



TAP Independent Review of Dominican Republic's Readiness-Package

Juan López-Silva

FCPF PC27 Meeting
Washington DC
March 18 - 20, 2019



Purpose of TAP's review



PURPOSE

- Assess due process and approach in performing R-Readiness self-assessment in Dominican Republic
- Assess R-readiness progress and challenges to be addressed for transitioning to ER phase



TAP's R-Package Self-Assessment Review



CONTENT

- Section 1 –S1: Review of self-assessment PROCESS and RESULTS
- Section 2 –S2: Review of PROGRESS on REDD+ Readiness
- Section 3 –S3: Summary Assessment and recommendations



S1- Self-Assessment Process



- The process followed the recommendations included in the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, with respect to the selection of participants, preparation of event, facilitation of the assessment process, outcome synthesis and dissemination and validation.
- The workshop was conducted in 2 days (October 4 and 5, 2018), including representatives from all key sectors (public and private sector, academia and research groups, producers and civil society). Participants also included the REDD+ Technical Advisory Group, the Land use and Forestry Committee, the Safeguards Committee, and the Legal Committee. Many of the participants had already taken part of previous participative and consultative events, so they had a clear track of DR's REDD+ development process.
- There was a total of 56 participants, with a majority from government (55%), followed by Civil Society (23%), private sector and producers (16%), and the academia (6%).

- Building on Dominican Republic's comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process started in 2010, involving local communities, farmers, producer associations, women groups, NGOs, academia, government officers, plus civil society.
- As part of the REDD+ strategy development, SESA, and ER Program consultation, there has been a wide and deep participation of relevant stakeholders over a sustained period of time



S1 - Self-Assessment Process

Average Rating

Component	Subcomponent	Average Rating (Color Coded)
Component 1: Organization and consultation for the preparation period	Subcomponent 1a: National management mechanisms of the REDD + MbA program for the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes (EN-REP)	Yellow
	Subcomponent 1b: consultation, participation y social difusion	Yellow
Component 2: formulation of a REDD+ Strategy	Subcomponent: 2a. Evaluation on Land-use, and causes for changes in land-use, forest sector laws, politics and administration.	Green
	Subcomponent: 2b. Options for REDD+ Strategies	Green
	Subcomponent: 2c. Execution Framework	Yellow
	Subcomponent: 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yellow
Component 3 reference levels for emissions.		Yellow
Component 4 monitoring and evaluation	Subcomponent: 4a. national forest monitoring system	Yellow
	Subcomponent: 4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other Impacts, management and safeguards	Yellow

**FOREST
CARBON
PARTNERSHIP
INITIATIVE**

No RED ratings,
Most ratings are
YELLOW, and
with a 29,4% of
GREEN ratings

S1- Self-Assessment Results

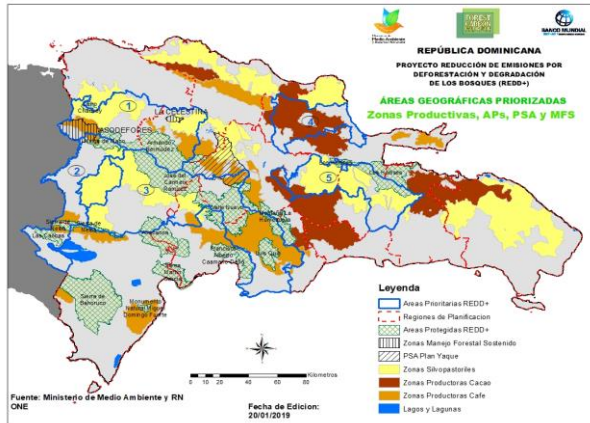
- The participative Self-Assessment Process in Dominican Republic followed the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework Guidelines. However, the TAP Review would have been easier, had the ratings on the assessment criteria been supported with specific feedback from the consulted working groups; rather it had a compiled report summarizing all comments received per criteria. So it was difficult to determine the different perceptions from the different interest groups.
- Other element to address in the future is the relatively weak participation from the producers and private sector. The larger representation resulted from government, NGOs, and academia (84%). This organizational setting could be assessed as a weakness of the process. So, for the next ER phase, one of the TAP recommendations is to incorporate the participation of private sector and local communities in a much stronger way. This is particularly important for next phase, as the benefit distribution mechanism should be based on actual land tenant participation, which should be managed at the local level.



