables on climate change and the Climate Change Integrated Action Plan, currently being formulated.

On a regional level, coordination with the Sustainable Landscapes Initiative is fundamental. This is under development by the BioCarbon Fund program for optimizing resources, the technical studies thus created, and forums for participation. Over the next few years it will also be important to coordinate with the “Support for climatically intelligent agriculture in Colombia’s rural landscapes” program, supported by the Latin America Investment fund - LAIF, which has given priority to Orinoquia, particularly the Meta and Vichada departments, for the performance of the field-based actions.

On a departmental level¹⁵, the GHG emissions problem was analyzed, together with the contributions of each territory and the AFOLU sector and the results of the diagnostic studies of the deforestation in the region carried out by CORMACARENA and IDEAM. In this way the main risks and benefits were identified which might arise for the implementation of the strategy options.

Table 9. Model of lines of work in the face of the strategy options and action measures. Drafted from the exercise carried out with CORPOAMAZONIA.

¹⁵ Work sessions were carried out with the departmental round tables of Casanare (Yopal, November 25, 2016), Arauca (Arauca, November 29, 2016), Meta (Villavicencio, November 30, 2016) and Vichada (Puerto Carreño, December 2, 2016).



STRATEGY OPTIONS	POSSIBLE BENEFITS	POSSIBLE RISKS
Environmental land use planning for the territory	Possibilities offered by the international cooperation programs for promoting environmentally friendly development	Consistency of the environmental and territorial management instruments as against low carbon development and REDD+ NS
Promotion of land use planning, sustainable management, protection and restoration of forest ecosystems	Modification of the existing land planning programs to achieve the conservation of the region's ecosystems and water.	Permanence of the conservation initiatives in agricultural production systems pertaining to the region as against road infrastructure projects (Association of Cashew Farmers of Vichada)
Building of capacities of the communities in forest conservation management	The opportunity to be fully aware of the information for developing productive projects which contribute to conservation (CORPOICA)	Low participation of all the players who might be interested in the construction and development of the REDD+ NS
Development of financial instruments, payment for environmental services and green markets for the promotion of forest conservation		Sustainability of agricultural and livestock projects for conservation purposes which are already being developed in the region (Casanare)
Promotion of the management of the national system of protected areas and their buffer zones		In Arauca, two new protected areas are being managed which is causing concern because of the land tenure of the occupants of those areas.
Reinforcement of forest governance	Control of the territory and support for the initiatives of the national government in order to promote sustainable development for the benefit of the communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low managerial capacity in the face of the prohibited forest exploitation problems. ▪ Low credibility of the Environmental Authorities on the part of the communities. ▪ High level of migration in frontier areas which causes deforestation for the construction of improvised dwellings in prohibited areas

With the resources from the donation, work will continue during 2017 with the departmental round tables on climate change in the region aimed at designing Action Measures and the application of Safeguards from the technical studies generated, as well as participative exercises and actions aimed at building capacities in which other relevant players will be involved.

Additionally, the preliminary proposal of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed together with the UN-REDD program, in accordance with the components of the National Safeguards System (NSS). Specifically, the Compliance Framework was drawn up which establishes the appropriate approach to the Safeguards applicable to the Action Measures and, in turn, compliance with the operational policies of the World Bank which correlate with the REDD+ NS Safeguards.



On a financial level this component has not been executed because the activities have been focused on the coordination of the authorities and roadmaps to be implemented in 2017 with a commitment of US\$ 80 thousand (13%).

Table 10. Resources assigned, executed and committed as at 31 December 2016, in the Environmental and social impacts component (figures in US\$)

Activity	Budget 2015 - 2018	Implemented 2015 - 2016	Committed	
			Under tender	Contracted
Regional SESA workshop Amazonia region	\$24,490		\$20,000	
SESA workshops Caribbean region	\$97,959			
SESA workshops Andean region	\$114,286			
SESA workshops Orinoquia region	\$97,959	\$2,802	\$60,000	
National SESA workshop	\$40,816			
Key aspects: REDD+ consultancy and post-conflict	\$14,000			
Key aspects: Sanctioning consultancy and forest strengthening	\$14,000			
Consultancies with Afro-Colombian women	\$24,490			
Other consultancies on key aspects:	\$128,530			
Preparation of the ESMF (meeting, consultancies)	\$73,470			
TOTAL	\$630,000	\$2,802	\$80,000	-

3. Program monitoring and evaluation framework

The R-PP defined the monitoring and evaluation framework program (M&E), the purpose of which is to determine the progress and verify the level of compliance of the actions defined for the execution of the R-PP, as well as to provide feedback for the preparation process. Moreover, it seeks to guarantee the efficient and transparent management of the resources and to correct the holes identified in the preparation phase. The progress in the compliance with the environmental management and evaluation indicators financed with the FCPF funds was highlighted in each of the previous components in this section of the report.

