REDD+ Readiness Package for the Dominican Republic, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

R-Package

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Contact information

Pedro García Brito
Director of Climate Change
+1-809-567-4300
Ext. 6240, 6250,
Pedro.garcia@ambiente.gob.do

Mercedes Socorro Pantaleón
National Project Coordinator
Readiness for REDD+
mercedes.pantaleon@ambiente.gob.do

Ramón Ovidio Sánchez Peña
Technical Coordinator/Expert in Land Use, Agriculture and Forests
ramon52do@yahoo.es

Editing
Angelo Francesco Sartori Ruilova
International Consultant
angelo.sartori@gmail.com

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Acronyms

WB	World Bank
SC	Steering Committee
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
NDS	National Development Strategy
REDD+NS	REDD+ National Strategy
ERPD	Emissions Reduction Program Document
ER-PIN	Emissions Reduction Program Idea Note
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
MARN	Dominican Republic Department of the Environment and Natural Resources
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
MQRC	Mechanism for Receiving Complaints, Grievances and Conflict Resolution
CCEDP Plan	Climate Compatible Economic Development Plan
ER	Emissions Reduction
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
R-Package	REDD+ Readiness Package
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
TAP	Technical Advisory Panel
TMU	Technical Management Unit

I. Introduction

With the aim of addressing the global phenomenon of climate change, the Dominican Republic has established a series of commitments, plans and targets at a national and international level, among which is the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2010-2030. Article 10 of this strategy establishes a strategic pillar which aims to ensure the sustainable management of the environment, as well as proper adaptation to climate change.

Furthermore, in order to tackle the issue of climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) includes an approach for policy and positive incentives known as "Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation" and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).

Within this context and acknowledging the importance of forests in the fight against climate change, various initiatives have been established to support countries with tropical forests to prepare for REDD+ with a view to its future implementation and the awarding of positive financial incentives for emissions reductions which can be measured, reported and verified, which are known as results-based payments.

Therefore, in 2008 the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was created as an initiative of the World Bank, with the aim of providing assistance to developing countries during the REDD+ readiness preparation phase. In order to do this, the FCPF has a Readiness Fund, which supports more than 40 developing countries in implementing different processes in order to prepare for a future framework based on results-based payments for REDD+.

In a significant effort to address the issue of climate change, the Dominican Republic has signed on to various initiatives which help ensure the target for reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) through forests is met. Thus, in 2013 the Dominican Republic presented its "Readiness Preparation Proposal for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation" (R-PP) to the FCPF, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of relevant stakeholders, establishing institutional arrangements to ensure the effective implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+NS), and consolidating the pillars of the REDD+ established in the UNFCCC.

On the basis of the above and within the context of the Dominican Republic's REDD+ readiness preparation process, the country received an FCPF grant, administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("The World Bank"), for the amount of three million, eight-hundred thousand dollars (3,800,000 USD). The aim of this Grant is to support the design and implementation of readiness activities, as well as its REDD+ strategy, through a participatory and inclusive process. The project started in 2015 and is planned to continue until 2019, with the aim to advance and consolidate the REDD+ readiness preparation phase in the Dominican Republic.

In March 2018, the Dominican Republic submitted to the FCPF Participating Committee the project Mid Term Report (MTR), and evaluated its progress using the evaluation criteria of the Evaluation Framework of the FCPF. As a result, the country obtained the approval of the Participants Committee for additional funds in the amount of US $ 2,200,000. This additional funding will focus on covering costs associated with the expansion of the organization's activities and consultation on REDD + readiness, the development of the National REDD + Strategy, and the Forest Monitoring and Safeguarding Systems.

In parallel with the preparation for REDD +, the Dominican Republic is developing its Emissions Reduction Program (ERPD), which considers for its formulation, the results and learning of activities that are being implemented under financing for REDD + Readiness preperation.

The ERPD is considered the most important component of the REDD+ Strategy of the Dominican Republic that will be implemented at the national level, since its main goal is to significantly reduce GHG emissions derived from deforestation and forest degradation, and substantially increase carbon reservoirs, through the implementation of strategic actions aimed at promoting the regeneration of degraded areas and the establishment of agroforestry systems for coffee, cocoa and silvopastoral. The combined set of strategic actions aims to convert the country into a net reservoir of carbon in the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector, starting from the second or third year of the ERPD implementation.

With the of continuing advancing the readiness preparation process, the FCPF has developed an evaluation assessment to measure country progress during the readiness phase. This assessment consists of a participatory self-assessment to evaluate proper implementation of the activities carried out during the Readiness phase.

This document, titled "REDD+ Readiness Package for the Dominican Republic" (R-Package) details the progress made as part of the REDD+ readiness preparation phase in the Dominican Republic, the methodology and process for the participatory self-assessment of REDD+ readiness preparation process and the participatory self-assessment results.

The first section of this document outlines the most significant milestones for each of the four components developed by the FCPF to monitor REDD+ progress in each country. These components form the framework for implementing a systematic approach to progress and include the following aspects, which will be expanded upon later in the document: 1) Organization and consultation, 2) REDD+ strategy preparation, 3) Reference emissions level for forests and reference level for forests, and 4) Monitoring systems for forests and safeguards.

The assessment process was tailored to the national context by the Technical Management Unit (TMU), which regularly monitors how REDD+ readiness activities are being implemented, with the guiding questions and methodology set out in the Guide to the FCPF Self-Assessment being tailored to the country, which includes careful consideration for the use of culturally relevant language.

56 individuals took part of the workshop (23 women and 33 men), coming from the public and private sectors, producers, academia, research groups and civil society, who assessed the progress made in terms of the following components: readiness organization and consultation, REDD+ strategy preparation, reference levels, and monitoring system for forests and information on safeguards. As such, the assessment was begun, taking into account progress using indicators with the traffic light system, whereby:

Green	Significant progress has been made
Yellow	Progress has been made, but further work is needed
Red	No progress has been made

The sections on the results of the participatory self-assessment includes an analysis of the results obtained in the REDD+ Readiness Assessment Workshop, encompassing a national scope and including a range of participants from the public and private sectors, producers, academia, research groups and civil society.

The following table summarizes the results from the participatory assessment by subcomponent:

Component	Subcomponent	Assessment of Progress
1: Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	
	1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	
2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	
	2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	
	2c: Implementation Framework	
	2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	
3: Reference Levels		

4: Monitoring System for Forests and Information on Safeguards	4a: National Forest Monitoring System	
	4b: Information System for Safeguards, Co-Benefits and Other Impacts	

Table 1. Assessment of progress by subcomponent

With the aim of providing a general overview regarding the perception of the participants in the self-evaluation workshop on the level of progress of the REDD + Preparation process in the Dominican Republic, the results obtained are showcased in the report for each of the evaluation criteria, by subcomponent.

It should be noted that the process for planning the workshop, as well as details on the methodology used, results obtained and participants in attendance are given in this document.

Given the above and in accordance with the stipulations of the FCPF, the results of the participatory assessment must be presented in a REDD+ Readiness Package (R-Package), which should include a summary of the readiness preparation process for the country in question, a report of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment and its results, as well as references to key outputs of the readiness preparation process which may be used for the assessment.

Moreover, it should be noted that the R-Package and its self-assessment have a national scope and address all core readiness activities, regardless of their source of funding. The above will allow the country to move towards the implementation phase and test the REDD+ results-based payment model by way of a National Emissions Reduction Program, which is currently being drafted by the Dominican Republic and is set to be presented to the FCPF Carbon Fund in June 2019.

II. The REDD+ readiness preparation process in the Dominican Republic

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

Subcomponent 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements

a) Coordination and participation mechanisms

In 2010, with the support of the Regional Program for the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Central America and the Dominican Republic (REDD/CCAD-GIZ), the Dominican Republic launched its first initiatives related to REDD+, which saw it involve all stakeholders across society who play a part in the sustainable development of forests and the conservation of forests in the Dominican Republic. This was seen in the first national planning workshop held in September 2010, which helped foster dialogue among public and private sector stakeholders within the context of the REDD+ process[1].

Furthermore, since 2011 the Dominican Republic has made significant efforts to get relevant stakeholders involved in the REDD+ readiness preparation process and in preparing its R-PP, promoting proper understanding of the need to establish closer links to those making decisions at a national level, as well as to consolidate spaces for dialogue and participation, so that REDD+ can serve as a driving force behind public policy at a national level, encouraging the sustainable development of forests and benefiting those who live in them and whose livelihood depends on them.

It is important to highlight that as part of the commitment to strengthening dialogue and participation among of the different REDD + actors, the country has taken care that the content and themes of the topics reviewed in those spaces are approached from a perspective of cultural relevance, so that these are understandable for all participants. It is also worth remembering that the Dominican Republic is a country that does not have an indigenous population, thus World Bank Operational Policy 4.10 is not activated.

It should be pointed out that as part of the preparation work for the R-PP (November 2011 - July 2012), 10 workshops were held in Santo Domingo, Santiago and Azua, in which 195 representatives from state institutions, businesses and community organizations, as well as

[1] REDD/CCAD-GIZ Program (2014). A Systematic Approach to the Implementation of the First Phase in the Dominican Republic [PDF file]. Available at: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/june2013/FCPF%20R-Package%20User%20Guide%20ENG%206-18-13%20web.pdf

producers, experts and professionals, took part (see Table 2). It is important to note that as a result of the workshops mentioned above, the National REDD+ Working Group was set up[2].

In addition, following the initial phase of the preparation commitment of the Dominican Republic for REDD +, in 2013 the regional workshops for early dialogue were held and in March 2015 the National Workshop for Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA, for its acronyms in English) with multiple stakeholders and key sectors of the country, which generated the first sketches of what would be a National REDD + Strategy and validated the strategic options and the causes of deforestation and degradation identified in the R-PP.3

Dates	Activity	Place	Number Participants
Nov 9-10, 2011	Training workshops on REDD +	Santo Domingo, Santiago, Azua	23
Nov 22, 2011	Formulation of the Preparation Proposal for REDD (R-PP)	Santo Domingo	19
Feb 16, 2012	Strengthening capacities for the northwest region, a dialogue table on forests	Santiago de los Caballeros	19
Mar 1, 2012	Training on REDD + as an Alternative for Sustainable Forest Development in the Dominican Republic	Azua	22
Abr 12, 2012	Participatory construction of the national RD strategy (R-PP)	Santo Domingo	23
May 2, 2012	"Preparation of the REDD Strategy: Strategic Options, Implementation Framework and Social and Environmental Impacts"	Santo Domingo	20
May 29, 2012	Options for the establishment of reference and MRV emission levels	Santo Domingo	18

[2] Idem.
[3] Technical Management Unit (2017). Report on the REDD + Readiness Project P151752 (SNIP 13782) and the milestones for December 2017. 14pp.

Jun 14, 2012	REDD + as an opportunity to align public policies	Santo Domingo	16
Jun 21, 2012	Socialization of the R-PP of RD	Santiago	15
Jul 10, 2012	Socialization of the R-PP of RD	Santo Domingo	20
Nov 26,2013	Regional workshops early dialogue	Santiago	132
Dec 6, 2013	Regional workshops early dialogue	Nagua	
Dec 12, 2013	Regional workshops early dialogue	Monte Plata	
Jan 23, 2014	Regional workshops early dialogue	Santo Domingo	
Mar12-13,2015	National Workshop SESA	Santo Domingo	62
Total Number of Participants			

Table 2. Workshop that supported the elaboration of the R-PP

Activities Held	Number of Participants
Workshops conducted prior to the Readiness phase	**389**
Meetings	**253**
Meetings Working Group Safeguards	**63**
Meetings Working Group Land and Forest Uses	**52**
Meetings Legal Working Group	**44**
Sensitization process	**225**
Capacity building	**73**
Regional Workshops and National Drivers Degradation and Forest Deforestation	**192**
Visits Awareness and Preparation SESA Workshops	**86**
SESA Regional and National Workshops	**365**
Technical Meetings with Actors	**972**
Total	**2,714**

Table 3. Participants per type of activity

The organization of the consultation and participation processes was structured through two main mechanisms: Regional Workshops and multi-sectorial, inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder National Workshops for the different relevant topics and work sessions on thematic committees (governance) in accordance to each case. As of April 2015, the country began with the definition of institutional arrangements and mechanisms for governance that would allow for participatory and transparent REDD + management in various national instances. This point will be revised more broadly in section c) Technical supervision capacity of this R-Package.

b) Recording and transparency

Within the context of national management arrangements for the REDD+ program, the issue of transparency is particularly relevant and is something which currently represents a challenge for the country's institutions and a possible source of conflict when implementing REDD+ activities. Nevertheless, the country has a specific legal framework for transparency.

Accordingly, within the context of implementing REDD+, the concept of transparency encompasses the right of access to information, the promotion of public awareness, accountability and anti-corruption measures, and is guaranteed in the REDD+ National Strategy. Furthermore, it seeks to ensure effective forest governance, meaning the recognition and protection of rights relating to land tenure, the fair distribution of benefits, the recognition and promotion of gender equity, the right of access to justice through conflict resolution mechanisms and cross-sectoral coordination for implementing the REDD+ National Strategy.

The document "The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the REDD+ Strategy of the Dominican Republic" includes a series of measures and recommendations to ensure the transparency of the process (e.g. the implementation of a transparency protocol or guidelines for REDD+ activities, launching initiatives or training courses at an institutional level to raise awareness regarding the right of access to information, designing awareness initiatives and establishing the accountability process for managing resources resulting from REDD+ activities).

Likewise, to manage REDD+ in the Dominican Republic, there must be a logging system for emission reductions. For this purpose, the Dominican Republic is currently receiving technical support from a specialized consulting firm in order to design in the short term a Data Management and Transaction Logging System, in order to avoid ERs being counted twice and to ensure any type of ERs relating to REDD+ activities are not generated more than once and sold to other buyers or included on other registries (e.g. voluntary market registries, national registries for the monitoring of the attainment levels of NDC targets or national emissions trading mechanisms).

The Data Management System will be used to log and manage emissions reductions and removals generated as part of the Dominican Republic's REDD+ National Strategy, with particular emphasis on the Emissions Reduction Program being drafted within the framework of the FCPF Carbon Fund. The system will ensure reductions and removals of emissions generated are transparent and properly recorded, supporting the system in order to avoid double-counting and to show the public transparently that environmental benefits relating to reductions in emissions or greenhouse gas absorption will not be claimed twice.

In relation to the REDD + strategic options and actions identified at the national level, and the link between the ERP and any forestry REDD + projects that have certifications of voluntary

market standards (VCS, CDM, Plan Vivo, among others). For the proper functioning of the system, suitable solutions to the national circumstances will be analyzed and proposed, considering the principles and regulations associated with the ownership of RE, specific characteristics of the REs for each REDD + activity,

Likewise, a REDD + Program and Project Data Management System is being defined, and the country will also use the Centralized Transaction Registration System being developed by the World Bank, which will support the monitoring of national transactions. For the System of Data Management of REDD + Programs and Projects, the elaboration of protocols with standardized information according to each of the reporting needs and minimum functionalities of the system is foreseen.

c) Capacity for technical supervision

The country has put into place the necessary arrangements in order to allow policies and actions which promote REDD+ as a measure for addressing climate change to be implemented correctly and effectively. Thus, it now has a structure in place for the REDD+ readiness preparation process, organized as follows:

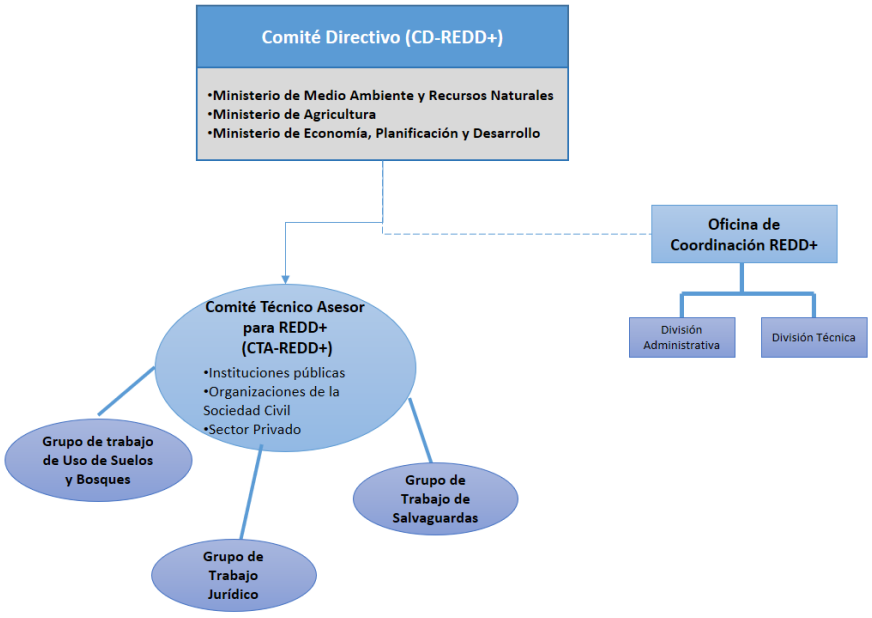

Image 1. Organizational structure for REDD+ in Dominican Republic

- The REDD+ Steering Committee (REDD+ SC), comprised of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Economy, Planning and Development, and the Department of Agriculture, each of which appoint a permanent representative. This committee has supreme authority within the structure.