S2 - Progress Review per Component

Component 1: Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)

- There is a solid institutional structure to manage all REDD+ programs and decisions has been established. Decisions are taken at the REDD+ Board of Directors (CD-REDD+), formed by high level representatives from the Ministry of Environment and National Resources; the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development; and the Ministry of Agriculture. This Board ensures that all REDD+ policies complement and are consistent with the country's development policies and programs. Underneath the Board, there is the REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee (CTA-REDD+), with advisory and support functions, and where all relevant sectors and interests groups are represented. In addition, a Management Technical Unit (UTG as per Spanish acronyms) has been created, and it is the executive body in charge of promoting, and coordinating REDD+ related policies, programs, and project activities.
- Dominican Republic's MARN Green Line is evolving onto a a strong grievance redress system, where people can easily denounce or bring attention to elements of ecosystem restoration or degradation. The mechanism should be ready by the end of March.



Still to be done

Component 1: Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)



- It seems that the local communities are still expecting a better inter institutional coordination, and better policy integration. Also stakeholders participating in the self assessment review claim for more transparency and accountability as per Budget management. And for better feedback on consultation processes
- Complaints and Grievance Redress Mechanisms pending.
- Further strengthening of feedback regarding consultation processes. It will help gain additional support and participation, if the comments and suggestions could be better registered, and traced back. Also, it is important to ensure that the carbon right holders are actively participating in the consultation processes, and to leave due record of it.



S2- Progress Review per Component

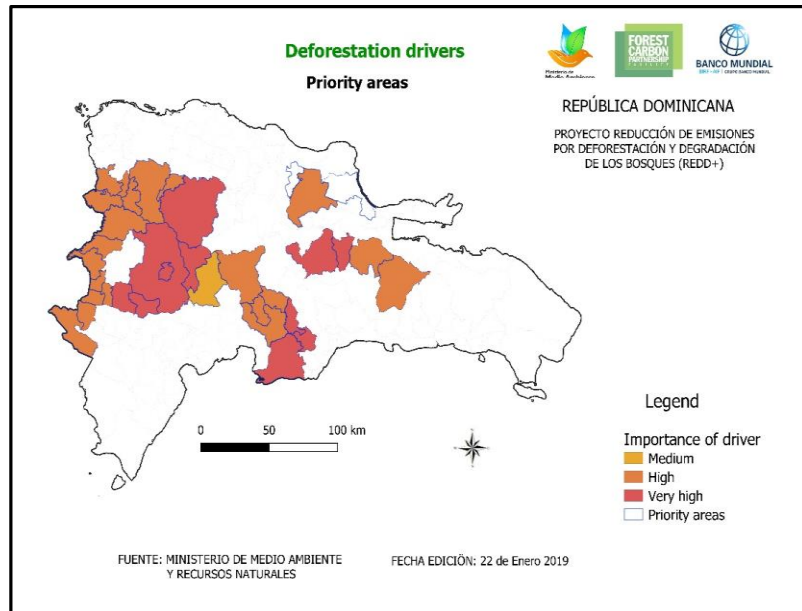
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation (criteria 11-25)



- Comprehensive legal framework consistent with the REDD+ National Strategy.
- National development plan 2010-2030 focused to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Reducing carbon emissions through forest conservation and management, agroforestry developments, and renewal energy and energy efficiency.
- Newly enacted Law on Payment for Environmental Services which aims at formalizing already happening PES arrangements.
- There are many legal and customary mechanisms for land tenure in Dominican Republic, and although a large part of the land does not have formal title, the tenants may still claim rights on their occupied or usufruct lands, and participate of carbon emission reduction rights.
- Land use change drivers identified and strategy designed to address them
- Extensive, comprehensive, and participatory approach to identifying and defining the social and environmental safeguards for the REDD+ Strategy