Moreover, the FCPF will finance an independent financial audit of the resources of the donation, within the monitoring and evaluation framework of the R-PP, in order to guarantee the efficient and transparent management of the resources and correct the holes identified in the preparation stage. The purpose of this audit is to determine the progress, verify the compliance of the actions defined for the execution of the R-PP and to provide feedback for the process.

For the period between 29 April (date of signing the donation agreement) and 31 December 2015, an external financial audit was carried out by Amezcuita & Cia., to determine the progress with respect to the financial information, the assessment of the internal control system and the use of the resources of the project, bearing in mind the terms and conditions of the donation agreement.



As a result of this audit, which was carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing, issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), it was determined that as at 31 December 2015, the financial information gives a reasonable account in all major aspects of the financial situation of Donation Agreement No. TF018501. Also, the audit found that the internal control measures applied in the management of the resources are in place and are adequate.

Finally, in accordance with the project's acquisition plan for the period between 1st January 2016 and 31 December 2016, an external financial audit will take place and is currently being contracted. The result will be a report and professional opinion on the financial statements corresponding to the period of execution and closure of the audit, and will include the assessment of the internal control system of the project and the examination of the evidence which supports the figures and revelations of the financial statements.

The following table shows the progress in respect of the management and environmental evaluation indicators of this component of the donation.

Table 11. Progress in the "Program monitoring and evaluation framework" against the management and assessment framework of the R-PP

FACTOR TO BE ASSESSED	EXPECTED PRODUCT	ADVANCES (2015-2016)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
A monitoring and evaluation program has been designed and implemented	External audit	External financial audit (April to December 2015)	Audit report

On a financial level, no resources associated with this component have been executed; however, US\$ 100 thousand (84%) have been committed for the performance of the external audit.

Table 12. Executed, committed and assigned resources as at 31 December 2016, in the National preparation management mechanisms component.

Activity	Budget 2015-2018	Implemented 2015 - 2016	Committed	
			Under tender	Contracted
External financial audit	\$120,000		\$100,816	
TOTAL	\$120,000		\$100,816	



4. Summary of Colombia's compliance with the Common Focus

The aspects performed in compliance with various aspects of the Common Focus are described below.

1. Social and environmental safeguards, including SESA and ESMF

Colombia continues to progress in its compliance with the common safeguards focus, through the consolidation of the National Safeguards System (NSS) as described below. There is available the national interpretation based on the guidelines of the UNFCCC, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 of 2010. This interpretation contains the main requirements of the World Bank, established in its operational policies, as well as elements which were considered key to the principles and criteria proposed by UN-REDD in 2013, and the elements contained in the second version of the program proposed by the environmental and social standard for REDD+ (REDD+ SES). The above was the result of a work developed by WWF in 2014, on the conceptual alignment of these elements for Colombia, which is the safeguarding baseline from which the safeguards' standard framework and the interpretation of the same were developed according to the national context.

Table 13. Alignment between the various safeguarding programs (WWF, 2014)¹⁶

SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES OF THE UNFCCC DECISION 1/CP.16		UN-REDD PRINCIPALS AND CRITERIA (2013)	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA OF THE REDD+ SES V2 PROGRAM	OPERATIONAL POLICIES OF THE WORLD BANK
A)	Consistency or compatibility of the measures with the objectives of national forest programs and international conventions and agreements on the issue;	P4	P4, CRITERIA 4.2. P7, CRITERIA 7.1.	OP 4.01 Environmental Evaluation OP 4.36 Forests
B)	Transparency and effectiveness of national forest governance structures in light of national legislation and sovereignty;	P1	P4, CRITERIA 4.1, 4.3, 4.4 AND 4.5	OP 4.36 on Forests
C)	Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local community members, in light of relevant international obligations and national circumstances and legislation, and bearing in mind that the General Assembly of the United Nations has approved the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;	P2	P1 CRITERIA 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 P6, CRITERIA 6.3 P7, CRITERIA 7.1.	OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples
D)	Full, effective participation of stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, in the measures mentioned in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;	P1	P6 CRITERIA 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6,	OP 4.01 Environmental Evaluation OP 4.04 Natural Habitats: OP 4.36 Forests OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples OP 4.12 Involuntary

¹⁶ WWR, 2014, Safeguarding Baseline (work document). The document "Socio-environmental safeguards of REDD+" presents a summary of the above and it is available at <http://www.wwf.org.co/?231931/Estrategia-REDD>



SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES OF THE UNFCCC DECISION 1/CP16		UN-REDD PRINCIPALS AND CRITERIA (2013)	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA OF THE REDD+ SES V2 PROGRAM	OPERATIONAL POLICIES OF THE WORLD BANK
				Resettlement
E)	The compatibility of the measures with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that what is indicated in paragraph 70 of this decision is not used for the conversion of natural forest, but should instead be used to provide incentives for the protection and conservation of these forests and the services deriving from its ecosystems and to strengthen other social and environmental benefits;	P3 P5 P6 P7	P3 CRITERIA 3.1, 3.2, P5, CRITERIA 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5.	OP 4.04 Natural habitats: OP 4.36 Forests
F)	Adoption of measures to combat the risk of regression;	P4	P 3, CRITERIA 3.2 P 5, CRITERIA 5.5	OP 4.01 Environmental evaluation OP 4.04 Natural habitats: OP 4.36 Forests
G)	Adoption of measures to reduce emissions displacement.	P7	P5, CRITERIA 5.4, 5.5.	OP 4.01 Environmental evaluation (Annex A)

