

Benefit Sharing Plan: Final Version

Dominican Republic

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

JANUARY 2022

Benefit Sharing Plan for the Dominican Republic's National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+ Program)

Table of Contents

| | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION..... | 9 |
| 3.2 | Brief Introduction to the Reducing Emissions from Forest Deforestation and Degradation Program (REDD+ Program) | 9 |
| 3.3 | General Considerations of the Benefit Sharing Plan | 12 |
| 3.4 | Principles of the Benefit Sharing Plan | 13 |
| 3.5 | Legal basis of the Benefit Sharing Plan..... | 13 |
| 3.6 | Document Structure..... | 17 |
| 2. | BENEFITS OF THE REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) PROGRAM | 19 |
| | 2.1.1 Operational and transactional costs | 21 |
| | 2.1.2 Contingency Fund | 23 |
| 3. | TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENEFIT SHARING | 24 |
| 3.1 | Types of beneficiaries..... | 24 |
| | 3.1.1 General Guidelines..... | 31 |
| | 3.1.2 Identification of potential beneficiaries | 31 |
| | 3.1.3 Provision of information to potential beneficiaries..... | 31 |
| | 3.1.4 Agreements between the REDD+ Coordination Office and the Executing Entities | 32 |
| | 3.1.5 REDD+ Initiative Registry | 32 |
| | 3.1.6 Monitoring of REDD+ activities | 33 |
| | 3.1.7 Review of beneficiary reports | 33 |
| | 3.1.8 Presentation of EE performance reports..... | 33 |
| | 3.1.9 Monitoring the BSP Application..... | 34 |
| | 3.1.10 Reporting on Benefit Sharing | 34 |
| | 3.1.11 Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework– FGRM | 34 |
| | 3.1.12 Transparency | 34 |
| 4. | CRITERIA AND SCENARIOS FOR BENEFIT SHARING..... | 35 |
| 4.1. | Benefit Sharing Criteria | 35 |
| 4.2. | Sharing Scenarios..... | 40 |
| | 4.2.1 Scenario 1 | 40 |
| | 4.2.2 Scenario 2 | 40 |
| | 4.2.3 Scenario 3 | 41 |
| 5. | BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHARING OF BENEFITS..... | 42 |
| 5.1. | Flow of funds to beneficiaries and decision-making processes for benefit sharing..... | 42 |
| | 5.1.1 Benefit sharing within EEs (Level 2 Sharing of Benefits)..... | 44 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 5.1.2 Benefit sharing among beneficiaries (Level 3 Sharing of Benefits) | 44 |
| 5.2. Institutional arrangements and procedures for the sharing of benefits | 45 |
| 5.2.1 Procedures prior to benefit sharing | 45 |
| 5.2.2 Procedures during and after the benefit distribution | 46 |
| 5.2.3 Expected timeline for the sharing of benefits | 53 |
| 5.2.4 Update of the Benefit Sharing Plan | 53 |
| 6. SAFEGUARDS | 54 |
| 6.1. Institutional provisions for the application of the ESMF | 55 |
| 7. MONITORING | 58 |
| 7.1. Monitoring performance | 58 |
| 7.2. Monitoring safeguards compliance | 58 |
| 7.2.1 Safeguards Information System – SIS | 58 |
| 7.2.2 Functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS | 59 |
| 7.2.3 Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism – (FGRM) | 60 |
| 8. CONSULTATIONS | 63 |
| 9. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN | 67 |
| 10. Annexes | 68 |