- The SC ensures REDD+ is included in levels of decision making where public policy relating to the management of forests and to land use/land use change is formulated. As such, the SC provides policy and strategy support for implementing the emissions reduction programs. Moreover, it is responsible for ensuring the alignment of and synergies between the REDD+ National Strategy and the sectoral programs of the institutions involved, as well as development plans and policies and national poverty reduction plans and policies.

- The REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee (REDD+ TAC) has an advisory and support role. It is a cross-institutional body whose main aim is to provide technical assistance to the Steering Committee, facilitate coordination across the country's various institutions and ensure the flow of information between the national institutions involved in the process of implementing REDD+ activities. The TAC is made up of a representative from each of the institutions and organizations identified as key stakeholders in terms of REDD+, including: Public institutions, civil society, the private forest sector, the private farming sector and universities and/or research centers.

The following image shows the multi-sector, multi-actor composition of the Technical Advisory Committee:

Image 2. Composition of the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD + (CTA-REDD +)

The Technical Advisory Committee has held 7 ordinary meetings in which a total of 253 participants as shown in the following table:

Date	Activity	Participants
18/04/2017	Meeting of the Ministry of Environment-PRCC / CARE in the framework of the EN REDD + and the Cancun safeguards of the UNFCCC	47
01/10/2017	Meeting with the World Bank Mission	22
08/11/2017	Ordinary Meeting Technical Advisory Committee	30
08/02/2018	Ordinary Meeting CTA	40
17/05/2018	Ordinary Meeting Technical Advisory Committee	40
14/08/2018	Strategic Options and REDD + Actions	30
02/09/2018	Ordinary Meeting Technical Advisory Committee	44
TOTAL		**253**

Table 4. Total participants in meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee

- The Land and Forest Use Committee, which offers technical assistance in this area, e.g. by providing essential definitions such as "forest," as well as reviewing and validating reports on studies carried out as part of REDD.
- This committee, made up of technicians from the institutions linked to the subject and specialists and members of the academy, met on several occasions to produce the definition of Forests that the country will be using within the framework of the REDD + Strategy and the Emissions Reduction Program. A total of 52 people participated in these workshops, as shown in the following table:

Date	Activity	Participants
22/05/2017	Workshop Definition of Forests and Forest Degradation in REDD + context	17
21/06/2017	2nd Workshop Definition of Forests and Forest Degradation in REDD + context	13
24/01/2018	3rd Workshop on Forest Definition and Forest Degradation in REDD + context for the DR	22
TOTAL		52

Table 5. Total participants in meetings of the Working Group on Soils and Forests

- The Safeguards Committe[4] aims to make decisions regarding the interpretation, adaptation and national definition of the instruments, its SESA, and its Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will be translated into indicators and standards on environmental and social safeguards for the REDD + Strategy in the Dominican Republic. This Committee reviewed and approved intermediate products generated by the Studies of Direct and Indirect Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, as well as the Analysis of the Legal, Institutional and Compliance Framework of the Safeguards. As shown in Table 7. A total of **63 participants** are registered at its ordinary meetings.

Fecha	Activity	Participantes	Comments
06/07/2017	Meeting Safeguards Working Group	16	
22/08/2017	Meeting of the Ministry of Environment-PRCC / CARE in the framework of the EN REDD + and the Cancun safeguards of the UNFCCC	28	The creation of a working group regarding Safeguards
03/02/2018	Fourth Meeting of Safeguards Working Group	19	
TOTAL		**63**	

Table 6. Total participants in meeting for the Safeguards Working Group

The Legal Committee's[5] main goal is to follow-up all review processes and possible adjustments to the Dominican Republic's legal and institutional framework in order for

[4] The Safeguards Committee was set up in April 2017.
[5] The meeting to create the Special Committee for Legal Matters was held on Friday, March 2, 2018.

REDD+, carbon assets and their transfer, as well as all environmental and social safeguards, to be recognized by and form part of said framework. This committee was created through a workshop held on May 4, 2018, with the participation of the following institutions: the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, the Dominican Business Agro Board, the Dominican Federation of Municipalities, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Economics, Planning and Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. As can be seen in table 5.1.6, three meetings have been held with the participation of a total of **44 people.**

Date	Activity	Participants	Commments
03/02/2018	Meeting for the formation of the Legal Working Group	11	
05/04/2018	Meeting Training Workshop Legal Working Group	15	Santo Domingo
07/06/2018	Meeting of the Legal Working Group	18	Consulting WBG Carbon Rights
TOTAL		**44**	

Table 7. Total particpants in meetings with the Judicial Working Group

- Moreover, in order to regularly monitor the implementation of the REDD+ readiness activities, the Technical Management Unit (TMU) was created, which is responsible for implementing necessary actions for the preparation of the REDD+NS, in addition to other emissions reduction initiatives and programs. The TMU has an administrative and a technical division which are responsible for operations relating to national REDD+ readiness activities. Part of their role is to promote and formulate sectoral policies, plans, programs and projects, as well as actions necessary for the preparation for and future implementation of REDD+, including safeguards. As shown in annex 2, the Technical Team of the UTG, has carried out some 89 meetings of work with different actors with a total of 972 participants.

d) Operating mandate, budget and management of funds

The Dominican Republic is committed to protecting the environment and natural resources, which is reflected in the 2010 constitution, specific domestic laws, such as the General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources (Law 64-00) and the Sectoral Law on Protected Areas (Law 202-04), among other legal instruments.

The Constitution of the Dominican Republic establishes a significant level of engagement in terms of the sustainable management of natural resources. Article 194 states *"It is a priority of the State to formulate and implement, by way of law, a land use plan to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of the country's natural resources, in line with the need to adapt to climate change."* Article 19(2) declares *"The country's reforestation, the conversation of its forests and the renewal of forest resources is a national and social interest priority."* Furthermore, Article 241 creates the Development Strategy. In 2012, the Executive Branch drafted and put before National Congress a development strategy which lays out the country's long-term vision (Law 01-12).

The implementation of activities included in the REDD+ National Strategy are compatible with national development goals. Article 6 of Law 01-12 lays out the National Development Strategy 2010-2030 (NDS-30) and states "*Public policy shall be based on four strategic pillars, each with their corresponding goals and lines of action, defining the sustainable development model which the Dominican Republic aims to implement."* The fourth pillar aims to create *"A society with a sustainable production and consumption culture, which fairly and efficiently manages risks relating to and the protection of the environment and natural resources and encourages appropriate adaptation to climate change."*

Moreover, the REDD+ National Strategy is being drafted within the framework of the policies, plans and projects launched by the public sector, some of the most important of which are the Quisqueya Verde National Plan, the National System of Protected Areas Program and the Agroforestry Development Program, and has strong legal grounds based on the mandate of the country's constitution, the National Development Strategy providing it with a general planning framework.

In terms of the budget, it is clear that with strategies and projects which are so ambitious and have such a wide scope as REDD+, the government budget is extremely important, but not sufficient. As such, the Dominican Republic is constantly seeking funding from international organizations, as well as synergies with national bodies, in order to help plug the gaps in funding. Thus, a study is currently being undertaken on the gaps in funding, as well as a funding plan for the Emissions Reduction Program with the Carbon Fund.

To contribute to the process of preparation for REDD +, we have had the collaboration or financial commitment of various initiatives at the international level and the Government of the Dominican Republic. Next, a table with the obtained financing is presented:

Amount	Source	Type (Credit – Donation)
USD $ 845,000.00	GIZ	Donation
USD $ 85,000.00	ONU-REDD	Donation
USD $ 202,769.00	USAID	Donation
USD $ 3,800,000.00	FCPF	Donation
USD $ 2,200,000.00	FCPF (adicional)	Donation
USD $ 432,000.00	Dominican Government	N/A

Table 8. Financing obtained during the preparation process for REDD+

Although the information presented is very general and does not allow a clear idea of the resources needed for the implementation of REDD + in the country, a study on financial gaps and useful financing plan is currently underway for the ENREDD + as for the Emissions Reduction Program with the Carbon Fund.

As part of this analysis, a matrix has been created which details the costs and possible sources of funding which would be used to implement activities as part of the Emissions Reduction Program of the FCPF Carbon Fund for a period of five years. The “enabling activities” for the initial phase of the program are expected to be funded mainly using funds belonging to the Dominican Republic Department of the Environment and Natural Resources which have already been earmarked for existing programs. This analysis shows the accumulated gap in funding (the difference between the expected uses of funds and available sources of funding) to fund these activities over the strategy’s 5-year implementation period is around 50 million USD.

Moreover, direct REDD+ funding is expected and will be used to carry out activities directly related to protection (preservation), restoration/reforestation and the conversion of current land uses. However, for this to occur, investment in rural areas is needed. Unlike the enabling activities, this funding is expected to come from both public and private sector investments. In this case, the activities, costs and benefits of the actions are planned over a 20-year period, as the actions and initiatives will be implemented gradually and the benefits, as well as additional costs, will be produced over a longer period of time.

As such, it is estimated that 222 million USD are needed to implement actions and initiatives on the ground over the first five years (2020-2024) of the ER Program. It is important to bear in mind that around 1.65 billion USD, or 99% of the financial benefits resulting from initiatives on the ground, are related to the implementation of conversion activities, namely: REDD+ cocoa, coffee and

silvopasture. It is expected that conversion activities will cost around 115 million USD, or approximately 16% of the total cost of actions and initiatives on the ground, over a period of 20 years. It is also expected that 98% (112.4 million USD) of conversion related initiatives will take place over the first five years during which the program is implemented.

Regarding the management of funds, Law 494-06 appoints the Secretary of State of the Treasury (presently, the Treasury Department) as the body responsible for national public finances, its purpose being to create and recommend the government's fiscal policy to the Executive Branch, including revenue, expenditure and the funding of the public sector, as well as organizing the implementation and assessment of this policy, ensuring short, medium- and long-term fiscal sustainability. The above shall be done within the framework of the government's economic policy and the strategic guidelines approved by the National Development Council. Therefore, within the context of the ER Program, the Treasury Department was appointed as the body responsible for signing the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) and shall authorize, by way of a letter of non-objection, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources to be the official body responsible for transferring emission reduction credits to the FCPF on behalf of the Dominican Republic.

e) Mechanism for Receiving Complaints, Grievances and Conflict Resolution (MQRC)

After the adoption of the seven REDD + safeguards under the UNFCCC, during COP16, in 2010, an option was sought so that the country could implement REDD + activities and comply with both the Safeguards of Cancun and the safeguards guidelines. of other initiatives, such as the World Bank Operational Policies. This option is called "common approach".

As part of the requirements established under the common approach, the safeguards of the UNFCCC and the Bank's operational policies imply that, as part of the development of the National REDD + Strategy (ENREDD +) and the Emissions Reduction Program (ERPD), a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared, a Complaints, Claims and Conflict Management Mechanism (MQRC) is established and designed and operational a Safeguard Information System (SIS).

On September 9 and 10, 2014, within the framework of the REDD / CCAD / GIZ Program, a definition workshop was developed in Santo Domingo for the National Safeguards Approach. Within the framework of the same, the need to establish a working group to address in a more specific way the relevant issues concerning this subject was determined.

In this sense, from the year 2018, the Dominican Republic is in the process of designing the MQRC that will make it possible to clearly and effectively handle complaints or conflicts arising from the preparation and implementation of REDD + activities. This mechanism is not intended to

complement the existing mechanisms of the judiciary or other forms of legal action existing in the country.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the FCPF, the MQRC is based on existing institutions, regulatory frameworks, mechanisms and capacities. For this purpose, it has been necessary to identify and assess the mechanisms for addressing grievances which already exist in the country.

As part of this evaluation, the availability, credibility and capacity of the existing mechanisms to respond and follow up on possible complaints, claims and conflicts that may arise when implementing the activities framed under the strategic REDD + options were considered. In addition, legal-institutional support, technical and financial capacities, sources of information used, operating procedures, problems and difficulties faced were analyzed. In this sense, it was decided to establish the MQRC for REDD + on the existing Reporting System of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, "Green Line".

The general objective of the MQRC is to manage the complaints, claims and possible conflicts, raised as a consequence of the implementation of REDD +, registering them and offering adequate answers, seeking satisfactory solutions and, if necessary, redirecting the claims to the corresponding institutions and resolve according to your competence.

In addition, the MQRC has specific objectives defined in accordance with the "Guidance note to establish and reinforce the Mechanisms for Attention to Complaints or Claims," of June 2015, prepared by FCPF and the UN / REDD Program:

- Identify and solve implementation problems in a timely and cost-effective manner: As early warning systems, the MQRC should function properly to help identify and address potential problems before they worsen, avoiding costly and time-consuming disputes.
- Identify systemic problems: Information from MQRC cases can highlight recurrent, increasingly frequent or increasing claims, which helps to identify underlying systemic problems related to the execution capacity and processes that need to be addressed.
- Improve REDD + results: Through the timely management of issues and problems, the MQRC can contribute to the timely achievement of REDD + objectives.
- Promote accountability in REDD + countries: The MQRC should promote greater accountability among the actors involved, positively affecting specific activities and the general governance of REDD +.

The MQRC will have an administrative structure. The central axis of the implementation of this MQRC is the Directorate of Social Participation of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, which has the management of the Green Line under its jurisdiction, and which it will channel jointly with the REDD + Executing Unit. For the Executing Entities of the REDD + Programs

and Projects, institutional representatives will be appointed, who will be in charge of reporting through the Green Line, the potential effects produced to the key actors involved in REDD + projects.

For dissemination of the MQRC, dissemination and dissemination actions will be developed at the national level and in the prioritized areas of REDD + intervention. In addition, it is planned to place posters, brochures that graphically show the functioning of all the territorial offices of the executing entities.

For the implementation of the MQRC, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has personnel with human capabilities and basic techniques necessary to operate it. Both the personnel of the executing entities and the personnel linked to Línea Verde will be trained in issues related to citizen attention, conflict management and mediation. In addition, for the start-up of the MQRC, technological equipment provided by the REDD + project is available in each of the Provincial Offices and some Municipal Offices.

Additionally, it is expected that during the REDD + implementation process, a permanent monitoring of the functioning of the MQRC will be developed, maintaining a strengthening of inter-institutional links with the entities that receive and handle complaints and conflicts.

Finally, as next steps, during the first quarter of 2019, the Mechanism Complaints, Claims and Conflict Management (MQRC) will be in an advanced process of formulation and design and its preliminary version will be submitted for review by the Technical Advisory Committee (CTA).) in March 2019 and presented to key stakeholders for discussion and validation in April 2019 through two national workshops. The final versions will include the recommendations and observations of the participants that can be attended.

The results of the self-evaluation for subcomponent 1a are shown below:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
1: Organization and Consultations for preparation	1a: National management mechanisms for REDD + 1 Accountability and transparency	1	Transparency and Accountability	
		2	Operational mandate and budget	
		3	Mechanisms for multisectoral coordination and intersectoral collaboration	
		4	Technical supervision capacity	
		5	Fund management capacity	
		6	Mechanism for the exchange of information and complaints	

Table 9. Results of the self-evaluation for subcomponent 1a

According to the self-evaluation, the participants recognized that there is progress, but that there is a lack of integration of key areas in work commissions, especially land use. Regarding the

issue of transparency, the participants considered that based on the analyzed information there is a lack of transparency and dissemination for the rendering of accounts. In addition, there was a generalized idea that at the intersectoral level it is still necessary to strengthen links and synergies; In addition, there is a perception that, although there is good representativeness in the work groups, it is still necessary to invite other relevant actors. Regarding the analyzes carried out in the different consultancies, it was informed that not all the products resulting from the consultancies are reviewed and validated in a participatory manner. Regarding the management of funds, the participants consider that more funding is needed from both national and international sources. Regarding the mechanisms of information exchange, it was commented that there are some mechanisms for managing information, but that the flow of information and responses seems not to be the most appropriate and the Green Line system was recognized as a useful tool to request and receive information.

Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

a) Participation and engagement by key stakeholders and consultation processes.

When the Dominican Republic began to formulate its national REDD + strategy in 2011, with the support of the REDD / CCAD-GIZ Regional Program, the Center for Agricultural and Forestry Development (CEDAF) was contracted to facilitate a process of integration and awareness of the national stakeholders, which would lead to the establishment of a consultation mechanism for the development of such strategy and the preparation of the first draft of the country's R-PP.

At present, this process is led, as explained in the previous section, by the CD-REDD and the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD + as a participatory platform whose activities have brought together 25 institutions and public and private organizations, which have participated in various REDD + training and awareness workshops in the different regions of the country.

In this sense, the participation of the different relevant actors in all the phases of the design of the ENREDD + and the ERPD is essential, as well as the subsequent development of the objectives established in the MGAS and in the MQRC. For this reason, the Cooperative Forest Carbon Fund (FCPF) has developed guidelines to promote the full and effective participation of the relevant stakeholders, so as to ensure their involvement in the formulation and implementation phases of the Strategy. REDD + as well as the Emissions Reduction Program.