In order to comply with the commitments of the UNFCCC, on the issue of REDD+ Safeguards, Colombia has decided to structure the National Safeguards System (NSS). With the NSS the country seeks to approach and respect the safeguards for REDD+ complying with the decisions of the Convention on safeguards, particularly those related to establishing a “system to provide information on the way the safeguards are being approached and respected (SIS) in the whole process of application of the REDD+ measures”,¹⁷ as well as the drafting of periodical summaries of information on how the safeguards are being approached and respected¹⁸. This system will allow the articulation of the elements required at institutional, technical, regulatory and policy level to approach and respect the said safeguards in the development of the REDD+ measures and actions.

With the social and environmental safeguards for REDD+, the aim is to avoid the affectation of basic rights and the integrity of the ecosystems as well as to improve access to the benefits from the REDD+ activities. The REDD+ safeguards in Colombia apply at the national strategy and REDD+ initiatives level, and are understood to be payment-by-results programs, projects and other actions which aim to reduce emissions associated with deforestation. Therefore the safeguards are applied on every scale (local, regional and national) and for all kinds of players (communities, beneficiaries, implementers, financiers, cooperators, government, etc.).

¹⁷ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71d of the UNFCCC (Cancun, 2010)

¹⁸ Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 3 of the UNFCCC (Durban, 2011)

The NSS contains the interpretation of the REDD+ safeguards in accordance with the national context, the corresponding regulatory and institutional framework, the measures and instruments which promote the application of and respect for the safeguards, and the compliance framework. Similarly, the citizen assistance mechanism, the safeguards information system and the REDD+ safeguards information summary drafting guide which must be submitted to the UNFCCC will all be part of the NSS.

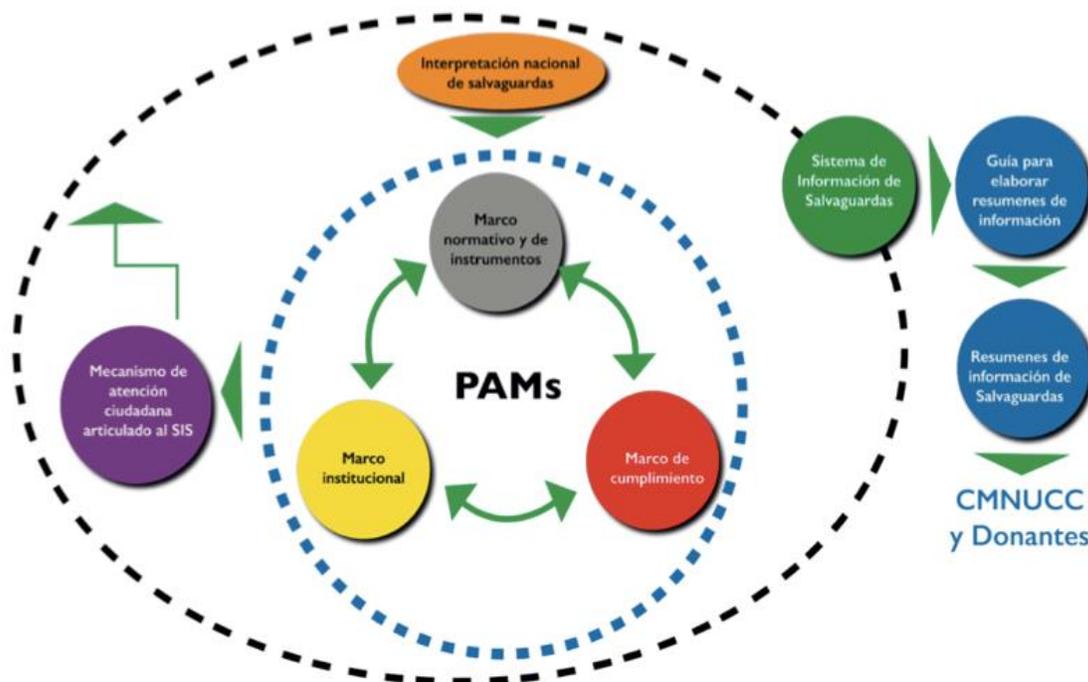


Figure 6. Structure of the National Safeguards System

The NSS for Colombia is supported by the regulatory framework related to the protection of basic rights and the conservation of the environment and natural resources. In the same way, it considers the information generated concerning forests, as well as that which gives access to reliable, useful information for the application of safeguards. It is also based on the results of the early dialogues held since 2011, with multiple players in the preparation of the R-PP and the SESA process developed in 2013, which contains the perceptions of the various groups of stakeholders on the potential benefits and risks linked with REDD+. Moreover, it takes as its starting point the process put forward by WWF-Colombia with the support of the FCMC [Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities] program¹⁹ and the GIZ, which drafted the analysis of the safeguards for Colombia from a social, technical and legal baseline, a participative process with different players which resulted in a safeguarding principles and criteria proposal for Colombia entitled "REDD+ Socio-environmental Safeguards"²⁰.