Still to be done

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation (criteria 11-25)



- Benefit sharing mechanism was still under development by the time this review was produced. Benefits need to be distributed to the land tenant that have decided to protect or enhance forests, in view of the REDD+ investment incentives. This is a topic still being discussed with regards to the ER Program, where the rights of land tenants are to be materialized through participation in government funded agroforestry productive activities or other REDD+ activities that will lead to the production of carbon revenues. Rating was a bit too high on this point as there still work to be done
- Consented participation from these land right holders will be the basis to claim their part in the benefit distribution, resulting from potential carbon offset sales.
- Information on costs and benefits is being produced, and will be relevant to determine feasibility, risks, and opportunities
- National REDD+ transaction and data management system in the making. In the interim the WB's system to be used
- ESMF still being finalized.

Still to be
done

**Component 3: Reference Emissions
Level/Reference Levels (criteria 26-28)**

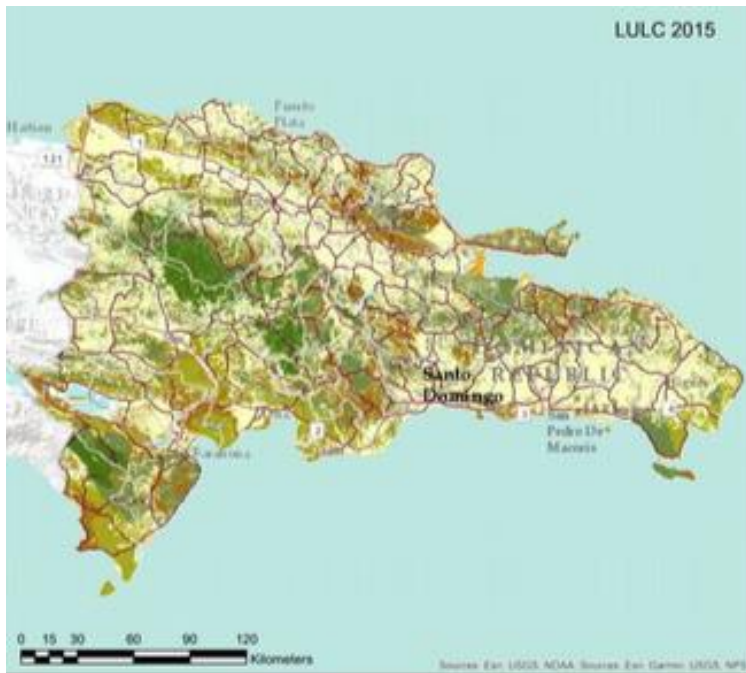


- This component is ready for ER approval.
- Should be upgraded to Green.



S4 - Progress Review per Component

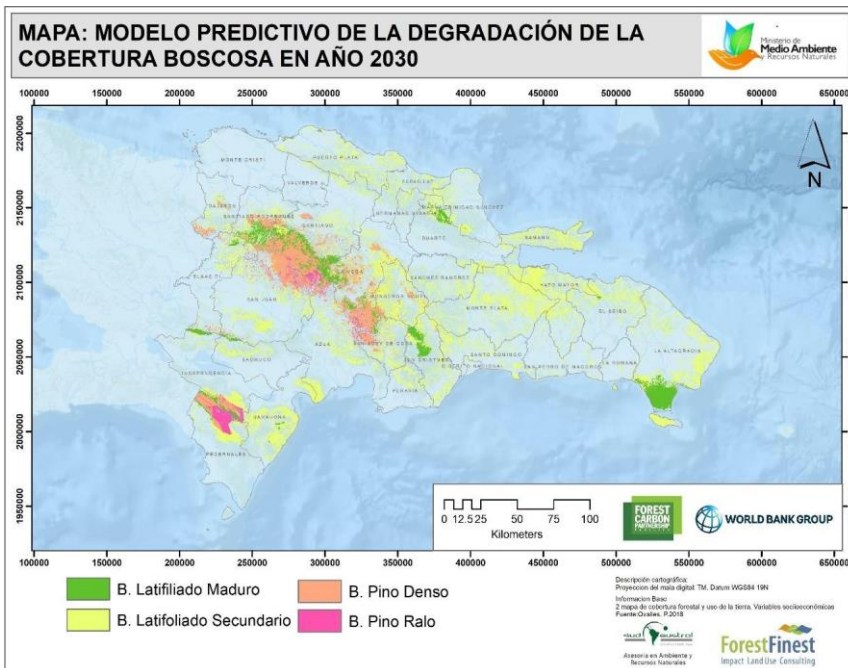
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards (criteria 29-34)