The participatory process that has been carried out in the Dominican Republic, included the holding of workshops in all regions of the country, with a variety of actors and representative groups of the different communities that have a direct or indirect connection with forest resources, either because they depend on them, are connected or are linked to them. In the workshops, it was sought to prioritize, in a consensual manner, the main guidelines that this national initiative must contain to guarantee that the strategic activities implemented in the future do not violate, among other

aspects, the rights of local communities. These points are in line with national provisions, the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international agreements, of which the Dominican Republic is a signatory.

Hence, from the beginning it was considered a priority to ensure the full, effective and inclusive participation of all the key groups and stakeholders associated with forest resources, with special emphasis on local communities, more specifically, small and medium producers, community organizations of base (neighborhood boards, housewives clubs, producer associations, peasant associations, etc.); non-governmental organizations; associations of private producers; universities; local representatives of government institutions; local governments, among others relevant for the formulation and implementation of the ENREDD + and the ERPD.

As part of the country's commitment to strengthen the participation of key stakeholders, during the preparation process, awareness-raising and training activities have been carried out in which the following actors have participated: i) technical staff of the Vice-Ministry of Agricultural Extension and Training, of the Ministry of Agriculture, ii) Ministry of Labor, iii) Ministry of Finance, iv) Directors and technical staff of the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, members of the Working Group on Safeguards and the Working Group of Legal Affairs of the CTA, and vi) local organizations that participated in the regional SESA workshops.

225 people participated in the following activities as art of the **sensibilization process:**

- 4 workshops on REDD +, SESA, Environmental Management Framework (MGAS) and the Mechanism of Complaints, Claims and Conflict Management, with the technical staff of the provincial and municipal directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources between October 2017 and January 2018, with the participation of 95 people (61 men and 34 women) from 32 provinces and 12 municipalities.
- 1 workshop on the REDD + Readiness Project for personnel from different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, in October 2017, with the participation of 31 people (17 men and 14 women).
- 1 workshop on the REDD + Readiness Project for producers and community members, in December 2017, with the participation of 11 people (9 men and 2 women).
- 1 workshop on the REDD + Readiness Project for technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, in March 2018, with the participation of 23 people (18 men and 5 women).
- Participatory Workshop for the Evaluation of the REDD + Preparation Process with the participation of 41 people held in October 2018 (R PACKAGE).
- Workshop on Participation of the Private Sector in Forest / Agroforestry Development with the participation of World Bank specialists and representatives of the different Private Sector associations with the participation of 24 people, held in October 2018

For the **strengthening of capacities,** activities were carried out that counted with the participation of **73 people,** as detailed below:

- Workshop on Methodology for the establishment of the REFERENCE Level with the participation of 9 people carried out in March 2018.
- Workshop to evaluate the causes of deforestation and forest degradation and identification of Reversal Risks with the participation of 21 people, carried out in March 2018.
- Training for members of the Safeguards Working Group within the framework of the ENREDD + and Safeguards of Cancun, given by PRCC / CARE in April 2018. 16 people participated (10 men and 6 women).
- Training of members of the Working Group on Legal Affairs (May 2018) with the participation of 16 people (7 men and 9 women), representatives of government entities, academia and civil society. The workshop covered issues related to carbon rights, the Carbon Fund, a global vision approach, legal and regulatory concepts, and the establishment of the next steps.
- Training on "Processing, analysis and interpretation of data from the National Forestry Inventory" (June 2018) with the participation of 11 technicians from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (6 men and 5 women).

In addition, it is important to note that the institutional arrangements planned in order to implement the REDD+ National Strategy and REDD+ actions are based on consultation and participation processes, undertaken during the readiness preparation phase, through which the foundations were created for the Dominican Republic's REDD+ Program to be supported by projects and programs from national governmental and non-governmental institutions.

An example of these institutional efforts are the socialization workshops held in 2017 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Los Botados Association of Organic Farmers (APROGLOBO), among others. These meetings were intended to generate greater ownership in terms of the country's commitment to the implementation of REDD +.

Image 3. REDD+ public presentation workshops

Furthermore, with the aim of including the issue of gender, in 2017 a meeting was held with representatives from the Department of the Environment, the Climate Change Division, the Department of Women and the Planning and Development Divisions, with the purpose of developing synergies and fostering cooperation across institutions within the context of REDD+. Important progress has been made as a result of this meeting, such as the inclusion of the Department of Women on the TAC, which helps to ensure gender equality is present in the design and implementation of REDD+ mechanisms in the Dominican Republic.

Moreover, as part of the participatory processes launched by the country, the SESA was carried out. This assessment was undertaken through a consultation, validation and prioritization process for identifying and analyzing possible impacts (positive and negative) relating to the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy Options[6].

In order to organize this workshop at a regional level, the system of regions designed by the country itself, based on political and administrative divisions, was used. The Department of the Environment then drew up a list of key stakeholders in each region. Below is an adaptation of the information presented by the consortium made up of *Climate Law and Policy* (CLP), Pronatura and *Winrock International* regarding participation in the regional SESA workshops.

Workshop, location and date	Participants
Workshop 1: Held in Dajabón province, in the Northern Cibao Region, on May 16, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Dajabón, Monte Cristi and Santiago Rodríguez.	This regional workshop had 48 participants, of whom 33 were men and 15 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (16), private sector/producers (17), academia and research groups (2), and NGOs/civil society (13).
Workshop 2: Held in Santiago province, in the Northern Cibao Region, on May 17, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Valverde, Puerto Plata, Santiago and Espaillat.	There were 53 participants, of whom 39 were men and 14 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (15), private sector/producers (22), academia and research groups (3), and NGOs/civil society (13).
Workshop 3: Held in María Trinidad Sánchez province, in the Central Cibao Region, on May 23, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: María Trinidad Sánchez, Samaná and Sánchez Ramírez.	There were 29 participants, of whom 19 were men and 10 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (18), private sector/producers (4), academia and research groups (0), and NGOs/civil society (7).
Workshop 4: Held in Duarte province, in the Central Cibao Region, on May 24, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Duarte, La Vega, Monseñor Nouel and Hermanas Mirabal.	There were 31 participants, of whom 20 were men and 11 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (20), private sector/producers (2), academia and research groups (0), and NGOs/civil society (9).
Workshop 5: Held in Santo Domingo, in the Greater Santo Domingo region, on May 29, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Monte Plata, San Cristóbal, San José de Ocoa, Peravia and Santo Domingo.	There were 33 participants, of whom 19 were men and 14 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (15), private sector/producers (6), academia and research groups (2), and NGOs/civil society (10).

[6] Climate Law & Policy, Pro-Nature Fund and Winrock International (2018). *Systematization of the Results from Regional SESA Workshops*.

Workshop, location and date	Participants
Workshop 6: Held in La Romana, in the Eastern Region, on May 30, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: San Pedro de Macorís, La Romana, La Altagracia, El Seíbo and Hato Mayor.	There were 35 participants, of whom 20 were men and 15 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (13), private sector/producers (8), academia and research groups (0), and NGOs/civil society (14).
Workshop 7: Held in San Juan province, in the South-Western Region, on June 6, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Elías Pina, San Juan and Azua.	There were 46 participants, of whom 33 were men and 13 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (12), private sector/producers (23), academia and research groups (0), and NGOs/civil society (11).
Workshop 8: Held in Barahona province, in the South-Western Region, on June 7, 2018, it brought together the following provinces: Barahona, Bahoruco, Independencia and Pedernales.	There were 34 participants, of whom 25 were men and 9 were women. Number of participants per sector: public sector (10), private sector/producers (7), academia and research groups (1), and NGOs/civil society (16).

Table 10. Participation in the regional SESA workshops

It is important to highlight that as one of the results of the SESA workshops, a list of the concerns raised in the SESA participation process was prepared and the manner in which they were taken into account for the design of the ENREDD+, which is available in the Annex 2 of this document.

In addition, the results of the SESA workshops allowed us to advance in the analysis of the possible risks and environmental and social impacts of the implementation of the options and strategic actions and in turn relate them to the operational policy and safeguards that is activated in the face of the occurrence of said impacts. and risks. A matrix containing this information is presented in Annex 3 of this document.

Another of the analytical studies currently being undertaken is the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the result of the SESA, which aims to develop a framework for the management and mitigation of the risks and impacts identified. As such, through the ESMF, the principles, standards, guidelines and procedures to be followed in addressing potential problems and adverse impacts identified in the SESA will be established. This framework will also include a Mechanism for Receiving Complaints, Grievances and Conflict Resolution (MQRC).

As noted in the previous section, the MQRC is a public feedback mechanism which aims to ensure all potential stakeholders involved in the REDD+ process is properly taken into account during the readiness preparation and implementation phase. The mechanism will allow culturally appropriate channels to be established, which will be able to be accessed by a wide range of national, regional and local stakeholders, and it will also take into account community conflict resolution mechanisms.

Closely linked to the SESA is the design and development of the Safeguards Information System (SIS), for which analytical studies with a greater emphasis on consultation workshops on environmental and social safeguards must be carried out.

It should be noted that the additional donation of the FCPF REDD + preparation, approved in March 2018, will be financing activities to strengthen governance and management mechanisms, as well as strengthening communication, participation and dissemination, through the Strategy of communication of REDD +, which will allow improving the capacity of the relevant sectors involved (of the governance mechanisms for REDD +) for the effective application of the MGAS and the MQRC.

Specifically, the participation and consultation axes that will be financed with the additional donation are the following:

• Communication strategy: expand and reinforce the diffusion campaign in REDD +, the preparation and dissemination of materials, audiovisuals, radio and television commercials.

• Enabling measures to establish and implement the MGAS (training to institutional structures such as regional offices, provincial and municipal units, technical personnel, etc. Strengthening of local institutional structures, adaptation of the Línea Verde / MQRC local telephone line and MGAS.

• Governance of REDD + (meetings and strengthening of the communication flow of the Project Implementation Unit with the Steering Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD + and the Special Working Groups (Legal, Safeguards, Land Use, meetings with the local organizations relevant to REDD +, preparing reports for governance mechanisms).

• Training on safeguards and REDD + addressed to the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity and to the directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and the Divulgation Directorates.

b) Sharing of and access to information and disclosure of results.

In terms of the disclosure of information, the FCPF seeks to promote efforts to ensure adequate, relevant and high-quality information is provided in a culturally appropriate format. For this purpose, the FCPF Guidelines on the Disclosure of Information have been created. Likewise, the FCPF Guidelines on the Engagement of Stakeholders Involved in the FCPF Readiness Fund require the MQRC to be established, to be accessible during the consultation and implementation process for REDD+ actions, and to use, complement and institutionalize the country's existing accountability, dispute resolution and grievance mechanisms.

As part of this subcomponent, the importance of disseminating information about REDD+ activities which have been carried out must be stressed. As such, the National REDD+ Communication Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy targets a variety of groups,

including: i) forest-dependent communities, ii) decision makers, iii) the private sector, iv) civil society, v) central and local government. This strategy also includes a proposal for improving the project's website. More specifically, the communication strategy has the following goals:

- To inform key stakeholders from sectors involving agriculture and natural resources on REDD+, the Dominican Republic's forest policies and the importance of forest conversation, as well as its role in the fight against climate change.
- To inform local decision makers who have an influence on land use change within the scope of the Emissions Reduction Program in terms of reducing deforestation, forest degradation and the enhancement of carbon stocks.
- To inform the main political leaders at departmental and cross-sectoral levels on the goal and scope of the Emissions Reduction Program.

Another important aspect of access to information and the way it is addressed in terms of REDD+ in the Dominican Republic is the creation of a website, something which is currently under way. A server is currently being purchased for the MARN, which will increase the website's capacity, allowing it to host documents and relevant information on REDD+, including the REDD+NS consultation. For the time being, all the documents for the various consultations are cloud based and links can be found on the Department's website at http://ambiente.gob.do/reduccion-de-las-emisiones-producto-de-la-deforestacion-y-la-degradacion-ambiental/publicaciones/

The results of the self-evaluation for subcomponent 1b are shown below:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Evaluation of progress
1: Organization and Consultations for preparation	1b: Consultation, dissemination and social participation 7 Participation and intervention of the main stakeholders	7	Participation and intervention of the main stakeholders	
		8	Consultation Processes	
		9	Information exchange and access to information	
		10	Implementation and public disclosure of the results of the consultation	

Table 11. Results of the self-assessment for subcomponent 1b

According to the comments received in the self-evaluation workshop, there is a perception that there is a need to verify in the communities that gender mainstreaming and inclusion of young people is carried out and that it is necessary to involve the population more in different programs and projects such as peasant organizations, neighborhood associations, women's groups. Likewise,

it is considered that although an effort is made to disseminate and disseminate information on behalf of the institutions that lead the consultation process, it is necessary to reinforce efforts to reach a broader public.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

The REDD+ readiness preparation process in the Dominican Republic began in 2010, with the support of the REDD/CCAD-GIZ program. Since then, various studies and analyses have been carried out, as well as participatory consultations, meetings and workshops with key stakeholders from the various sectors in the country, namely government institutions, the private sector/producers, academia, community leaders and civil society.

In accordance with the 2011 Climate Compatible Economic Development Plan, a coherent and sound REDD+ National Strategy must be created. To do so, other institutions from the public and private sectors alike must be involved in the formulation process for this strategy. The complexity of the issues of land use and land use change which affect the forestry sector require the participation of various institutions, such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economy, Planning and Development, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Public Works, local and municipal government, civil society organizations and the private sector.

It should be noted that the REDD+ National Strategy for the Dominican Republic is currently being developed and will include strategic options and public policy instruments aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

Subcomponent: 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

In the Dominican Republic, forest cover, which refers to native forests, is composed mainly of coniferous forests, broadleaf forests, dry forests and mangroves.

The main forest gain, identified during the last 10 years, corresponds to a transition from pastures to secondary broad-leaved forest (especially forest plantations) of approximately 163,000 ha. Second, there is a positive gain or transition from dry scrub forest to dry forest of approximately 95,000 ha. Finally, there is also a positive transition from dry scrub to dry forest of approximately 59,000 in the last 10 years.

The main cause of deforestation, in quantitative terms, is the conversion of secondary forests to pastures. This type of activity was responsible for the loss of approximately 148,000 ha of forest in 10 years. Secondly, there is the conversion of secondary forests to broadleaf scrub (transitory stage of a migratory agriculture) responsible for approximately 32,000 ha. Third, there is

the transition from broadleaved secondary forest to agriculture, leading to a loss of approximately 18,000 ha. Additionally, there is a high loss of dry forest to pastures of approximately 38,000 ha in 10 years.

In order to identify the medium- and long-term risks of deforestation and forest degradation in the different regions of the country, predictive models were used. This information will generate different types of alerts that serve to counteract the current trend of deforestation and forest degradation in the Dominican Republic. These models provided the prediction of the new land cover for the projected years (2020, 2025,2030 and 2035). The following table shows the changes in extension (ha), deforestation, of each class of land cover in the different projected years, as well as historical and current land cover.

Land Use	2005	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
	hectares	hectares	hectares	hectares	hectares	hectares
B. Latifoliado Mature	137,046.69	130,919.22	128,447.19	125,975.16	123,503.13	120,956.31
B. Latifoliado Secondary	752,582.61	856,374.3	741,425.31	626,476.32	511,527.33	464,326.2
B. Dense Pine	173,111.31	210,518.37	207,424.98	204,331.59	201,238.2	198,139.95
B. Pine Ralo	65,756.97	42,882.57	40,611.6	38,340.63	36,069.66	35,219.43
B. de Mangle	25,461.36	26,278.02	26,089.29	25,900.56	25,711.83	25,563.24
Matorral Latifoliado	257,356.08	147,771.81	163,776.69	179,781.57	195,786.45	196,000.2
Matorral Seco	219,020.76	201,861.18	219,407.31	236,953.44	254,499.57	258,313.5
Pasto	1,444,438.35	1,401,295.23	1,498,603.23	1,595,911.23	1,693,219.23	1,732,636.8
Cultivo	801,028.26	866,019.42	882,525.6	899,031.78	915,537.96	934,152.39
Land without vegetation	55,771.83	39,511.53	40,399.83	41,288.13	42,176.43	43,249.95
Cacao	185,611.86	165,809.52	172,149.93	178,490.34	184,830.75	188,547.48
Body of water	51,722.91	59,772.87	59,772.87	59,772.87	59,772.87	59,772.87
Urban Zone	92,092.95	111,728.7	112,876.29	114,023.88	115,171.47	117,069.3
Coffee in shade	121,750.11	123,359.76	129,880.98	136,402.2	142,923.42	146,775.06
B. Seco	402,250.32	394,540.47	353,547.36	312,554.25	271,561.14	251,598.33
Cocoa	20,346.12	26,120.16	27,314.64	28,509.12	29,703.6	30,663.63
Natural and Planted Palm	10,032.39	10,617.75	11,127.78	11,637.81	12,147.84	12,396.24

Table 12. Results Use of historical, current and projected land for deforestation analysis

In summary, in the Dominican Republic a decrease in secondary broadleaved forest and dry forest is predicted. In the case of forest degradation Table 2), the model shows a degradation of the mature broad-leaved forest to the secondary broad-leaved forest of 5%. As well as, the dense pine forest presents a degradation to thin pine forest of 4% of the total coverage.