¹⁹The Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities program was an initiative developed with USAID funds, which supported the first approximation to safeguards in Colombia.

²⁰Document available at: <http://www.wwf.org.co/?231931/Estrategia-REDD>



Also, the NSS is constructed within the framework of the preparation of the REDD+ NS, and is designed to consider as a basic safeguarding concept the measures aimed at preventing the affectation of basic social, economic and environmental rights, and the occurrence of negative impacts from the design and implementation of REDD+ activities. Similarly it aims to improve the generation and distribution of benefits resulting from the REDD+ activities.

Colombia has developed a document that presents the NSS structure, which considers the national safeguards' focus and describes each of its components²¹. A major work interpreting the seven REDD+ safeguards of Cancun has been put forward, and in Colombia these have resulted in 16 elements applicable to the REDD+ actions and measures which are determined at a national, regional and local level. The following table shows the REDD+ safeguards which have been adopted at the COP in Cancun (a-f), and for each of the 16 safeguarding elements which have been identified for Colombia.

Table 14. Social and environmental Safeguards of the UNFCCC (Numbered a-f) and the safeguarding elements interpreted for Colombia (1-16) - under construction

Safeguards in Colombia
Consistency or compatibility of the measures with the objectives of national forest programs and international conventions and agreements on the issue;
1. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY COLOMBIA ON THE SUBJECT OF FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: The REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+ NS) and the programs and projects are developed within the framework of the National Forest Development Plan of the international conventions and agreements signed by Colombia on the subject of: Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change as well as the national policies corresponding to these agreements.
b) Transparency and effectiveness of national forest governance structures in light of national legislation and sovereignty.
2. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION: The stakeholders have at their disposal transparent, accessible and timely information relating to REDD+ actions on the information platforms or media determined (within the framework of REDD NS).
3. ACCOUNTABILITY: The institutions and players submit reports on their REDD+ management to the partners involved, the institutions, and the general public, and they include information on the application of and respect for the safeguards.
4. FOREST GOVERNANCE: The REDD+ actions are performed in accordance with the existing forest governance structures (strengthening them) and/or establish those necessary among the players involved in the process (for example, the strengthening or creation of new structures might be a governance implementation mechanism).
5. ** CAPACITY BUILDING: The REDD+ initiatives guarantee the building of the technical, legal and administrative governability capacities of the players directly involved or participating in the initiatives, so that the parties may make documented, analyzed and informed decisions.
c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local ethnic communities, in light of relevant international obligations and national circumstances and legislation, and bearing in mind that the General Assembly of the United Nations has approved the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
6. FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) Any of the initiatives which directly affects one or various ethnic groups and local communities must be consulted previously (pursuant to the regulatory provisions on this subject) in accordance with the customs and practices of such peoples, and the Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior shall be

²¹ For information on the specific progress in each of the components of the National Safeguards System, please see the document "National REDD+ Safeguards System in Colombia; state of the art initiative, progress and actions required in its construction".



Safeguards in Colombia
involved, accompanied by the control organism, and shall allow them space to give their FPIC or not.
7. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: The traditional knowledge systems and the visions pertaining to the territory of the indigenous peoples and local ethnic communities are acknowledged, respected and promoted, pursuant to the provisions of the national legislation and in compliance with international conventions.
8. PROFIT DISTRIBUTION: The REDD+ initiatives guarantee for the indigenous peoples and local ethnic communities, the participation in and fair and equitable distribution of the profits they generate and of all those benefits derived from the knowledge, innovations and traditional practices for the conservation and sustainable usage of the forests, their diversity and the Ecosystems Services.
9. TERRITORIAL RIGHTS: The territorial*, collective and individual rights of the indigenous peoples and their ethnic and local communities are respected, as well as their customs and cultural, financial and spiritual significance.
Full, effective participation of stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, in the measures mentioned in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision.
10. PARTICIPATION: The right to full, effective participation of all the players involved is guaranteed in order to ensure the appropriate governance and decision taking concerning REDD+.
d) The compatibility of the measures with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that what is indicated in paragraph 70 of this decision is not used for the conversion of natural forest, but should instead be used to provide incentives for the protection and conservation of these forests and the services deriving from its ecosystems and to strengthen other social and environmental benefits.
11. CONSERVATION OF FORESTS and THEIR BIODIVERSITY: The REDD+ initiatives guarantee the conservation of the forests and the implementation of measures established for that purpose.
12. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: REDD+ guarantees the provision of ecosystem Services and the enjoyment of the same.
13. MULTIPLE BENEFITS: It is guaranteed that REDD+ will generate other social and environmental benefits and develop strategies/mechanisms to strengthen them.
Adoption of measures to combat the risk of regression.
LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY: The REDD+ initiatives ensure sustainability through instruments and measures that ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of forest areas. ** 16 protection measures to maintain the integrity and resilience of forest areas.
14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT: The REDD+ initiatives are compatible in territorial and environmental management measures or instruments provided for in the legislation.
15. SECTORAL PLANNING: REDD+ sectoral actions are proposed on the basis of environmental and territorial management instruments, as well as the legislation relating to forest conservation and biodiversity.
g) The adoption of measures to reduce the displacement of emissions.
16. DISPLACEMENT OF EMISSIONS: The REDD+ initiatives incorporate measures to reduce the displacement of emissions and ensure timely monitoring and control when the displacement of emissions occurs.