- The National Forest Monitoring Unit is already operational.
- The national forest inventory is entering its second phase, starting from the 1109 sampling units already designed and stratified, according to 7 forest types.
- A high-resolution map has already been produced, and there is good progress recognized with respect to the national forest inventory.
- FCPF's second phase already identifies list of activities dealing with institutional strengthening topics

Still to be done

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards (criteria 29-34)



- The new phase will allow to quantify and characterize the forest stocks in the country and will provide the basis for MRV implementation.
- A team of trained personnel is working on the forest inventory, but the system is the phase of consolidation and strengthening. A mechanism for capacity building and for ensuring continuity of the process independent of the different government administrations is required.
- The Safeguard Information System is being developed by an on-going consultancy work.
- The new FCPF funded phase will strengthen capacities at the Ministry of Agriculture, to better monitor performance of the cattle ranching agroforestry (silvopastoril) and traditional systems. Also, there will be resources committed to enhance the MRV system, including training ant the IT platform system development.



S3 - Summary Assessment



Self Assessment Process

the Self-Assessment process in Dominican Republic has been done in agreement with FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, it has incorporated the participation of all stakeholders' representation, and has even made participatory consultations possible at the National, and Subnational Levels including participation of civil society, farmers and producer associations (In addition to the other groups long incorporated in the consultation processes).

Dominican Republic's REDD+ strategy has allowed for working both R-Readiness and the ER Program in parallel. This has enabled the country to progress in developing capacity and in dealing with many key topics that are required for the ER phase, such as the development of Reference Levels and the estimates on potential carbon emission reductions. Also, being a small country, there has been a national commitment to the REDD+ strategy that can be detected in the high level of institutional support and in the coherence of national policies with the REDD+ strategy development. Key challenges such as the benefit sharing mechanism are being developed and advanced by the time this report is produced, as it is a requirement for moving forward towards the ER program's ERPA.

Overall R-Readiness Progress



Based on the documents consulted, the TAP Reviewer considers that Dominican Republic's progress on REDD+ readiness is enough to move to the next ER phase.

S3- Recommendations moving forward



Local implementation of REDD+ seems to be a commonly accepted goal, which requires further capacity building and dissemination of information, especially regarding benefits distribution, as ER investments will most probably take place through productive and livelihood activities, as part of the Restoration Plan, as opposed to the traditional payment for environmental services.

During the next ER phase, it is recommended to evaluate how potential private investors in forest land restoration could be framed within the national REDD+ AbM Strategy, while applying REDD+ methodologies to produce carbon credits. This complementary approach could trigger important investments from private and public REDD+ investors, while achieving the national restoration goals. The R-PP already presents an interesting example of a REDD+ project oriented to restore and conserve agroforestry arrangements for coffee croplands.

Identification of co-benefits, and further work on the risks and economic feasibility of REDD+ activities at the local level will be important to incentivize forest conservation and restoration in certain areas.

Finally, it seems the legal and institutional process still represents a challenge that should be addressed as the first steps of the ER phase, in particular the gaps regarding land tenure, carbon rights and benefits distribution. Other areas to quickly address during the next phase are the development of the Reference Emission Levels for Deforestation, and the MRV System.



THANK YOU