Land Use	2005	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035

	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares
B. Latifoliado Mature	137,046.69	130,919.22	128,784.42	127,129.41	125,564.58	**124,307.82**
B. Latifoliado Secondary	752,582.61	856,374.3	858,509.1	860,164.11	861,728.94	**862,985.7**
B. Pine Dense	173,111.31	210,518.37	205,475.49	203,863.32	202,308.12	**201,929.22**
B. Pine Ralo	**65,756.97**	**42,882.57**	**47,925.45**	**49,537.62**	**51,092.82**	**51,471.72**

Table 13. Use of historical, current and projected land for degradation analysis

The 2011 Climate Compatible Economic Development Plan (CCEDP Plan) points out that the reduction in forest cover in the Dominican Republic is being caused mainly by a change in how land is used and deforestation. As such, the key drivers behind the loss of forest cover are changes in how land is used due to slash-and-burn agriculture and the development of infrastructure, deforestation to produce charcoal and forest fires. All these changes reduce carbon sinks, thus contributing to the country's total GHG emissions.

As such, a consultation was launched on the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and degradation, the aim of which was to produce a more analytical and in-depth study reflecting the country's current situation in terms of its forests, this serving as a substantial input for formulating the REDD+ National Strategy and Emissions Reduction Program.

In order to review the causes of deforestation and degradation, the analysis carried out in 2011 as part of the REDD/CCAD-GIZ program was used as a starting point, identifying the following to be the main causes of deforestation in the Dominican Republic: i) the growth in livestock production, ii) the growth in commercial farming, iii) Construction and infrastructure, iv) slash-and-burn (subsistence) crops, v) the removal of non-timber forest products, vi) extraction of non-timber forest products, viii) forest diseases and hurricanes.

Moreover, during the integration of the Emissions Reduction Program Idea Note (ER-PIN), presented in 2013 to the FCPF, the previously identified drivers were prioritized as follows: i) slash-and-burn agriculture and widespread livestock production; ii) inadequate forest management; iii) the removal of timber and non-timber forest products; iv) forest fires; v) urban growth and the expansion of unplanned tourist areas, and vi) forest pests and diseases.

As part of the recent study on the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and degradation, in March 2018, a national participatory process was launched with key local stakeholders in order to identify, validate and update the main direct and indirect drivers of

deforestation and forest degradation as well as the reduction or storage of forest carbon stocks in the Dominican Republic.

Additionally, during the workshop, the main direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the reduction or stagnation of forest carbon stocks in the Dominican Republic, were validated through participatory processes. It also helped create a forum in which the various economic policies, regulations, public programs, governance arrangements, incentives and other government actions (strategic options) which foster sustainable land use practices, could be validated through participatory processes involving national experts. Finally, this forum was used to validate potential locations for REDD+ projects.

The identification of the main causes, as well as the respective strategic options to counteract the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation and not increase the forest carbon stock was carried out through a robust and transparent methodological framework . This methodology was based on a participative based model that contains three main pillars or axes: an analytical axis, an axis of participation with key actors and finally an axis of national validation by key actors.

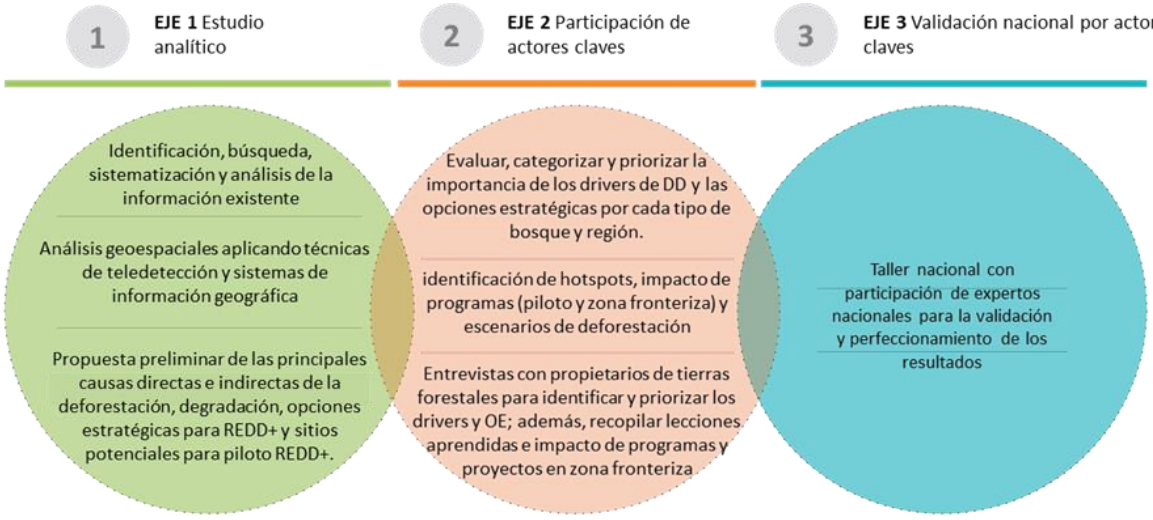

Image 4. Applied methodology for the definition of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the Dominican Republic

After being identified the main causes (direct and indirect), it proceeded to the homologation, then go to the prioritization of the same given the importance that was given to the cause in the working tables; and in the relevance, which was based on the number of times the cause was mentioned in the working tables, without taking into consideration the position or ranking granted to it. The prioritization of the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and degradation are available in **Annex 5.**

With the results obtained from the process described above, identification, homologation, prioritization (through a participatory process) and qualitative and quantitative characterization of the causes, the necessary inputs and information were obtained to establish the main causes, in order of priority, of deforestation and forest degradation at the national level.

Causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the Dominican Republic	Tipo
Management and unsustainable use of forest lands	Direct
Management and unsustainable use of land for agricultural production	Direct
Management and unsustainable use of land for livestock production	Direct
Forest fires	Direct
Opencast mining	Direct
Pests, diseases in introduction of exotic invasive species	Direct
Expansion of productive infrastructure of urban, road and industrial type	Direct
Natural Disasters: Hurricanes, drought and landslides	Direct
Institutional weakness for forest management and absence of sectoral forest law and other laws associated with the management of the sector	Indirect
Deficient Environmental Education	Indirect
Impact on Forest Resources due to the high illegal migration of origin international	Indirect
Poverty and social inequity	Indirect

Table 14. Main Direct and Indirect causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Dominican Republic in order of priority.

One of the relevant indirect causes in the country is related to land tenure, as it exerts an important influence on the attitude of people towards the use of land. In the Dominican Republic, most hillside farmers do not have legal title to the land. Without a guarantee that the land will continue to belong to them, farmers have little incentive or motivation to invest in making it more productive and discourages any long-term investment that could lead to increased productivity, prosperity and improved well-being.

As indicated in a study carried out by the REDD / CCAD-GIZ Program in 2013, one of the weaknesses related to land ownership is that most of small producers lacks title to the land. that their families have worked for generations. However, it should be noted the effort made by the State, through the Dominican Agrarian Institute, to issue provisional titles in favor of these land holders of the Agrarian Reform, through a quick and simple process, as an alternative to the titling process formally established in our Real Estate Registration Law. The tenure derived from this provisional titling process enjoys the legal presumption and sufficient legitimacy to be recognized as a way to access the property without having to proceed to the formal titling.

Likewise, it is expected that the effective implementation of an Emissions Reduction Program, from the point of view of the institutional arrangements to be formalized as a result of the

execution of the lines of action proposed by the National REDD + Strategy, will have positive consequences with respect to the gaps and existing gaps. In this sense, the ERPD that is being developed to be presented to the Carbon Fund of the FCPF seeks to support and facilitate compliance with existing legal frameworks.

Additionally, as part of the REDD+ readiness preparation process, a study was carried out on land use and changes to land use in the Dominican Republic, using records from 2005, 2010 and 2015. The results of this study, in addition to those from the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradation, will serve as the main input for the consultation titled "Assessment of the Costs and Benefits and Preparation of a Funding Plan for the Dominican Republic's Emissions Reduction Program."

The main aim of the Emissions Reduction Program Funding Plan analysis is to identify and quantify the costs and benefits associated with the activities of an ER program, as well as to identify and adopt a systematic approach in terms of the main sources of funding and necessary arrangements in order to draft a funding plan which considers the main findings of the study undertaken.

Moreover, among the Dominican Republic's governance arrangements which will allow REDD+ to be correctly and effectively implemented, the country has a solid legal framework. Below are the main legal instruments which were listed in the consultation titled "*Analysis of the Legal Framework for Land Tenure and Carbon Ownership in the Dominican Republic.*" These instruments were classified into the areas detailed as follows: Forest management, land ownership and tenure, provisions on climate change and carbon ownership.

Forest Management

- The June 13, 2015 Constitution of the Dominican Republic. Article 17.- Use of natural resources. 2) The reforestation of the country, the conservation of its forests and the renewal of its forest resources is declared a national and social interest priority.

- National Development Strategy Law No. 1-12 of December 15, 2011. The National Development Strategy 2030 addresses the fulfillment by the national and local public sectors of their role in regulating, promoting and producing goods and services, as well as creating the basic conditions to encourage synergy between public and private actions with the aim of achieving the long-term national vision, as well as the goals and targets of this strategy.

- National Development Strategy Law No. 1-12 of December 15, 2011. Article 10. The Fourth Pillar aims to create a society that is environmentally sustainable in terms of production and

consumption and which adapts to climate change: "*A society with a sustainable production and consumption culture, which fairly and efficiently manages risks relating to and the protection of the environment and natural resources and encourages appropriate adaptation to climate change*." In terms of action for this fourth pillar regarding the Sustainable Management of the Environment, forest resources shall be managed in a sustainable manner and the reforestation of land suitable for forests with endemic and native species shall be encouraged.

- Sectoral Law on Protected Areas No. 202-04 of July 30, 2004. The purpose of this law is to ensure the conservation and preservation of samples representing different ecosystems, as well as the natural and cultural heritage of the Dominican Republic in order to guarantee the continuity and enhancement of the environmental and economic services which these ecosystems provide or may provide to present and future generations in the Dominican Republic.

- General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources (64-00) of August 18, 2000. The purpose of this law is to establish regulations regarding the conservation, protection, improvement and restoration of the environment and natural resources, ensuring they are used in a sustainable manner.

  Article 154.- The management and use of forests and forest land must be sustainable. A special law shall govern the overall management of forests and the sustainable use of forest resources for the purposes of conservation, exploitation, production, industrialization and commercialization, as well as the preservation of other natural resources which form part of their ecosystem and the environment in general.

  Article 155.- The Secretary of State of the Environment and Natural Resources shall classify forests by their purpose, namely conservation, protection and production.

  Article 156.- The destruction of native forests is prohibited. Article 157.- The use of forest plantations created for commercial purposes in middle and lower basins shall be allowed, as well as those created on flat land used for the commercial production of tree and timber species. Paragraph I.- Forest regulations shall be governed by the sectoral law and until the national native forest inventory is completed, the cutting, use, sawing and industrialization of native trees is prohibited.

  Paragraph II.- With the aim of updating the national forestry inventory for native forests and artificial plantations for commercial use, a maximum period of one (1) year is hereby established, as of the date this law enters into force, for the Secretary of State of the

Environment and Natural Resources to plan and complete a national inventory. This must contain information regarding, among others, the following aspects:

1. Native forests in protected native areas;
2. Native forests belonging to the protected category;
3. Native forests belonging to the protected and production category;
4. Native forests belonging to the production category;
5. Planted forests belonging to the protected and production category;
6. Planted forests belonging to the production category;

Article 158.- All those who own rural land must maintain or reestablish a minimum percentage of forest cover, which shall be defined by the Secretary of State of the Environment and Natural Resources for each of the Environmental Management Divisions.

Article 159.- The creation of commercial forest plantations for timber, energy, industrial, food and decorative purposes shall be incentivized and encouraged.

Paragraph. - All forest use projects must be carried out in accordance with the corresponding management plan, which must be formulated by forest service providers and be similar to those stipulated in Article 42 of the present law.

- Forest Development Incentives Law No. 290 of August 25, 1985. This law establishes a system of incentives for projects involving forestation, reforestation and growing trees for energy purposes, among others.

- Technical Regulations for Forest Management, approved by Resolution 08-07, issued by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources on May 9, 2007. These regulations lay out the sustainability principles, criteria and indicators for forest management.

- Procedure for Forest Permits, approved by Resolution 09-07, issued by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources on May 9, 2007. This procedure lays out the process for obtaining permits to cut and use forest products.

- Regulation for the Functioning of the Forest Industry, approved by Resolution 10-07, issued by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources on May 9, 2007. This regulation lays out the criteria for the functioning of the forest industry. Its goals are: To ensure the sustainable development of the forest industry in the Dominican Republic; to increase the added value of forest products by way of their conversion; to contribute to the sustainable development of natural and planted forests and encourage commercial reforestation; to promote greater efficiency and monitoring in terms of the industrialization

process of forest products to benefit forest resources; to foster the improvement of living conditions for people through the creation of jobs and the improvement of environmental quality.

- Forest Regulation approved by Resolution 11-07, issued by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources on May 9, 2007. This regulation establishes the necessary guidelines for the appropriate application of and compliance with General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources No. 64-00 of August 18, 2000, with respect to forest resources.

Land Ownership and Tenure Regime.

Forms of Land Tenure

In the Dominican Republic, the lands are owned by private individuals (private individuals or corporations) or owned by the State. Of individuals, when they have been legally recognized a right of property and have registered that right in the corresponding Registry of Titles, who in turn issues a certificate that endorses said registration, after having exhausted the procedures established by Law No. 108 -05 of Real Estate Registry. In the second case, the lands are property of the State, since this is the original owner of all the lands, as established in Principle III of the aforementioned Real Estate Registry Law, or because it has been obtained by the expropriation procedure by cause of public utility, provided for in Law No. 344 of 1943 on Expropriations and their modifications.

Legal aspects of the different forms of land tenure

The national legal system recognizes the right of private property and proposes access to land tenure under different modalities. In this sense, the Dominican Civil Code defines the property in article 544, as the "right to enjoy and dispose of things in the most absolute way, provided that they are not used as prohibited by laws and regulations".

In the same way, the right to real property represents a constitutional guarantee, protected in the text of our substantive law as a fundamental right in Article No. 51, stating that: *"The State recognizes and guarantees the right to property. Property has a social function that implies obligations. Everyone has the right to the enjoyment, enjoyment and disposition of their property ... "*

In the Dominican Republic, the main way of transmitting the titled property right is logically from the first real estate transaction that the original owner performs: the transfer or transfer of the property. From this event, the right of Dominican real estate property is undoubtedly based on private documentation, that is, that which transmits rights between individuals, which transfers the

title acquired from the original owner and which accredits them as legitimate owners. On the contrary, the uncertified right is characterized in principle, by the possession or the material apprehension of the property. It is currently an initial fact that serves as a basis to acquire by prescription, provided that the other characteristics required by law are met; but that is distinguished from the property right and that can be had independently of this, although generally one of the forms, the most characterized to make ostensible that right, is materially possessing the thing.

In order for the uncertified right to be legally consolidated or failing that to be admitted as a factual possession or informal possession, effective against all the world including the State, which the law in principle presumes as the original owner, it must comply with the conditions and requirements established in the Civil Code and the Real Estate Registry Law for the recognition of the acquisitive prescription or usucapion.

Another modality to access the land, consists of the delivery made by the Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) to the parceleros of a Provisional Assignment Certificate (Provisional Title), which grants a right of use and usufruct to exploit them in a limited Consequently, this document does not constitute a definitive title of property, opposable to third parties, but a certificate of dependence of the IAD, who is the real owner of the land. The delivery of this Provisional Assignment Certificate constitutes an administrative act, in which the beneficiary enjoys the land, but can not by judicial means oppose their rights to third parties, but through the IAD, who is the possessor on behalf of the State of the property rights.

Customary Rights

Customary practices are recognized and adopted, regardless of the legal provisions that establish a formal system of registration of property rights, which mainly involve the non-formal occupation of land, whether rural or urban, by individuals who do not have access to land, through conventional legal procedures or are in some phase discontinued or expired of the sanitation process. It should be noted that prolonged possession can in fact be admitted by demonstrating the occupation by generations of occupant families, provided that it can be documented, by any means of proof admitted by our legal system.

Gaps and ambiguities of the land tenure regime

For the cases in which the land is not registered or it is verified that it does not comply with the characteristics to opt for the recognition of informal possession due to acquisitive prescription, it is presumed that it is owned by the State in accordance with the provisions of Law No.108 -05 on Real Estate Registry.