The NSS enforcement framework establishes the manner and procedure for approaching and respecting REDD+ safeguards. This includes a capacity building plan for safeguards, a procedure to address critical issues²² and a monitoring protocol which will establish a series of indicators in order to facilitate the approach and respect for safeguards, as well as a guide on how to approach and respect them at each of the different levels.

One of Colombia's commitments with the World Bank is the development of the SESA process, which must translate into the MGAS. In order to ensure coherence and the joint approach, a process of alignment between the requirements of the Bank for the MGAS and the structure of the NSS was advanced and it was established, jointly between the MADS, FCPF and UN-REDD teams, that the NSS enforcement framework brings together

²² For example, the limited development of specific legislative instruments for REDD+.



the key elements for addressing and respecting safeguards. There is a preliminary proposal for the contents of the MGAS, in accordance with the components of the NSS, specifically its Enforcement Framework which establishes the appropriate approach for the Safeguards applicable to the Action Measures. Furthermore, under the premise of the joint safeguarding approach for ensuring compliance with World Bank operational policies, the alignment between these and the different REDD+ safeguard requirements was advanced in order to ensure consistency, which is supplemented in the NSS regulatory framework.

The main developments in 2016 with regard to ensuring compliance with the safeguards commitments are:

- Institutional workshops carried out on safeguards with participation from more than 30 institutions. These spaces led to agreement upon roadmaps for advancing with the feedback, adjustment and socialization of safeguards with the relevant stakeholders.
 - **Interinstitutional safeguards workshop**, with participation from 15 institutions, during which the REDD+ NSS for Colombia was presented, potential roles and responsibilities were reviewed for entities that are competent with regard to REDD+ safeguarding, and requirements for capacity building and coordination mechanisms were identified.
 - The first **National Workshop on safeguards** was held, with participation from more than 30 institutions and 70 people, of whom 55% were women and 45% were men. During this workshop, the proposed structure of the NSS was presented, which generated dialogue and feedback among participants.
- Colombia has a solid proposal for the NSS and national interpretation, which form the foundations for the design of the Safeguards Information System –SIS- which include:
 - Final document on the structure of the National Safeguards System, which includes the approach to the issue in Colombia, as well as the structure of the system components.
 - Preliminary proposal on the interpretation of safeguards in the context of Colombia.
- Colombia published the first summary of information on safeguards with a focus on the Amazon region for public consultation among stakeholders, which will soon be presented to the UNFCCC, in order to comply with milestone 12 from the Memorandum of understanding with Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom.
 - Content proposal for the information summary that was presented by the country to REM, as part of the national process, and which will serve as the basis for the content proposal for the summary at the national level.
- Capacity building on safeguarding issues with various stakeholders.
- Two sessions with the REDD+ National School. The first, held from 3 to 5 August 2016, was directed at leaders of indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations throughout the country, and had 36 participants²³. The second, held from 25 to 27 October 2016, was directed at officials from public

²³ See Reports at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB73Qaud2VLFSaEpCRzBVbG9BbXM>



institutions such as the MADS, the MADR, Autonomous Regional Corporations, Research Institutions, IDEAM and NGOs in the environment sector. There were 54 participants.

- The development of various workshops and spaces for dialogue with indigenous, Afro-Colombian and campesino communities with regard to REDD+ safeguards.
- Socialization and regional dialogue on Safeguards in Colombia within the framework of the 10th Latin American Congress on Forest Law in November 2016. Within this space, two spaces were promoted, one main panel seminar on the national approach to safeguards and a working session on safeguards within the framework of the panel discussion on Agrarian Justice, where participants included delegates from Colombia's indigenous communities and from Afro-Colombian communities, as well as experts from Brazil, Bolivia and Peru.

2. Involvement of stakeholders

With regard to compliance with the joint approach with regard to involving stakeholders, below is a description of stakeholder involvement in the consolidation of the National Safeguards System –NSS-.

Between 2011 and 2014, the MADS worked on the REDD+ NS preparation proposal (R-PP), which was based on constructive dialogue with stakeholders interested in forests. Since 2014 to date, the MADS has been leading the implementation of the R-PP for the preparation of the REDD+ NS and the preparation of the country for REDD+. During these years, the country has had support from Colombian civil society and international cooperation from the FCPF, whose program is implemented by Fondo Acción, the UN-REDD Programme, the GIZ Forests and Climate Change Programme and, up to 2015, with the USAID BIOREDD+ Program, among others. In addition, this process is structured around the commitments established in the agreement of the Payment for Results Program, which Colombia signed at the SOP 21 in Paris with Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom.

In order to make progress on this issue, Colombia has established a safeguards working group led by the MADS (headed by the Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), the UN REDD Programme, the GIZ Forests and Climate Change Programme and the FCPF support program for the preparation of REDD+. This group has been coordinating with other stakeholders that are related to the safeguards process in Colombia, such as WWF-Colombia, among others.

The NSS for Colombia is supported by the regulatory framework related to the protection of basic rights and the conservation of the environment and natural resources. Equally, it considers information produced on forests and, in general, that which provides credible and useful information for the implementation of safeguards. It is also based on the results of the early dialogues held since 2011, with multiple players in the preparation of the R-PP and the SESA process developed in 2013, which contains the perceptions of the various groups of stakeholders on the potential benefits and risks linked with REDD+. Additionally, it uses the process as a starting point, promoted by WWF-Colombia with the support of the FCMC Program and from GIZ, which developed the analysis of safeguards for Colombia based on a social, technical and legal baseline in a participative process with various stakeholders, which resulted in a proposal of safeguarding principles and criteria for Colombia, titled "REDD+ Socioenvironmental Safeguards" (Salvaguardas Socioambientales de REDD+).



The design of the NSS, the development of which is included in the preparation of the REDD+ NS, considers the measures aimed at preventing essential social, economic and environmental rights from being affected as a basic concept of safeguards, as well as measures aimed at preventing negative impacts through the development and implementation of REDD+ activities. Similarly it aims to improve the generation and distribution of benefits resulting from the REDD+ activities.

Development of the National Interpretation of Safeguards

In Colombia, the national interpretation began in 2013 and 2014, with leadership from WWF and support from the FCMC Program and GIZ, under the direction of the MADS. The interpretation describes the scope of application for safeguards and proposes a series of principles and criteria for the Colombian context, as the result of a process with multiple stakeholders that are relevant for REDD+, including communities (Afro-Colombian, indigenous and campesino), NGOs and government institutions. In order to achieve the above, a baseline was established, which contains a legal, social and technical analysis of the issue in Colombia, a matrix of REDD+ risk analysis and safeguards, which presents the scope of the law in the main risks identified, differentiating between the national legislation and specific jurisprudence for particular law groups (indigenous populations, Afro-Colombian and campesino communities).

On the other hand, in late 2014 and early 2015 the MADS began the legal analysis of the safeguards, producing a matrix that identifies the main legislation (complementing the work carried out by WWF), including their definitions and identifying the relationship/complementarity these have with REDD+.

At the same time, GIZ contributed to this development through analysis of the results of the SESA process for the Amazon region, which it put forward in the second quarter of 2013. This represented an advance in the analysis of the risks identified for the strategic options put forward in the R-PP by the various categories of stakeholders. Subsequently, they studied the intersection of the risks with the country's corresponding regulatory framework and, lastly, produced a matrix where the Cancun safeguards were associated with the main risks.

In addition, GIZ carried out an initial analysis of the scope of environmental safeguards (e, f and g) with regard to Colombia's strategic options. This analysis identifies the country's legislation and some instruments that would serve to make those options operational.

In addition to this, a safeguards committee was established, comprising different agencies from the MADS, the Visión Amazonía, GIZ, the UN-REDD Programme and Fondo Acción. A committee meeting was held during the first quarter of 2015, advancing on the interpretation of the first 3 Cancun safeguards (a, b and c) within the national context, and proving the need to advance on the analysis of the risks identified within the framework of the SESA process. The committee used the CAST tool from the UN-REDD Programme in order to establish a roadmap for advancing on safeguards.

In January 2016, the national interpretation work was resumed, led by the MADS and UN-REDD and a national integration document is proposed based on all the exercises described above. The main result of this exercise is the definition of 16 elements which, within the context of Colombia, respond to the UNFCCC in accordance with the country's legislation, regulations and institutional framework. These elements were proposed,



reviewed and feedback was provided by the MADS, IDEAM and IAvH teams, as well as by the various partnerships that are supporting the national safeguards process. Subsequently, participants of the National Safeguards workshop (28-29 June) reviewed and provided feedback on the elements and recommended possible instruments for approaching and respecting safeguards at the different levels. There is currently a safeguards facilitating team comprising the MADS, UN-REDD and GIZ, which is streamlining the national process. There is also a working group that is reviewing the issue at the level of the Amazon region (first payment for results program with sub-national focus).