As highlighted in a study conducted by the REDD / CCAD-GIZ Program in 2013, one of the weaknesses related to land ownership is the majority of small producers lacks titles to the property. that their families have worked for generations. However, it should be noted the effort made by the State, through the Dominican Agrarian Institute, to issue provisional titles in favor of these land holders of the Agrarian Reform, through an alternate process to the formal titling process established in our Law. of Real Estate Registry. The tenure derived from this provisional titling process enjoys the legal presumption and sufficient legitimacy to be recognized as a way to access the property without having to proceed to the formal titling.

Therefore, it can be established that, although the formal land tenure system constitutes an important aspect in determining the use of land, informal tenure in the Dominican Republic does not represent an obstacle to the recognition of benefits derived from land tenure. the reduction of emissions that may be received by de facto owners.

Impact of Land Tenure in the implementation of the Emissions Reduction Program.

The land tenure regime in the Dominican Republic presents, at first impression, some difficulties in accessing formal property rights. However, the effective implementation of an Emission Reduction Program, from the point of view of the institutional arrangements to be formalized as a consequence of the execution of the lines of action proposed by the Emissions Reduction Program, will have positive consequences with respect to the gaps and gaps identified above.

In this sense, the submitted Emission Reduction Program seeks to support and facilitate compliance with existing legal frameworks. To this end, the gathering of information and generation of data of that informal usufructuaries that comply with the necessary requirements for acquisitive prescription, and that may qualify to begin the formal process of titling before the Real Estate Jurisdiction, is contemplated. To that extent, the current occupants can be provided with the quality of owners, producing greater legal security and, consequently, better possibilities of accessing the compensation mechanisms and sources of financing that allow them to make appropriate use of the land.

Next, we can mention two (2) positive aspects that would result from this implementation:

- Simplification and streamlining of the procedure for the recognition, registration and titling of lands that are still to be formalized.
- Management effective solutions to resolve disputes related to formal owners and de facto owners.

With regard to the recognition of de facto possessions, there are currently legally recognized customary mechanisms that allow for peaceful interventions under the scheme of acquisitive prescription or presumption of legality of informal possession. For the recognition of this presumption of legality of informal land tenure in the implementation of the Emissions Reduction Program, the following documents or acts may be considered valid, namely:

- Notarized purchase act registered and transcribed from common land without measuring the occupant.
- Notarized purchase act registered and transcribed from common land without measuring the occupant.
- Act of purchase-sale with mayor as witness, not notarized.
- Act of purchase and sale of measured land
- Affidavit of possession, notarized under witnesses
- Determination of heirs, for succession cases.

Provisions on Climate Change

- The June 13, 2015 Constitution of the Dominican Republic.
  Article 194.- Land use plan. A State priority is the formulation and implementation, by legal means, of a land use plan that ensures the efficient and sustainable use of the Nation's natural resources, in accordance with the necessity to adapt to climate change.

- Article 18, point 20), in Law No. 64-00, General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources, of August 18, 2000, establishes that it is within the functions of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources to assess, monitor and supervise the control of environmental risk factors and factors that could have an impact on the occurrence of natural disasters, and implement directly, or in coordination with other pertinent institutions, actions aimed at preventing emergencies or reducing the spread of their effects.

- National Development Strategy Law No. 1-12 of December 15, 2011. Within the objective of increasing productivity, competitivity and environmental and financial sustainability in agricultural production chains, with the aim of contributing to food security, leveraging export potential and generating employment and income for the rural population, certain lines of action are established: promoting and strengthening sustainable management practices for natural resources, degraded land and land in the process of desertification, through training and outreach programs and the encouragement of productive species that enable adaptation to climate change, respect biodiversity and meet risk management criteria. Likewise, as another specific objective, the importance of reducing vulnerability, advancing in adaptation to the effects of climate change and contributing to the mitigation

of its causes is established through the following lines of action: Carrying out studies on the impacts of climate change on the island and its environmental, economic, political and social consequences for different population groups, with the aim of justifying the adoption of public policies and educating the population. Strengthening, in coordination with local governments, the system for the prevention, reduction and control of anthropogenic impacts that increase the vulnerability of ecosystems to the effects of climate change. Encouraging the development and transfer of technology that contributes to the adaptation of wild and agricultural species to the effects of climate change. Encouraging the decarbonization of the national economy through the use of renewable energy sources, the development of the biofuel market, energy savings and efficiency and clean and efficient transport. Developing capabilities for international negotiations on climate change. Preventing, mitigating and reversing the effects of climate change on health in coordination with national and local authorities.

The results of the self-evaluation for subcomponent 2a are shown below:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
2: Preparation of the REDD + strategy	2a: Evaluation on land use, the causal factors of changes in land use, forest law, policy and management	11	Evaluation and analysis	
		12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to increasing carbon stocks in forests	
		13	Relationships between causes / barriers and REDD + activities	
		14	Action plans to address rights to natural resources, land tenure and management	
		15	Implications for forest laws and policies	

Table 15. Results of the self-assessment for subcomponent 2a

On this subcomponent, the participants in the self-evaluation workshop said that they consider that there are relevant advances, however, it is necessary to take measures for legislation on land tenure, as well as to define (regeneration) + (land uses) growths and / or losses.

Subcomponent: 2b. Strategic options for REDD+

The National REDD+ Strategy (EN-REDD+), in the vision of the Dominican Republic, is considered to be an instrument of public policy that will support the country's efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, increase carbon stocks, support the actions of conservation and support in the fulfillment of sustainable development objectives.

The ENREDD + of the Dominican Republic will contribute to the national commitment to reduce emissions and increase carbon sinks through the conservation and sustainable use of forests, promoting an increase in the quality of life of rural communities.

A comprehensive analysis of the causes of deforestation and degradation, combined with the institutional work of the MARN, has allowed the identification of REDD+ strategic options for future validation, which has been consolidated through a participatory process with actors linked to land use and change of use. Additionally, within the framework of the SESA workshops, these strategic options have been assessed, identifying their respective positive and negative impacts.

Thus, an identification was made of the main barriers that may interfere in the implementation of REDD + strategic lines and actions, their possible impact on implementation and the measures that can be implemented to counteract them. This identification was made during the consultation workshops that were organized with representatives of the different sectors, carried out between July and August 2015. Most of these barriers were also identified during the consultation workshops carried out in the study on causes of deforestation and forest degradation and are defined in annex 6.

Subsequently, as part of the consolidation of the strategic options identified, in August 2018, an inter-departmental workshop was held with the participation of the thematic areas of the Department and an Expanded Technical Advisory Committee Workshop, which resulted in the reduction of the strategic options (from 5 to 3) considering that some of them raised the same issues.

The defined strategic options were the following:

1. Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources.
2. Establish, strengthen, and apply public policies so as to limit and/or contain agricultural, livestock and infrastructure encroachment into forest areas.
3. Promote sustainable management models for natural resources that contribute to conservation and sustainable use of the forests and the increase of forest coverage.

Furthermore, 22 strategic actions were identified to counteract or mitigate the factors that: i) cause deforestation and the degradation of forests, ii) limit the conservation and sustainable management of forests, iii) hinder the increase of the forest carbon stock. In this context, the actions have been classified into 3 categories: “Facilitating Activities,” “Existing Emissions Improvement Activities” and “Deforestation/Degradation Activities.” During the implementation of the “facilitating activities,” management tasks are carried out that trigger the implementation of actions that directly affect the reduction of emissions such as the “existing emissions improvement activities” and “deforestation/degradation activities.” In Annex 7, a table with the REDD + actions and their classification is shown[7].

[7] Climate Law & Policy, Fondo Pro Naturaleza y Winrock International (2018). Primer borrador del Marco de Gestión Ambiental y Social (MGAS) para la Estrategia REDD+ de la República Dominicana.

Furthermore, during the drafting of the ER Program document, the following diagram was produced in which each of the strategic options is presented with the causal relationship of deforestation/forest degradation and REDD+ actions.

Image 5. Causal relationship of deforestation/forest degradation and REDD+ actions.

These options or strategic measures to combat the causes of deforestation and forest degradation were analyzed and validated using participatory processes, with the involvement of the different groups of actors linked to land use and change of use. These options will be negotiated and validated again during the current REDD+ National Strategy formulation phase.

As mentioned above, the Dominican Republic is currently developing its ER Program, representing the basis for the implementation of the REDD+NS, which is being formulated with the participation of various key actors. The ER Program aims to address the *Strategic Options* and 22 *Strategic Actions* mentioned in this section, which will make up the core of the REDD+ National Strategy. The ERP will be implemented at the national level, although some components have a special focus on 5 priority geographical areas in which an increase in the rate of deforestation and forest degradation due to anthropogenic pressure is projected. Additionally, protected areas have been identified that are subject to high pressure on their natural resources that can result in deforestation and forest degradation.

The ERP is not only aimed at reducing or stopping deforestation and forest degradation, but it is also considered important to address agricultural and livestock production systems, which are putting pressure on forest resources. The ERP will be based particularly on agricultural and livestock projects that have goals in national actions and a sustainable development approach, such as the production of cocoa, coffee under shade and silvopastoral systems. Therefore, the ERP intends to play a fundamental role in promoting and achieving inter-institutional collaboration and thus contribute to the following objectives of the National Development Strategy:

- Protect and use in a sustainable way the goods and services of the ecosystems, biodiversity and natural heritage of the nation.
- Promote sustainable production and consumption.
- Reduce vulnerability and advance in the adaptation to the effects of climate change and contribute to the mitigation of its causes.

It should be noted that as a result of SESA, the possible positive and negative impacts of REDD + action strategies, programs and projects were identified. These results are shown in Annex 5 for further reference.

The three strategic options are presented in **Annex 9**, identified, including the scope of action, causes, relevant institutions, type of action and implications of its implementation in existing programs or policies.

In Annex 9, the first two options create the legal and institutional conditions to meet the reduction targets established in the ER Program, while the third option addresses concrete actions

in the field that, at the same time, are core actions to be carried out via the existing plans, programs and projects in the country, which are presented below:

Plans, programs and projects	Department in charge	Principal types of action
Quisqueya Verde National Plan	Environment	Reforestation, Agroforestry, Social Forestry
National System of Protected Areas	Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources, PNA Management Plans
Agroforestry Program	Inter-departmental	Coffee, fruit tree, reforestation plantations
Agroforestry System with shade grown cacao	Department of Agriculture	Cacao plantations
Agroforestry System with shade grown coffee	Department of Agriculture	Coffee plantations
Silvopasture system and forest conservation on livestock farms	Department of Agriculture, DIGEGA, CONALECHE	Restoration, natural regeneration, conservation
Resilient Agriculture and Integrated Water Resources Management Project	Department of Economy, Planning and Development	Conservation of forests, cacao and coffee plantations
Sustainable forest management	Environment	Forest management, reforestation
Payment for Environmental Services Yaque del Norte Watershed	Environment	Coffee plantations and management, forest conservation

Table 16. Existing plans, programs and projects participating in the ERPD, responsible institution and principal types of actions included in the projects

Furthermore, the country has made a strong political commitment and established institutional arrangements and instruments that will enable the successful implementation of policies and actions on climate change. Instruments have already been created to address the country's commitments and activities in terms of reducing deforestation and forest degradation, as well as promoting the restoration of forest cover. Some noteworthy instruments created include:

a. National Climate Committee (Environmental Resolution No. 02-02)[8]
b. National Climate Change Council and Clean Development Mechanism (Decree 601-08)[9]
c. National Climate Change Policy (Decree 269-15)[10]
d. Climate Change Division (Environmental Resolution No. 011-10)
e. Climate Compatible Economic Development Plan (CCEDP)[11]

[8] http://www.ambiente.gob.do/Transparencia/Legal/Paginas/Resoluciones.aspx
[9] https://ccclimatico.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/dec-no-601-08.pdf
[10] http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom163790.pdf
[11] https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Jan2013/Hacia%20un%20crecimiento%20sostenible%20-%20El%20Plan%20DECCC%20de%20RD%20-%20Vers.pdf

f. Department for Monitoring Greenhouse Gases-GHG (Environmental Resolution No. 020-17)[12]

g. National Inventory System for GHG (Environmental Resolution No. 17-14)[13]

h. Sectoral Law on Protected Areas (Law 202-04)[14]

i. Division of Social Participation and Access to Public Information (Environmental Resolution No. 06/2009)[15]

At this point it should be noted that, during the first two months of 2019, ENREDD + **will be in consultation phase and in March there will be 3 regional validation workshops for the Strategy (in Azua, Santiago and Santo Domingo). It is expected that the national launch of the final version of the strategy will be carried out in the month of May.**

The results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 2b are shown below:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
2: Preparation of the REDD + strategy	2b: Opciotions of a REDD+ Strategy	16	Presentation and prioritization of REDD + strategy options	
		17	Feasibility assessment	
		18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	

Table 17. Results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 2b

The participants in the self-assessment workshop noted that more access to the results of the various studies is needed, there is still a need to conclude the reference level and publish the information. In addition, as far as is known, there is no financial analysis and there is also a risk reversal analysis. In addition, in the consolidation of the REDD + process in the country, it is necessary to expand participation to other sectors that could contribute (transport, mining).

Subcomponent: 2c. Implementation framework

With the aim of having a solid foundation for the implementation of REDD+ in the country, in addition to the progress achieved to date mentioned in the preceding sections, consultation is in progress to define the ownership of Forest Carbon, which includes the analysis of the Legal nature and Transfer of Emission Reduction Credits. The specific objectives of this study are to:

[12] https://ambiente.gob.do/transparencia/base-legal/resoluciones/#

[13] https://ambiente.gob.do/transparencia/download/84/resoluciones/1274/resolucion-no-17-2014-que-crea-el-sistema-nacional-de-inventario-de-gases-de-efecto-invernadero-GHG-y-el-depto-de-monitoreo-y-verificacion-de-GHG.pdf

[14] http://www.ambiente.gob.do/Transparencia/Legal/Legal/Leyes/Ley%20No.%20202-04.pdf

[15] http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom104304.pdf

- Examine and clarify existing ownership regimes for the land, goods and services in forest areas and forest carbon rights, in accordance with current legislation and regulations in the Dominican Republic.

  Examine and identify the legal nature of emission reductions, their legal existence in national legislation and the appropriate legal adjustments to create, issue, register and transfer emission reductions.
- Evaluate the legislative and regulatory capacity of the country to create and/or internationally transfer Emission Reduction credits.

- Identify feasible mechanisms to issue, register and transfer Emission Reduction credits in an efficient and transparent manner.

As mentioned for the implementation of component 1, the Dominican Republic has a solid legal framework that will enable the implementation of REDD+ activities without affecting the rights of those who depend and live on forest land. Likewise, the institutional arrangements that will enable the proper implementation of the necessary policies and actions for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change through the forests have been established.

The Dominican Republic is committed to the protection of the environment and natural resources, which is supported by the 2015 National Constitution and specific national laws, such as the General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources (Law 64-00), the Sectoral Law on Protected Areas (Law 202-04), the Sectoral Law on Biodiversity (Law 313-15), among other legal instruments.

The Dominican Constitution grants a high level of commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources. Articles 14; fifteen; 16; 17 and 67 of the Dominican Constitution provide for the protection of the environment and natural resources, declaring them national patrimony for public use, establishing their conditions of use and declaring the duties and obligations of the State for their conservation. In the case of Article 194, the Dominican Constitution grants an important level of commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources, stating that "It is the State's priority to formulate and execute, by law, a land use planning plan that ensures the use of natural resources. efficient and sustainable natural resources of the Nation, according to the need to adapt to climate change ". Likewise, Article 19 (2) declares the reforestation of the country, the conservation of forests and the renewal of forest resources as a "national priority and social interest".

The Organic Law 1-12 of the National Development Strategy (END) 2010-2030 articulates four transversal axes that define "the model of sustainable development to which the Dominican Republic aspires," in the different areas: institutional, economic, social and environmental. In

addition, Article 6 of Law 1-12 establishes that "Public policies will be structured around four Strategic Axes, with their corresponding Objectives and Lines of Action, which define the model of sustainable development to which the DR aspires". It also establishes in its Art. 10 a Strategic Axis, Axis 4, to procure a sustainable managed environment, as well as an adequate adaptation to Climate Change. Axis 4 of the END proposes "A society with a culture of sustainable production and consumption that manages risks and the protection of the environment and natural resources with equity and effectiveness and promotes an adequate adaptation to climate change." Organic Law 247-12 of the Public Administration serves as a regulatory framework that provides the powers and hierarchy of the bodies and entities that make up the State Public Administration.

In the month of July 2018, the Forestry Sectoral Project of the Dominican Republic was approved by the Chamber of Deputies. The purpose of this Bill is to "regulate and promote sustainable forest management of forests, seeking their conservation, exploitation, production, industrialization and commercialization, as well as the protection of other natural resources that are part of their ecosystems, maintaining their biodiversity and regeneration capacity. "

The description of subcomponent 2a contains a description of the different laws, decrees and resolutions at the national level that are relevant for the implementation of the REDD + Program.

Another aspect worth highlighting is that the Dominican Republic is in the process of finalizing its Benefit Sharing Plan, which will be aligned with the approach of the Emission Reduction Program to achieve mitigation results, comply with the country's legal framework and take into account its institutional and technical capabilities, including Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and will incorporate the following principles:

• **Justice and equity:** The Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) will reward beneficiaries according to their contribution to achieving mitigation results, while encouraging greater participation by women and young people in REDD+ activities. It will also establish decision-making bodies with equitable participation by all relevant stakeholders at relevant benefit sharing levels to ensure a fair decision-making process.

• **Transparency:** the BSP will contain provisions to ensure that its operation is transparent and will require the publication of all information on how it has made decisions on the assignment of benefits, as well as the transfer of resources between beneficiaries and above all the benefits generated by the ER Program. Likewise, benefit sharing agreements will be simple and easily understandable by all stakeholders.

• **Cost-effective:** the BSP will be based on existing institutions and capabilities to minimize its operational costs and thus maximize the benefits that will reach the implementers of REDD+ activities.

• **Supportive:** the BSP will explicitly acknowledge that obtaining results-based payments depends on the joint responsibility of all actors involved and, therefore, will contain measures to ensure the appropriate performance of all of them and to provide supportive incentives to those whose performance may have been negatively affected by catastrophic events such as fires, pests, hurricanes, floods, etc.

• **Continuous improvement:** the BSP will be regularly examined and updated as necessary to improve benefit sharing, taking into account, for example, improvements to the MRV system and to the capacities of the programs and funds to compile and process data and lessons learned from the implementation of the Plan.

Within the context of the Carbon Fund, the resources obtained will be used as additional support to continue and improve previously financed initiatives. Therefore, these non-monetary benefits will be mainly composed of the existing supports that contribute to REDD+. Furthermore, the ER Program of the Carbon Fund is expected to reach a wide range of beneficiaries. The following is an initial categorization of the beneficiaries:

• Communities;
• Private landowners;
• Associations (of farmers, cacao and coffee producers, etc.); and
• The Government of the Dominican Republic (including the REDD+ program, MARENA and the MARN).

The Benefit Sharing Plan will be regularly monitored and reviewed. The national decision-making body will be in charge of carrying out these tasks after each benefit-sharing occurrence to identify weaknesses and problems during the implementation of the plan. To this end, this national body will assess whether the benefits have been distributed in accordance with the provisions established in the plan, as well as complaints by beneficiaries and whether the corresponding authorities have resolved them and how they did so.

As indicated above, the Benefit Sharing Plan is currently being finalized and will be subject to consultation in the coming months. Nevertheless, the information provided here is the result of dialogue generated during the SESA workshops and in meetings with relevant stakeholders related to REDD+.

In the section related to subcomponent 1A, it is indicated that the Dominican Republic will develop a Data Management System for REDD + Programs and Projects, which foresees including a computer platform that will allow compiling and monitoring REDD + actions in the country. The projects and programs will have to be registered by each participant that carries out REDD +

activities, indicating their specific characteristics (entity that titles the SRs, geographic limits of the program, REDD + activities carried out and carbon reservoirs considered, and reference level used).

The system will ensure reductions and removals of emissions generated are transparent and properly recorded, supporting the system in order to avoid double-counting and to show the public transparently that environmental benefits relating to reductions in emissions or greenhouse gas absorption will not be claimed twice.

The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources is the designated national authority and focal point for climate change. Regarding the ER Program, the organizational structure of the MMR is mainly composed of divisions within the Department of the Environment: Climate Change Division, Environmental and Natural Resources Information Division (DIARENA), Forest Monitoring Unit (FMU), Biodiversity and Wildlife Division and Outreach Division.

Finally, it should be noted that the procedures and institutional arrangements established for the MMR will serve as the foundation for the design and establishment of the National Forestry Monitoring System, which will use the same methodologies. Indeed, the MRV system of the ERPD is based on the national forestry monitoring system.

Below are the results of the self-assessment by criterion for subcomponent 2c:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
2: Preparation of the REDD + strategy	2c: Execution framework	19	Adoption and implementation of legislation / regulations	
		20	Guidelines for implementation	
		21	Benefit Distribution System	
		22	National registry of REDD + and activities of the REDD + monitoring system	

Table 18. Results of the self-assessment by criterion for subcomponent 2c

Regarding the progress in this subcomponent, the participants in the self-evaluation workshop commented that a mechanism is needed that promotes the promulgation of a decree that encompasses REDD +.

Subcomponent: 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

As one of the requirements of the FCPF, the country must develop a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and its respective Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

For this, an analytical and participatory exercise was carried out that allowed the identification of the causes of deforestation and strategies to deal with them, which will be the basis for the REDD+ National Strategy. In the SESA workshops, the positive and negative potential social and environmental impacts of REDD+ implementation were identified, both socially and environmentally, resulting in collaborative dialogue and giving rise to the compilation of key elements for the development of an ESMF.

Also, in accordance with the systematization of the results from the regional and national workshops, applicable laws were reviewed, and normative and institutional instruments were identified that already addressed the negative impacts for each of the proposed REDD+ strategic options. In this sense, during the SESA Process, it was highlighted that, although the Dominican Republic has a very extensive and up-to-date legal framework on the topic of natural resource management, several identified and prioritized negative environmental and social impacts are due or linked to gaps or weaknesses in the country's current legal and institutional framework. This section presents the principal gaps in order to address them in the design of the ESMF.

The most significant and relevant gap for REDD+ is related to the lack of land tenure regulation as:

- the majority of the land in the Dominican Republic is not registered, and even if land tenure rights are registered, tenure is not guaranteed.
- In some parts of the country, unregistered land has been expropriated for development without prior warning or compensation.
- The instability of tenure rights and the use of resources hampers investment in the management of natural resources: it includes the lack of a definition of land tenure in many high and middle watershed areas and the lack of legal rights over forest resources even in privately owned areas.

In accordance with the identification and review studies carried out in the country, in addition to the matter of land tenure, three institutional challenges were identified in forest matters that could create conflict when implementing REDD+ options and actions.

- The lack of a specific sectoral Forest Law is creating legal conflicts in the sector.
- Lack of knowledge among citizens about the penalty system for committing environmental infractions or crimes against natural resources with an emphasis on forests.
- Gaps related to the adoption, interpretation and application of the legal instruments and specific technical standards on transparency that include access to information, to participation, access to environmental justice and accountability.

With the aim of practically and directly presenting the analysis of the country's relevant legislation that can be linked to World Bank Operational Policies (OP), activated for the national implementation of REDD+, a table was has produced that also includes the recommended measures to avoid failures in compliance with each applicable OP, depending on the gaps found by the corresponding analysis, or pertinent to strengthen compliance with the OP. This table is available in the "Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) document for the REDD+ Strategy of the Dominican Republic."

It should be noted, as an added value from the workshops, that it was possible to identify other potential actors linked to the implementation of REDD+ in the country and, in addition, allowed the MARN to realize that in some sectors there are information or knowledge gaps regarding REDD+ and its implications.

As has been mentioned, the SESA allowed the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as an operational instrument by which the principles, guidelines and procedures are established to address, avoid and minimize the risks and adverse effects associated with the implementation of activities, projects, programs, policies and/or regulations associated with the future implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy and, in the case of the Carbon Fund, of the ER Program, as well as comply with the agreed upon national and international normative guidelines.

In order to carry out this analysis, during the preparation of the REDD+ National Strategy, some studies were carried out which were not only able to be fed into the strategy, but which also provided inputs and analysis points in the preparation of the ESMF:

- Definition and prioritization of the principal causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the Dominican Republic, in order to define appropriate REDD+ initiatives for the country[16]
- Definition of the REDD+ strategic options and actions
- Analysis of the current legal framework of the Dominican Republic and identification of the gaps in relation to WB Operational Policies and the safeguards of the UNFCCC[17]
- Participation plan and SESA consultation
- Existing complaints mechanisms in the country
- Existing monitoring and follow up mechanisms for environmental and social issues in the country
- Existing National Programs related to REDD+

[16] See analysis of the direct and indirect causes (drivers) of deforestation and forest degradation (DD) in the Dominican Republic and proposals for sustainable land use alternatives that lower DD and increase the carbon pools of the REDD+ readiness project carried out by the Consortium Sud-Austral Consulting SpA – Forest Finest in April 2018.

[17] See legal framework analysis of the Dominican Republic in force and relevant to the REDD+ safeguards of the UNFCCC, "Analysis of legal, institutional and compliance framework for REDD+ safeguards" Consultation, July 2018

With this foundation of participatory analysis, the elements to develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework that seeks to comply with both World Bank Operational Policies (common approach) and the Convention's safeguards during the implementation of the REDD+NS and the ER Program are outlined.

It is worth mentioning that the safeguard instruments were developed in accordance with the FCPF guidelines and the legal and institutional framework of the country and are currently being reviewed by the TMU and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. Two workshops are planned during the first trimester in 2019: a national one with representatives from the various regional actors involved in the SESA and another one with the Technical Advisory Committee for feedback and validation.

Additionally, as indicated throughout this document, the safeguards instruments that the country is developing to comply with both the safeguards of the Convention and the World Bank's operational policies are shown. As part of these instruments established under the common approach (between the safeguards of the UNFCCC and the Bank's operational policies), an Environmental and Social Strategic Assessment (SESA) is being prepared, as well as the preparation of a Management Framework. Environmental and Social (MGAS), the establishment of a Mechanism Complaints, Claims and Management of Conflicts (MQRC) and a System of Information of Safeguards (SIS). Additionally, the country is working on the development of Environmental and Social Management Plans (PMAS) of the specific REDD + activities for compliance and monitoring of environmental and social aspects.

Advances in the construction of the National Safeguards Approach of the Dominican Republic are shown in Annex 14

Below are the results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 2d:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Evaluation of progress
2: Preparation of the REDD + Strategy	2d: Social and environmental impacts	23	Analysis of issues related to social and environmental safeguards	
		24	Design of the REDD + strategy with respect to impacts	
		25	Social and Environmnetal Managment Framework	

Table 19. Self-assesment results per subcomponent 2d

Regarding the progress in subcomponent 2d, participants acknowledged that there is progress regarding the analysis of issues related to social and environmental safeguards and the design of the REDD + strategy with respect to impacts; however, the MGAS had yet to be completed.

Finally, within the framework of the additional donation, Component 2 will be financed with the objective of expanding MARN's technical capacity in soil, agriculture and forest management; as well as supporting the creation of a legal unit to address carbon rights and RE activities; and strengthen MARN's capabilities to reach agreements with the institutions and organizations that

implement RE, as well as increase their technical and legal knowledge. Specifically, the following activities will be financed:

· Support the creation of the legal structure in carbon rights and ER activities.

· Development of agreements with local institutions and organizations potentially involved in the implementation of the ER Program.

• Technical training (including legal issues) to encourage stakeholder participation in the ERPD.

Component 3: Forest Emissions Reference Level and Forest Reference Level

As explained in the ER-PIN of the Dominican Republic[18], the country's approach requires initiatives at the regional level to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, and efforts to improve carbon stocks, including sustainable forest management, reforestation and the establishment of agroforestry, silvopasture, coffee and cacao systems to encourage the creation of co-benefits for REDD+ activities. In this sense, the development of the REDD+ National Strategy and the Emissions Reduction Program Document (ER-PD) requires having the best and most accurate information possible to determine the country's emission reduction potential.

Among the first efforts for the development of the Forest Emissions Reference Level and the Forest Reference Level, the support that the Dominican Republic received support from the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), which allowed the development of a solid understanding of strengths and weaknesses regarding these topics, including the training of national personnel responsible for monitoring and reporting emissions reduction data, based on the relevant UNFCCC guidelines and the Good Practice Guidance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Thus, during a period of 4 years (from 2010 to 2014), the first phase or pre-sampling phase for the development of the National Forestry Inventory was carried out, with support from GIZ to quantify and qualify the existing forest variety.

In addition to this effort, in 2012, through Resolution No. 20/2012, an institutional structure called the Forest Monitoring Unit was established, which continues to solidify and strengthen.

The use and coverage maps produced by the Division of Environmental Information and Natural Resources of the Department of the Environment (DIARENA), with the support of the REDD/CCAD-GIZ program, represented a key tool to validate the maps corresponding to the 2000, 2005 and 2010 years, which were essential inputs in estimating the historical ER reference level.

[18]The ER-PIN was submitted in 2015 and is available at: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2015/September/Dominican%20Republic%20ER-PIN%20Final.pdf

Specifically, the 2014 use and coverage maps were produced with high resolution *RapidEye* images at 5 meter resolution as opposed to previous images that were produced using satellite images at 30 meter resolution. The preliminary sampling for the NFI and the carbon stock inventory was also produced with the support of the REDD/CADD-GIZ program. The tangible results of these efforts include the series of use and coverage maps and the updated National Forest Inventory.

In this way, the Dominican Republic managed to have a first version of reference levels. The baseline developed by GIZ was prepared by the Chilean Sud-Austral consultancy at the end of 2014. The baseline that was produced included the different types of forests and degraded forest areas to establish the baseline of emissions due to forest degradation. According to the calculations made, the resulting estimates are 15.6 mm of tCO2 for a maximum of 5 years, in accordance with the information provided in the progress report for the FCPF submitted in 2016.

Also, two training courses were held during the first four-month period of 2016 to help in the development of the MRV in the Dominican Republic with specific support from the UN-REDD Program. The central theme of these training courses was the strengthening of forest measurement and quality control capacities and the improvement of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GGI) process of the Land Use and Land Use Change Sector. From 2017 to 2018, during the REDD Readiness phase, basic studies were carried out to establish the Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) and the Forest Reference Level (FRL), such as the historical series of 2005, 2010 and 2015 land use and change of land use maps.

In addition, the Dominican Republic has made progress in the implementation of the second phase of the National Forest Inventory and the Non-Forest Coverage Inventory. This allows the quantification and characterization of the forest resources stock in the country, which in turn will be used to make the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) operational as part of the REDD+ National Strategy.

It is important to emphasize that the FCPF resources represent a driving force to complement and give continuity to the support received by GIZ. The effort made to calculate the reference level will allow compliance with the commitments made by the Dominican Republic to the UNFCCC.

In addition, the Government of the Dominican Republic, with the support of the World Bank, hired TerraPulse Inc. to estimate the activity data on deforestation, forest degradation and the increase in forest carbon stocks using the annual time series analysis from Landsat data. TerraPulse develops and applies data extraction and automatic learning algorithms to large volumes of satellite images to monitor deforestation and degradation based on the canopy cover. The process offers long-term mapping and monitoring consistent with forest cover and allows the recovery of historical satellite record reference lines, as well as the detection of deforestation, degradation and growth

over time. Thus, if this new cartographic product is duly validated, the activity data calculated from this product will be used in the recalculation of the reference levels in the final version of the ERPD.

Currently, and to include the respective information in the ERPD, the Reference Level Establishment, Estimate of Potential Emission Reductions/Increase of Pools and Basic Forest Emissions Monitoring System in the Dominican Republic study is underway. The main results expected from this study are the construction of the emissions reference level associated with REDD+, with structure and content according to IPCC guidelines and the FCPF methodological framework, in line with the chapters and sub-chapters of the ERPD, as well as the basic design of the forest measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system for REDD+ purposes.

It is important to remember that, in the case of the Dominican Republic, the Reference Level was established at the national level and includes the average emissions and removals produced in the conversion of forest to non-forest lands (deforestation) and the conversion to forest lands (increase of stocks) and the flow of carbon in lands that remain as forests, either due to forest degradation or to an increase in carbon stocks.

The reference period of the Dominican Republic is 2005-2015. This reference period is defined because, as mentioned above, the Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic developed a consistent series of use maps for the years 2005, 2010 and 2015. These maps were developed using the same methodology and they use the same classification algorithms, thus allowing obtaining a land use map according to the application of Focus 3 of the IPCC and all the significant sources and sinks were included: emissions from deforestation and degradation, as well as the removal of coal resulting from the recovery of crown cover in forest lands that remain as such and the removal of carbon in land converted to forest land. The carbon stocks that were selected and included in the reference levels were biomass above ground and underground biomass and, in the case of greenhouse gases, CO2 was included.

It should be noted that the construction of the reference level uses the following operational definition of Forest: "*Ecosystem natural or planted with biological diversity and enrichment of woody species, which produces goods, provides environmental and social services, whose minimum land area is 0.81 ha (3x3 pixels of 30m), with an arboreal canopy cover that exceeds 30% of said surface and trees or shrubs with potential to reach a minimum height of 5 meters at maturity in situ and 3 meters for dry forest. Agroforestry systems that meet these criteria are included in this definition.*"

The average historical emissions from deforestation, defined as the sum of the emissions corresponding to deforestation in each of the forest categories during the reference period, were calculated from the activity data (estimated from reference data obtained by systematic stratified sampling) and carbon densities. **The annual average emissions from deforestation for the 10-year reference period is 3,638,013 t CO2-e * year** $^{-1}$. In the case of increasing forest carbon stocks in lands

converted to forest lands, **the average of historical removals due to the improvement of carbon stocks in secondary forests and new areas of tree crops,** calculated as the sum of the removals divided for the number of years included in the reference period, it is -2,168,175 t CO2-e * year **year** $^{-1}$. For forest degradation and increase of forest carbon stocks in forests that remain as forests, **the average of historical emissions and removals in lands that remain as forests** was calculated as the sum of them divided by the number of years included in the period reference. The historical emission by degradation is 670,649.62 tCO2-e * year $^{-1}$. and the historical carbon removal is -1,128,805.96 tCO2-e * year -$^{-1}$.