Similarly, a review of the national interpretation of safeguards is being carried out with the different groups of key REDD NS stakeholders. There is a safeguards working group with Afro-Colombian leaders from the Pacific region that met once during 2016. In order to include the indigenous view, meetings have been held with leaders of the different organizations that are participating in the process, as well as spaces for dialogue, for feedback. The document on the indigenous view with regard to the REDD+ NS discusses the main safeguarding elements for this group of stakeholders. Additionally, within the framework of the Indigenous Pillar of the Visión Amazonía, the national safeguards focus and implementation has been being shared and the plan is to continue with these spaces for dialogue on this issue, in order to ensure safeguards are suitable for this group of stakeholders.

3. Information dissemination

Based on the activities and actions carried out by REDD+ in the country, information has been produced which has been shared through social media with the general public. Through the website, information will be more public and transparent with the communities and with the country. As part of the relationship with local media, information is shared on the development process of the REDD+ NS. Additionally, with training for leaders and community members on communication tools, it is hoped that the dissemination of all the activities reaches the highest possible number of people.



5. Funding plan for preparation activities

USE OF FUNDS (US\$ thousands)							
R-PP Component	Total required (A)	Funds offered (B)	Funds used		Funds available (= B – C)	Funding shortfall (= A – B)	FCPF Request
			Funds pledged	Funds disbursed			
1a	1,750						
1b	239						
1c	1,100						1,080
2a							
2b							1,700
2c							1,200
2d							
3							
4a							600
4b							350
6							
TOTAL							4,930
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES (US\$, thousands)							
FCPF		3,800 ²⁴	1,362	666	1,772		
GIZ		4,402					
UN-REDD		4,000	538	1,410	2,052		
BIOREDD /USAID		518	518	518	-		
FCMC		149	149	149	-		
Winrock/C.Focus/BMU		1,844	1,844	1,844	-		
United Kingdom		326					
Government of Colombia		3,444					
TOTAL							

²⁴This amount includes US\$ 200,000 from the first FCPF donation for R-PP preparation, and the second for US\$ 3.6 million for R-PP implementation.



6. Summary of the additional FCPF funding request

The components for which additional funding is requested from FCPF for US \$ 4.93 million, which will be implemented during 2018 and 2019, are described below. With the proposed actions, and taking into account the country's current level of preparedness for REDD+, it is expected to facilitate the transition to the implementation phase of the national strategy with the creation of the required enabling environment. In particular, it aims to develop the level of leadership and commitment necessary for the effective involvement of the different stakeholders in the different spaces of participation and consultation. Likewise, it is critical to initiate the implementation of measures and actions with the safeguards reporting and monitoring schemes that demonstrate the viability and feasibility of REDD+ in Colombia. The aim is to contribute to the reduction of deforestation with a low carbon development approach that enables the construction of territorial peace and the preparation of the country for the fulfilment of the commitments of the Paris Agreement.

Participation and Consultation for Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Population

The consultation and participation process carried out to date with the indigenous population has centered on strengthening national organizations (ONIC) and some regional organizations (OPIAC, CIT) in order to improve their knowledge of the issue of climate change and REDD+ with the aim of improving their participation in the REDD+ NS development process. This consultation and participation process has provided significant results, such as the reactivation of existing forums for participation on national legislation in which the development of the REDD+ NS has been a priority. However, additional funding is required in order to maintain these spaces for participation in the development of the REDD+ NS and in order to expand this process to other regions within the country, such as the Caribbean, Andean and Pacific regions, given the diversity of Colombia's indigenous populations (102 indigenous populations).

With the Afro-Colombian population, the process that has been carried out with community organizations and councils from the Pacific region has been quite solid. This has already resulted in an information process and the identification of deforestation causes, measures and actions. Another point to highlight from this process is that there are platforms for participation in which the REDD+ NS is discussed and feedback is produced. However, additional funding is required for the continuity of these spaces in the Pacific region and the implementation of these actions in other regions of the country where there is an Afro-Colombian population, such as the Caribbean and Andean (inter-Andean valleys) regions, as well as the strengthening of spaces for dialogue at the national level.

It is worth mentioning that the priority of these actions for the REDD+ NS lies in these population groups have collective titling of 50% of the country's natural forests, meaning that they are key stakeholders in the REDD+ NS development process. Equally, greater linkage among women must be promoted, to build their capacities for participating in decision-making spaces and pilot projects.

Participation, consultation and capacity-building among civil society and the private sector

The process of involvement and capacity-building among civil society (campesinos, NGOs, academia) and other key stakeholders for the development of the REDD+ NS has mainly been carried out at the national level and has been tentative. Additional funds are needed to strengthen actions and spaces for participation with civil society at the national level, and for areas where the main deforestation hotspots are located. This involves the



strengthening of the spaces for participation that have already been identified at the local level, such as forestry roundtables, and the implementation of actions aimed at strengthening the capacities of civil society and institutions at the local level.

National forums for dialogue for the REDD+ NS

The forming and implementation of the REDD+ National Roundtable in 2017 will be a significant milestone for the process of socialization and the development of the REDD+ process at the national level. As such, additional funds will be required, given the diversity of the local stakeholders that will participate in this space and the number of sessions required (at least 3 sessions per year). Furthermore, workshops and socialization spaces have been organized for all the types of stakeholders participating in the REDD+ NS at the national and local level (mainly in deforestation hotspots), where additional funds are required.

Implementation of the Community Monitoring Protocol

To date, IDEAM, within the framework of the National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System with support from the UN-REDD Programme, has advanced a draft protocol for community forest monitoring and a pilot project (under development). Additional funds are required to consolidate this protocol and implement other additional pilot projects.

Institutional Strengthening of Environmental Authorities

The country has identified the need to strengthen the environmental authorities (regional autonomous corporation and sustainable development corporations, National Parks) in order to improve its institutional capacities for forest monitoring and governance, especially in order to implement instruments for consolidating forest governance that impact on the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. This strengthening is associated with the consolidation of the Regional Climate Change Hubs, which are, in 2016 and 2017, establishing their action plans for responding to the mitigation and adaptation needs in each region.

Development of enabling measures for REDD+

Colombia requires the development of enabling measures that facilitate, in accordance with national circumstances, the creation of institutional, technical and operational conditions necessary to facilitate the specific design and support of demonstrative activities that enable the transition towards the implementation of REDD+, as well as an adequate follow-up, monitoring and reporting.

The enabling measures will be necessary in order to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the different instruments, tools and management schemes developed within the framework of the REDD+ NS, through the development of implementation pilots in active deforestation nuclei in each biogeographic region (Pacific, Andean, Caribbean, Orinoquía and Amazon), emphasizing the measures and actions with the greatest impact on the behaviour of deforestation. Regional PMAs will be defined based on the results of the strategic environmental and social assessment, and programs under development to reduce deforestation, such as Amazon Vision, under the REM pay scheme, and sustainable forest landscapes, being carried out by the BioCarbon Fund.



In particular, stakeholders in the Pacific region have identified the need to advance in the first demonstration projects of an investment portfolio and pilot projects that will be consolidated in 2017 for the implementation of measures and actions to reduce deforestation and degradation of forests, within the framework of the Pacific Vision Sustainable Territories and the process of preparation and implementation of the Havana agreements, so that it may be constituted as an instrument that contributes to achieving a Sustainable Regional Development low (free) of deforestation and in this way, provides a subnational scope of the country's REDD+ NS. This portfolio, which will be formulated in 2017, requires the implementation of enabling measures that are defined and prioritized.

In the Caribbean and Andean regions, the process of structuring PMAs or specific programs has not been initiated, but there are inputs from early initiatives that seek to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable forest management.

Monitoring of the causes and agents of deforestation

With regard to the conceptual and methodological guidelines for defining the causes and agents of deforestation in Colombia, the conceptual approach was developed for defining the causes and agents for historical deforestation hotspots. However, additional resources are required in order to carry out monitoring on the classification of causes and agents, as well as criteria at the regional level, adjusting and evaluating the methodology developed within the framework of REDD+ NS planning.

Operation of the Safeguards Information System and report generation

The Safeguards Information System is currently being designed, which will be coordinated with the Colombian Environmental Information System –SIAC-. This work is being led and executed by the UN-REDD Programme and will be delivered to the country at the end of 2017. Additionally, Columbia must submit a safeguards information summary to UNFCCC every two years; the second one is to be submitted in 2019. In order to ensure the sustainability and long-term operation of the SIS, as well as the preparation of the country's second summary of information on safeguards, it is important to allocate resources while this is fully funded by the implementation of the REDD+ NS. Consequently, support is required through the hiring of staff for the operation and preparation of the system.

Monitoring of Safeguards implementation

An important opportunity for the country has also been identified within the framework of the development of REDD+ NS pilot projects, so that monitoring can be carried out on how safeguards are being approached and respected with regard to REDD+ in the pilot implementation phases of the REDD+ NS. This will also serve to verify whether the SIS is properly gathering information. In order to do this, it is proposed that national safeguards monitoring mechanisms are coordinated with the community forest monitoring protocols.

The table below shows detailed information about additional funds requested.

Table 15. Additional budget requested from FCPF for the preparation for REDD+ in Colombia



COMPONENT	SUB-COMPONENT	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT (US\$, THOUSANDS)
REDD+ readiness organization and consultation	Consultation, participation and outreach	Dialogue at the local level and outreach with the indigenous and Afro-Colombian sector	700
		Spaces for dialogue and communication with the civil society sector at the sub-national level	180
		National/International forums for dialogue and dissemination of the REDD+ NS	200
Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy	REDD+ strategy options	Pilot projects for REDD+ measures	1,700
	Implementation framework	National and regional strengthening of institutions	1,200
Forestry monitoring and safeguards system	National Forestry Monitoring System.	Implementation of the community monitoring protocol	400
		Monitoring of causes and agents of deforestation	200
	Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Safeguards (operation of the Safeguards Information System and report generation, monitoring of safeguards implementation)	350
TOTAL			4,930