The **Forest Reference Level** of the Dominican Republic is 1,011,681 $tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr. The following table shows the results of the historical emissions and removals calculations during the 2005-2015 reference period.

Year	Annual average of historical emissions due to deforestation during the reference period (tCO2-e / yr)	Annual average of historical emissions from forest degradation during the reference period (tCO2-e / yr)	Annual average of historical removals by source during the reference period (tCO2-e / yr)		Reference Level (tCO2-e / yr)
			Lands that remain as forest	Lands converted to forest	
1	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
2	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
3	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
4	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
5	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
6	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
7	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
8	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
9	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
10	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681
Promedio 2005-2015	3,638,013	670,649	(1,128,806)	(2,168,175)	1,011,681

Table 20. Historical emission and removal calculations during the 2005-2015 reference period

In the operative definition of forest of the ERPD, the minimum area of forest is greater (0.81 ha), forests with a canopy cover less than 30% are excluded, and forested agricultural crops are included as such. The operative definition of forest had to be adjusted according to i. the resolution of satellite images used in the construction of land use maps (Landsat 30x30 m); ii. Achieve an adequate separation of forest-non-forest use categories, and iii. The need to include in the reference level the carbon gains by increasing the area of wooded agricultural crops that occur during the implementation of the ERP.

The definitions of deforestation, degradation and reforestation considered in the estimation of the Reference Level are presented below:

· ***Definition of deforestation:*** human-induced elimination of forest canopy cover that exceeds the threshold of 30% canopy cover established in the forest definition. The elimination of coverage is long-term or permanent, and results in non-forest land use. Considering that cocoa, coffee and other fruit crops are included in forest lands, the estimate of emissions from deforestation includes the transitions of these crops to non-forest lands (woody vegetation and non-woody vegetation).

· ***Definition of degradation:*** human-induced elimination of forest canopy cover that does not reach the threshold of 30% canopy cover established in the forest definition. Canopy removal can be temporary and does not result in a change in land use. The estimation of carbon flux due to degradation is grossly estimated, considering separately losses (degradation) and gains (increase of reservoirs) of carbon stocks. Also, considering that cocoa, coffee and other fruit crops are included in the forest lands, the estimation of emissions and removals by degradation include the transitions from wooded crops to natural forest (wet, dry and pine) and vice versa.

· ***Definition of reforestation:*** Activities that lead to the conversion of non-forest lands to forest. It includes the re-establishment of forests with canopy cover greater than 30%, by natural and artificial means on deforested land. It also includes the establishment of agroforestry systems with tree cover greater than 30% on previously deforested lands.

According to the Third National Communication of the Dominican Republic for the UNFCCC, the greenhouse gas emissions from the following categories are considered in the AFOLU sector: domestic livestock: enteric fermentation and manure management; rice cultivation: rice fields flooded; prescribed burning of sheets; burning in the agricultural waste field; agricultural soils; forest lands; and burning of biomass in forest lands.

The Forest Lands include all lands with wood vegetation with the thresholds used to define the forest lands. The INGEI considers emissions and removals due to changes in biomass, dead organic matter and organic carbon in soil on forest land. To calculate the annual increase of carbon in the aerial biomass (tC year-1), the forest area in hectare (ha) is used for the emission factors presented by the IPCC 2006 guidelines, corresponding to each type of forest and vegetation what it contains The annual increase of the existence of carbon in the biomass, coming from the forest lands for Humid Tropical Forest, Mountain Systems and Dry Forest, is estimated. Regarding forest emissions, only emissions from the burning of biomass on forest land are considered

According to the above, the INGEI does not consider emissions from deforestation or forest degradation. Likewise, the increase in biomass is estimated both for forests that remain as such, and for secondary forests. This method includes emissions from deforestation (forest lands converted

into crops and pastures), and from degradation in lands that remain as forests. Abstractions are estimated separately on lands that remain as forests and on lands converted to forest lands.

The country has just presented its Third Communication to the UNFCCC and it reports forest emissions with a TIER 1 (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2018). At this moment the Ministry is developing through a GEF project the First Biennial Update Report of the Dominican Republic (fBUR). The development of fBUR does not contemplate the inclusion of the NREF of the Emissions Reduction Program. The process of harmonization of methodologies requires political approval to proceed with the transition from Tier 1 to Tier 2 of the ERRE NREF. To ensure consistency between the ERRE of the ER Program and the INGEI, the activity data and emission factors used in the NR will be applied in a manner consistent with those used for the estimation of the next INGEI.

Finally, it should be noted that in 2020 the Dominican Government is expected to present the NREF / NRF to the UNFCCC. To ensure consistency between the ERRE and the NREF / NRF, the latter will be developed based on the information presented in the ERPD.

Below are the results of the self-assessment by criterion for Component 3:

Component	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
3: Reference Levels	26	Methodolgy References	
	27	Historial Use of data, adjusted to the national circumstances	
	28	Technical viability of the methodological approach, and congruence with the orientation and guidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change / the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	

Table 21. Results of the self-assessment by criterion for Component 3

In the self-evaluation workshop, it was pointed out that within the framework of the progress of Component 3, an active work is being carried out at the forest reference level and a standardized methodology, and they were satisfied that the system leaves open the possibility of improvement and the data can be verified. . However, it is considered that the developed maps have a great opportunity for improvement to be more consistent.

Component 4: Forest monitoring safeguards systems

Subcomponent: 4a. National forest monitoring system

In accordance with the information provided in the FCPF progress report, submitted in August 2016, the Dominican Republic now has a Forest Monitoring Unit in operation. The monitoring unit was established in 2013 and has permanent personnel, as part of the Sub-Department of Forest Resources, and was the authority responsible for carrying out the pre-sampling phase of the national forest inventory.

As mentioned above, the Dominican Republic is implementing the second phase of the National Forest Inventory to quantify and characterize the forest resources stock in the country that will in turn serve as the basis for the implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MPV) as part of the REDD+ National Strategy. The pre-sampling phase of NFI culminated in a systematic and stratified design in which 1109 sampling units were selected from seven forest types (dry forest, broad-leaved humid forest, broad-leaved sub-humid forest, broad-leaved cloud forest, dense coniferous forest, scattered coniferous forest, mangroves).

In addition, a study on Land Use and Land Use Change is being carried out, the general objective of which is to analyze the changes in coverage and land use that took place between 2005, 2010 and 2015 in the Dominican Republic, using coverage maps derived from the interpretation of *Landsat* satellite images and classification processes, including Change Classes, to become familiar with and understand the dynamics of these processes of coverage change and land use change that are shaping Dominican territory. Its specific objectives include:

- Developing a vegetation coverage map for 2015 using Landsat images, with a classification of the forests, including secondary and degraded forests, non-forest areas (including coffee, cocoa, shrubs, annual crops and pastures), with a coverage index for interior scattered trees and hedges, reviewing and validating the 2005 and 2010 coverage maps so they can be compared.
- Developing ground use change maps and matrices for 2005 to 2010 and 2010 to 2015.
- Assessing the degree of certainty (uncertainty level) of the data used for the 2005, 2010 and 2015 coverage maps, and submitting the data to reliability assessment in each matter.
- Developing maps and matrices of mature forests and growing forests (secondary vegetation) for the years 2000-2005-2010-2015.

In this regard, it can be affirmed that the Dominican Republic is making progress in the design and establishment of the SNMF System and the MRV for REDD +. Greenhouse gas emissions will be estimated following the "stock difference approach", proposed by the IPCC report (2006). In the case of changes in carbon stocks in national territory, they will be calculated as the sum of the annual changes in the different reservoirs (above ground biomass and belowground biomass) for each of the change categories. In the same way that the Reference Level was estimated, in each monitoring event the activity data and the emission factors will be estimated. The same removal factors and carbon emission and removal factors will be used in forests that remain as forests. For the

determination of the activity data, the operative definition of Forest and the categories of change of use of the NRF will be used.

It should be noted that in the specific case of the ERPD, different arrangements are being made to operationalize the monitoring system. In this sense, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the designated national authority and focal point for climate change. The organizational structure of the ERP MMR is mainly made up of dependencies of the Ministry of the Environment: Directorate of Climate Change, Directorate of Environmental Information and Natural Resources (DIARENA), Forest Monitoring Unit (UMF), Directorate of Biodiversity and Wildlife and the Directorate of Social Participation. The following table presents the responsibilities and capabilities of each of these dependencies.

Monitoring function	Institution	Department	Technical team
Monitoring of emissions reduction (Forest Monitoring System)			
Official report of reduction of emissions before the Carbon Fund	The Ministry of Environment is the designated national authority and focal point for climate change	Coordinated by the Directorate of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment	Department of GHG (Review, coordination and presentation of the RE report to the Carbon Fund)
Publication of the information, protocols and maps generated in the monitoring system to estimate the reduction of forest emissions	Ministry of the Environment	Environmental Information System, creation of a REDD + subportal operated by DIARENA (technical manager)	1 technical specialist
An estimate of emission and removal factors (including control and assurance of quality and management and estimation of uncertainty)	Ministry of the Environment	Vice Ministry of Forest Resources, Forest Monitoring Unit Estimation of secondary forest growth rates, forest fires, management plans	Forest Monitoring Unit 2 forest specialists, strengthening is required (3 additional specialists). This team estimates forest emissions for each monitoring event.
An estimate of activity data (including control and assurance of quality and management and estimation of uncertainty)	Ministry of the Environment	DIARENA Generate activity data and estimate uncertainty, QA / QC Forest Monitoring Unit (UMF)	Technical Team (3 remote sensing specialists and GIS). Requires strengthening of the technical team, a diagnosis of needs is being made.
Participatory and community monitoring	Non-Governmental Environmental Organizations		Staff NGOs Communities: monitoring of hot spots jointly with UMF 1 technician designated as a Forest Monitoring liaison in 37 local offices, trained and equipped (instruments and equipment). (official letter from the Minister of the Environment)

Monitoreo de beneficios múltiples			
Biodiversity (threatened species of flora)	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of the Environment Directorate of Biodiversity and Wildlife	Monitoring programs in progress
Water (INDRHI monitoring system)	INDRHI		63 telemetric flow monitoring networks
Green Employment	Ministry of Environment	Coordination by the Social Participation Department	This requires institutional strengthening and the Ministry of Labor must include a statistician
Monitoring of safeguards			
Natural Habitat Forest *Involuntary resettlement* Cultural and Natural Resources *Local Communities*	Ministry of Environment	Monitoring Unit of the ERP.	Specialists from the Directorate of Social Participation 1 Social Specialist in charge of monitoring and monitoring the MGAS and MPRI Support from the Technical Advisory Committee

Table 22. Institutions responsible for the monitoring and reporting of the Emissions Reduction program

The procedures and institutional arrangements established for the MMR will serve as the basis for the design and establishment of the National Forestry Monitoring System, which will use the same methodologies, in effect the MRV system of the ERPD is based on the national forest monitoring system.

Below are the results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 4a:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
Forest monitoring system and information on safeguards	4a: National forest monitoring system	29	Documentation of the monitoring approach	
		30	Demonstration of early system execution	
		31	Mechanisms and institutional capacities	

Table 23. Results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 4a

Regarding the forest monitoring system, the participants in the self-evaluation workshop expressed that there is progress, however further work is needed on the consolidation and implementation of the system. Likewise, it was suggested to develop a digital platform for free access to information.

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

Regarding the issue of co-benefits, included as part of the REDD+ National Strategy is the strategic option to "Promote models of sustainable natural resource management that contribute to conservation, sustainable forest use and the increase of the forest coverage of the country." Within the lines of action of this option are the strengthening and expansion of the national agroforestry development program and the agricultural and livestock farm management program that incorporate agroforestry systems with high-yield products, especially in protected area buffer zones. Both lines of action will contribute to improving the livelihoods of rural communities and local producers through livestock and agroforestry production, which is clearly counted as a co-benefit.

The implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy in the Dominican Republic will be reflected in the ER Program, with the Carbon Fund, which is made up of initiatives explicitly established to promote sustainable development at the local level and which, therefore, are obliged to produce benefits beyond the mitigation of greenhouse gases. By being incorporated into national policies, the ER Program will be culturally appropriate, inclusive, and gender-focused, and will contribute to strengthening governance.

In this regard, the activities promoted by the ER Program will create a variety of socioeconomic and environmental benefits through the implementation of sustainable rural development practices.

Among the main benefits not related to carbon that are expected to emerge from the implementation of the ER Program are the following:

a) Social:

• Improving productivity and restoration of degraded land through climate-smart agriculture such as agroforestry (such as the case of cocoa and coffee producers);

• Improving agricultural productivity thanks to the protection and improvement of forests in water producing zones;

• Greater profitability for livestock production;

• Increasing local forest culture for commercial purposes;

• Improvement of household economies as a result of better forest management and conservation and sustainable agricultural and livestock production practices;

• Job creation through, for example, the establishment of community squads to carry out reforestation activities and manage forests once they have been established (as with the Quisqueya Verde program);

• Recognizing land ownership, given that some of the proposed REDD+ programs include components aimed at addressing this problem (such as the President's Agroforestry Project);

• Reduction of poverty as a consequence of the above; and

• Improvement of governance and institutional reinforcement.

b) Environmental:

• Conservation of biodiversity (including highly endemic species) and ecosystem services, including water cycle regulation, as a result of the strengthening of the Protected Natural Areas System and sustainable rural development practices that reduce deforestation and forest degradation and increase forest restoration.

• Rehabilitation of degraded land; and

• Land conservation through climate-smart agricultural practices.

The priority non-carbon benefits are currently being discussed and it is hoped that they will be defined in the coming months as part of the Benefit Sharing Plan consultation process.

Once identified, the priority non-carbon benefits will be monitored as part of the report presentation processes in the ER Program and national levels. Both the beneficiaries and the program must conduct a follow up of these benefits based on a series of indicators that will be developed and agreed upon by the national decision-making body on benefit sharing. This information will be supplemented as necessary with data from the Safeguards Information System and the Claim Response and Resolution Mechanism.

With regard to Safeguards, a consultation was established to design a Safeguards Information System (SIS) in the Dominican Republic. This measure consists in proposing and implementing a series of national institutional arrangements to provide information on the way in which safeguards are addressed and respected in the country during the implementation of its REDD+ actions. Within the framework of this consultation to date, a route map for the design of the SIS has been drafted, which defines the following steps:

1. Definition of the SIS objectives.
2. Identification of the SIS information requirements.
3. Identification of the SIS information sources.
4. Establishment of the SIS functions.
5. Identification/establishment of SIS institutional arrangements.

The development of a SIS is one of the three requirements related to the safeguards described in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is linked

to the delivery of results-based payments. [19]. Furthermore, it must provide information on compliance with World Bank Operational Policies applicable to the country.

Although there are no agreed instructions on how countries should establish a system to provide information on how safeguards are addressed and respected (commonly referred to as the Safeguards Information System or SIS), the Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed on some general guidelines on the subject. Namely, it should[20]: provide transparent and coherent information that is accessible by all stakeholders and regularly updated; be transparent and flexible to allow improvements over time; provide information on how all the safeguards referred to in appendix I of decision 1 / CP.16 are being addressed and respected; be directed by the government and implemented at the national level and build on existing systems, as appropriate.

The best practices of other countries emphasize that the SIS is more than a technological information platform (for example, a web page), and rather that the role of this web page is to serve as a tool for the dissemination of information to the relevant stakeholders.

Its scope of the SIS will be national, and its development will be iterative, progressively improving over time. The development of the SIS involves a process of examination, assessment and adaptation of the existing information systems and sources to meet the diverse safeguard notification needs of the country.

The objectives of the SIS in the Dominican Republic are the following:

a) **Inform national stakeholders.** One of the objectives of the SIS is to provide information that can be accessed by all relevant national stakeholders to demonstrate that the seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected during REDD+ implementation.

b) **Report to the UNFCCC.** The Dominican Republic intends to use the information compiled and managed by the SIS as the basis for the preparation of its information summary for the UNFCCC.

c) **Report to the FCPF.** The information compiled and managed by the SIS will be used to inform the FCPF with regard to the implementation of the ESMF and the UNFCCC safeguards.

The SIS will contain information associated with compliance with the UNFCCC Safeguards and the operational policies of the WB activated for the country, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Emissions Reduction Program and the Environmental and

[19] Resolution 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(d)
[20] UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 2

Social Management Plans (ESMP), Mechanism for Receiving Complaints, Grievances and Conflict Resolution (MQRC) and other additional information that may be deemed necessary.

During the REDD+ implementation process, a permanent monitoring of the operation of the SIS and its improvement will be developed, providing for a strengthening of the inter-institutional links with the authorities of the Implementing Bodies related to REDD+ programs and projects.

The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources and the different implementation bodies have technical personnel that perform the functions of gathering, analyzing and preparing various types of reports associated with program implementation, performance, achievement of goals, etc. Once the SIS is established, these personnel will be trained in the approach, principles, requirements, information management and operation of the same.

It is important to emphasize that during the REDD+ readiness phase, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources units have had equipment and systems strengthened. Also, the purchase of two servers specifically for REDD+ related information is planned for 2019.

As regards the SIS operational functions and institutional arrangements, it is expected that the SIS implementation phase will be carried out by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, through the Technical Implementation Unit. Progressively, it must operate at the national level with the support of the MARN regional offices, under the guidance of the institutional functions and arrangements necessary for the SIS, which are based on the establishment of inter-institutional agreements with REDD+ implementing bodies and bodies at the national level with the institutional competence to develop and monitor indicators related to REDD+ projects and programs through national information systems.

In this framework phase, the SIS will be coordinated by the REDD+ Coordination Office (RCO) located within the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. The institutional arrangements necessary for the SIS's operation are linked to the functions identified for its operability.

The functions of the SIS are closely related to the institutional arrangements, since the functions can be carried out by a single or multiple agencies/institutions. The basic functions considered for the Dominican Republic are:

a) ***Information gathering***: refers to the gathering of information from different sources in relation to the focus and scope of country-specific safeguards.

    - It is envisaged to use information collected by the SEs from the specific REDD + activities (through the existing projects and programs selected for REDD +) as the main source of information to respond to the reporting needs related to how they

will be addressed and respecting the safeguards. Stands that these for compliance must be supported by inter-institutional agreements for action in the framework of the implementation of the National REDD + Strategy between the OCR and the EE.

b) ***Information aggregation***: refers to the information grouping and processing exercise, since information could be received from different entities or sources.

- In order to collect the necessary information for the purposes of the SIS, the EEs responsible for the implementation of the specific REDD + activities will use specific report cards to report on compliance with the safeguards. Later the OCR will add them in a database or system.

c) ***Information analysis and interpretation:*** considers information processing, analysis and synthesis so it serves to inform the approach to and respect for the safeguards.

- This function will be carried out by OCR and the Technical Advisory Committee. It contemplates the treatment, analysis and synthesis of the information in a way that informs the approach and respect of the safeguards. To this end, the REDD + Coordination Office must have a specialist with experience in the issues related to each of the actions reported, it is essential that experts in the field who analyze, process and transform the information into concrete data for the taking of decisions.

d) ***Information dissemination:*** In accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines, the SIS "will provide transparent and coherent information to which all relevant stakeholders can access". This implies that SIS information will be disseminated both internally (at the national level) and externally (international reports) through the appropriate means (eg, online platform, meetings with relevant stakeholders, report or pro-actively generated periodic summaries). regular). The following is considered:

- Creating regular reports (annual) with information on how the REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected, considering the information from each REDD+ project and program implementation institution as applicable.
  - OCR will activate reporting to the UNFCCC and the World Bank and allow the online publication and update of the SIS website for the public and interested parties.

- Creating safeguard information summaries for the UNFCCC, and those that will be sent every four years together with the national communication (see Annex I with Fact Sheets to compile information on the implementation of UNFCCC safeguards and WB OPs applicable to the project).

- It should be noted that a period for observations and comments by civil society will be considered once the regular report is published on the SIS Website. The observations proposed by civil society will serve to improve the preparation of the subsequent reports.

- The SIS will provide information to the national statistics system managed by the National Statistical Office (ONE), as well as to other mechanisms for unification of public information services, such as the cases of the Access to Public Information System (SAIP) and the System 311 of Citizen Attention.

To the extent that progress is made in identifying the information sources required for the SIS, institutional arrangements will be necessary in spatial, temporal and thematic terms. These arrangements should be made flexible to improve the quality of information management and processing, under a country-wide engagement approach to information management. They should be aligned with the country's policy and strategy framework as the institutional arrangements are the foundation for success in fully reporting the progress made by the country in matters of REDD+ implementation and compliance.

Also, for the implementation of the SIS, in addition to the internal consultation with the executing entities and the national workshops with the various relevant actors, given that a good part of the identified data that will be reported is of a qualitative nature, a process will be carried out with the executing entities to establish quantitative parameters that facilitate greater information and understanding of compliance in the approach and respect of safeguards and operational policies for decision making.

During the first quarter of 2019, the Safeguard Information System (SIS) is in an advanced formulation and design process. The preliminary version of the SIS will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (CTA) in March 2019 and presented to key stakeholders for discussion and validation in April 2019 through regional workshops and a National Consultation and Validation Workshop (regional workshops and a National Consultation and Validation Workshop and a Workshop with the Technical Advisory Group) and a Workshop with the Technical Advisory Group (to validate and standardize the results of the National Workshop). The final version will include the recommendations and observations of the participants that can be attended.

However, for its operationalization, after the feedback by the relevant parties and its completion, it is necessary to specify the following actions:

1. Define the inter-institutional agreements between the OCR and the EEs of the specific REDD + activity, and include a section detailing the reporting responsibilities on compliance

with the safeguards, based on the institutional arrangements presented in this document. In addition to the responsibilities of the information to be compiled, the periodicity of the report must be defined.

2. Based on the proposal included in this document, prepare a database or computer system that allows performing the steps described in figures 2 and 3. One proposal would be to convert the report form (Annex 1) into a database , that allows each EE to add its information to the system electronically, and that this information is compiled electronically so that the OCR can receive it and analyze it at a national level with the CTA.

Define at the national level (OCR and CTA) who will be responsible for the SIS and compile / analyze the information that comes from the EE. Define who will be responsible for the database and who will be responsible for the analysis of the information. The selected persons should be trained on the MGAS and on the SIS and the use of the computer system.

4. Train EEs on the ESMF (applicable UNFCCC and OP safeguards of the WB) and the use of the SIS (to the EE user who will have to insert the relevant information). This would be linked to the training plan included in the ESMF, given that when relevant actors are trained in the implementation of the safeguards, it will be pertinent to train them on the compliance report of these safeguards.

Once the EN-REDD + and specific activities are implemented, pilot the SIS system with the EE.

Develop a SIS web page, where information can be provided to the public about REDD + and safeguards. Once the SIS is implemented, the information compiled at the national level may be published on this page in order to inform the parties about compliance with the safeguards.

Below are the results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 4b:

Component	Subcomponent	#	Criteria	Progress Evaluation
4: Forest monitoring system and information on safeguard	4b: Safeguards Information System	32	Identification of relevant aspects not related to carbon and social and environmental issues	
		33	Monitoring, reporting and information exchange	
		34	Mechanisms and institutional capacities	

Table 24. Results of the self-evaluation by criterion for subcomponent 4b

Regarding the progress made in subcomponent 4b, the participants recommended considering the preparation of the report on non-carbon benefits and regarding institutional mechanisms and capacities suggested to make a clear definition of responsibilities.

Finally, in order to continue advancing in the REDD + preparation process, it is important to highlight that in the framework of the additional donation, Component 4 (Subcomponents 4a and 4b.) Will be financed with the purpose of developing and improving the monitoring capacity (training and equipment) of interested public and private stakeholders to strengthen forest monitoring systems (including protected areas) and the Safeguards Information System, with greater participation of local organizations and other potential beneficiaries. It also includes the development of capacities for the Livestock and Dissemination Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to promoting climate-smart practices in the livestock sector and to monitor the carbon component in the non-forestry systems that will participate in the ERPD, as well as to support complementary acquisitions for the MRV system. Specifically, the activities to be financed between 2019 and 2020 with the additional donation are the following:

· Development of instruments for the MRV System, including the IT platform and the participation of local organizations, technical personnel of the Ministry of Environment, forestry and agroforestry entrepreneurs and other relevant organizations in forest carbon monitoring, joint benefits, technological platform of the System of Information on Safeguards (SIS) and the ERPD.
· Training organizations and possible local beneficiaries to generate information for the SIS, implement protocols and monitoring instruments; to monitor the permanent monitoring units, and to address environmental rights issues for the activities of the ERPD.
· Acquisition and installation of equipment for the measurement of 105 permanent units of forest sampling.
· Strengthening of local capacities for the protection of forests in the ERPD (prevention of fires and forest pests).
· Development of capacities for the monitoring and monitoring of the carbon component in non-forestry systems for those investment programs that will participate in ER programs.
· MRV forest - acquisitions to establish the MRV system

III. Next Steps

As part of the Dominican Republic's effort to continue advancing in its preparation for REDD +, the development of its National REDD + Strategy and its Emissions Reduction Program, an Annual Operational Program for the year 2019 is contemplated, in which the activities are established

Governance, Participation and Consultation, Creation of capacities to be carried out in the current year. Next, the table is presented in which the activities to be carried out are identified:

Activities Governance, Participation and Consultation, Capacity building	2019
Environmental and Social Management Framework for REDD +). MGAS Complaint and Conflict Resolution Mechanism, MQRC SIS VALIDATION National Workshop with local and regional representatives SESA workshops National Workshop TAC	April
National Safeguard Approach **VALIDATION** Workshop with extended TAC	May
Legal, institutional and compliance framework analysis for REDD safeguards **PRESENTATION RESULTS** Workshop with TAC	May
Environmental and Social Management Plan in the Prioritized Geographical Areas of REDD + Intervention in the Dominican Republic. **VALIDATION** 5 workshops 1 in each priority area + Workshops with each Executing Entity	March/April
Ownership of forest carbon and transfer of emission reduction certificates in the Dominican Republic REDD + focus on Land tenure PRESENTATION RESULTS TAC Workshop	June
Benefit Distribution Plan **QUERY** Workshops with beneficiary associations. by program and project Workshop with Extended TAC **VALIDATION** Workshop with expanded TAC and 3 Regional Workshops with representatives of beneficiary associations	May/June
Gender focus for REDD +. **QUERY** Focus groups: 1 per REDD + program and project and interview with 10 key actors. **Validation** workshop with TAC	Marche/April
Focus on Green Jobs **CONSULTATION** Workshop with executive committees **CONCLUDING PRESENTATION** Workshop with TAC	
Estrategia Nacional REDD+ **CONSULTATION** Strength analysis **VALIDATION** 3regional wrokshops: azua, Santiago, Santo Domingo. 8, 11-15 March **CONCLUDING PRESENTATION**	 Feb March May

Activities Governance, Participation and Consultation, Capacity building	2019
National launch	
ERPD Goals Estableshing a Reference Level, estimating the potential reduction of emissions/increase in reservoirs PRESENTATION RESULTS Extended TAC Workshop	May
Regular meetings of the TAC (4 / year)	Every 3 months for follow-up and according to need of topics or monthly products
Extraordinary work meetings of the Special Committees (5 / year per committee) Committees: Soil; Safeguards; Legal.	Every 3 months for follow-up and according to need of topics or monthly products
Governance for REDD + (meetings and strengthening of TMU communication flow with CD, TAC and Working Groups (Special Committees), meetings with local organizations with high incidence in REDD + work, preparation of summaries with relevant information for governance bodies).	
Coordination, collaboration and follow-up meetings with key institutions (Agriculture, MEPyD, IAD, Livestock, INDOCAFE, etc.) Creation of work teams by products: SIS, MQRC, Technology, PDB	1 month or according to the needs of the workplan
Development of agreements with the executing institutions in the RE Program: Definition Constituent elements Roles, Responsibilities, Decision Making, Work Methodology, Definition Goals, Priority zones and work areas	April/May
Capacity building Technical Staff	
Capacity strengthening plan Executing Entities for compliance with REDD + safeguards	April/ June
Formation of a national group of facilitators (multipliers) on Safeguards. Includes technical staff of the EE, Social Participation, Environmental Education, thematic Viceministeries, NGO and Academies (30 people)	May
Training to Executing Entities on Safeguards and REDD +	June/December
Technical Thematic Technical Training of the EE	June/December
Course in Forest Management and Restoration of Forest Landscapes. (include section on Safeguards)	June/December
Management of Protected Areas in the context of Climate Change. (include section on Safeguards)	June/December
Forest Management and Management of Protected Areas. (include section on Safeguards)	June/December

Activities Governance, Participation and Consultation, Capacity building	2019
Training on livestock compatible with climate change. (include section on Safeguards)	June/December
Strengthening local capacities for forest protection in the RE Program Equipment and Training on prevention of forest fires and affectation of the forest by pests and diseases. Technicians and creation of voluntary forest fire brigades	June/December
Training of national personnel responsible for the monitoring and reporting of data concerning emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in all calculations related to the establishment and updating of reference levels. **(MRV).** **Community monitoring and Co-benefits**	June/December
Enabling measures for putting into operation and continuity of the SIS Software Design for SIS WEB version · **Agreement with Executing Entities on the final version of the SIS:** interpretation of safeguards, indicators, sources, responsibilities, reports, etc. · Joint work of EE and REDD + technology teams · **Preparation of Manual for Administrators and Users** **Training on SIS:** Program and project managers, field technicians: What it is, Importance, Contents, Functions, Phases, Responsibilities, Instruments, collection, record, analysis, report, feedback **Training on technological management of the SIS:** requirements, components, feeding, maintenance, etc. **Training Local level: Regional, Provincial and Municipal Directors, technical personnel, etc .:** What is it, Importance, Contents, Functions, Phases, Responsibilities, Instruments, collection, registration, analysis, report, feedback. 5 priority areas	May/June
Training on MGAS and PMAS Program and project managers, field technicians: What it is, Importance, Contents, Functions, Phases, Responsibilities, Instruments, Measures, Implementation, record, analysis, report, feedback **Training on PMAS database management:** requirements, components, feeding, maintenance, etc. **Training Local level: Regional, Provincial and Municipal Directors, technical personnel, etc .:** What it is, Importance, Contents, Functions, Phases, Responsibilities, Measures, Instruments, record, analysis, report, feedback. 5 priority areas	May/June
Enabling measures for start-up and continuity of the MQRC: · Agreement with Executing Entities on the final version of the MQRC: What it is, importance, situations, applications, challenges, institutional arrangements, responsibilities, reports, etc. · Designation of focal point and joint work of EE and REDD + technology teams for installation and linkage with Green Line · Adaptation of the Green Line / MQRC and piloting of the MQRC · Survey Technological equipment EE Installation for internet facilities. · Preparation of Manual for Administrators and Users Training on MQRC: Central Level: Program and project managers, technicians, specialists: What it is, Importance, Functions, Management process and Responses, Responsibilities, Instruments, registration, report	May/June

Activities Governance, Participation and Consultation, Capacity building	2019
Training Local level: Regional, Provincial and Municipal Directors, technical personnel, etc .: What is it, Importance, Functions, Management process and Responses, Responsibilities, Instruments, registration, analysis, report, feedback. 5 priority areas	
Enabling measures for putting into operation and continuity of the Benefit Distribution Plan · Consultation with Associations and Federations of beneficiaries of the programs and Projects on PDB · Consultation with CTA · Creation of the PDB Governance Body · Definition of formula values for calculations Distribution of Benefits · Regulation, Policies, protocols, etc. for its funtionability · Contract Signature · Tracing **Training on PDB Central Level:** Program and project managers, technicians, specialists: What is it, Importance, Functions, Management process and Responses, Responsibilities, Instruments, record, analysis, report, feedback **Training on PDB Local level:** Regional, Provincial and Municipal Directors, technical personnel, etc.: What is it, Importance, Functions, Management process and Responses, Responsibilities, Instruments, record, analysis, report, feedback. 5 priority areas	March
Actions to strengthen local organizations and / or beneficiaries that will participate in the ER Program. By Priority Areas and Programs and Projects Agreements of the EE with the Associations and Federations of Beneficiaries for participation in RDD + (Signature of individual Agreements or by Association) Elaboration of Joint Work Plan EE / Ofic. Coord. REDD + / Associations and Federations	July/December
Dissemination and dissemination to key stakeholders **Elaboration of informative / educational material** **Training of key actors Local governance / Training of Governance bodies** · Participate in REDD + Governance Mechanisms · Participate individually or as a group in REDD +: What is it, importance, benefits, requirements, etc. · REDD +, Forests, Climate Change, · Safeguards, MQRC, SIS, MRV · PDB **Follow-up to the work of the EEs with the governance bodies and REDD + issues**	July/December
Promotion and Technical Training in REDD + technical solutions (standard actions) Field Days with sectors: Livestock, Coffee and Cacao and Forestry (5 days of field).	July/December

Table 25. Activities to be carried out according to POA 2019

IV. List of Annexes

1. Methodology and procedure for participatory evaluation of the REDD + readiness process
2. Table of Participants UTG Meetings
3. List of concerns arising from the participation process
4. Risks and environmental and social impacts of the implementation of strategic options
5. Prioritization of the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and degradation
6. Barriers to Strategic Options
7. Strategic Options and Priority Actions
8. Identification about the possible positive and negative impacts of the action strategies
9. Strategic Options Dominican Republic
10. Progress in the construction of the National Safeguard Approach
11. Agenda of the workshop R-Package 4 and 5 October 2018
12. Adaptation of questions and evaluation criteria
13. List of Participants Workshop for the participatory evaluation of REDD + readiness
14. Results of the National Participatory Evaluation