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| ASODEFOREST | Forest Development Association from the Municipality of Restauración |
| BC | Beneficiary Committee |
| BSP | Benefit Sharing Plan |
| CF | Carbon Fund |
| CONALECHE | Consejo Nacional para la Reglamentación y Fomento de la Industria Lechera |
| CRESER | Centro Regional de Estudios y Servicios |
| CO2 | Carbon Dioxide |
| CSO | Civil Society Organizations |
| DB | Data Base |
| DIGEGA | General Directorate of Livestock |
| EE | Executing Entity |
| ENS | Enfoque Nacional de Salvaguardas (National Safeguards Approach) |
| ENREDD+ | National REDD+ Strategy |
| ER | Emission Reduction |
| ERPA | Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement |
| ERPD | Emission Reductions Program Document |
| ESMF | Environmental and Social Management Framework |
| ESMP | Environmental and Social Management Plan |
| FCPF | Forest Carbon Partnership Facility |
| FM | Financial Management |
| FREL | Forest Reference Emissions Level |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GoDR | Government of the Dominican Republic |
| FGRM | Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework |
| INDOCAFE | Dominican Institute of Coffee |
| MARN | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources |
| MEPyD | Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoF | Ministry of Finance |
| MRV | Measurement, Reporting and Verification |
| NBSC | National Benefit Sharing Committee |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NSA | National Safeguards Approach |
| OCR | REDD+ Coordination Office |
| OP | Operational Policy |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PES | Payment for Environmental Services |
| POM | Project Operational Manual |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from Forest Deforestation and Degradation |
| RL | Reference Level |
| SESA | Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment |
| SINAP | National Protected Area System (SINAP for its acronym in Spanish) |
| SIS | Safeguards Information System |
| TAC | Technical Advisory Committee |
| tCO ₂ eq | Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| US\$ | United States Dollars |
| UTEPDA | Unidad Técnica Ejecutora de Proyectos de Desarrollo Agroforestal |

Glossary

REDD+ activities: activities implemented under the REDD+ Program through selected Executing Entities.

Emission Reduction Payment Agreement: (ERPA): refers to the agreement signed between the Dominican Republic and the World Bank, on behalf of the Carbon Fund, for the transaction of five (5) million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) during the 2021-2025 period.

Inter-institutional Agreement: Document through which the Executing Entities reaffirm their institutional obligations and responsibilities necessary for the implementation and achievement of the REDD+ Program goals. Specifically, this agreement sets out and formalizes the functions, requirements and procedures that the Executing Entities must comply with to carry out specific emissions-reducing actions, in accordance with the guidelines of the Environmental and Social Management Framework of the REDD+ Program, the guidelines of the Benefit Sharing Plan of the program, and the guidelines established for submitting follow-up reports on REDD+ activities.

Emission Reductions Title Transfer Agreement: Document through which the Executing Entities participating in the REDD+ Program formalize the transfer of ownership and rights over the verified emission reductions resulting from the execution and implementation of field activities or REDD+ actions, developed and carried out by the different federations, associations, organized groups of producers, or individual producers that integrate or group them, thus allowing the Executing Entity to distribute, among its beneficiaries and groups of beneficiaries, the compensations, retributions or benefits in proportion to the emission reductions assigned or transferred by its beneficiaries.

Area: The area of the "Land" where REDD+ activities are implemented. A property may have up to two REDD+ Activities registered in the REDD+ Initiatives Registry.

REDD+ Program Priority Areas: regions with a greater tendency to deforestation and forest degradation strategically prioritized for REDD+ Program implementation.

Carbon benefits: are the monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from the income of the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement, which are obtained from the results-based payments generated by the REDDP, based on the Emission Reductions verified by the Carbon Fund.

Gross ERPA benefits: is the total results-based payments that the country would receive from the World Bank (on behalf of the Carbon Fund) in exchange for the net verified emission reductions generated from the implementation of the REDD+ Program, in accordance with the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement.

Monetary benefits: are the "*Carbon-Associated Benefits*" shared in the form of cash transfers to the beneficiaries of the REDD+ Program, in accordance with the decisions of the Beneficiary Committees and the approval of the National Benefit Distribution Committee.

Net Profit: is the portion of profit after deducting from "*Gross Profit*" the following categories: (i) the operational and transactional costs described in the BSP, and (ii) the amount previously allocated to finance the Contingency Fund. The net profits correspond to the amount that will be distributed as monetary and non-monetary benefits among the beneficiaries of the REDD+ Program.

Non-monetary benefits: these are the "*Carbon-Associated Benefits*" that are distributed in kind to the beneficiaries of the REDD+ Program in accordance with the decisions of the Beneficiary Committees.

Non-carbon benefits/co-benefits: According to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, non-carbon benefits correspond to any benefits produced by or in connection with the implementation and operation of an Emission Reduction Program, other than "*Carbon-Associated Benefits*".

Beneficiaries: refers to individuals and groups (e.g., associations, federations, and cooperatives) of individuals eligible to receive benefits from results-based payments from ERPA income, having fully complied, including evidence, with the applicable participation requirements and commitments made to the EE in the context of the REDD+ Program during the results period.

Assignment of Title Transfer: Document through which each beneficiary that wishes to participate in the REDD+ Program declares and agrees to assign and transfer title of the emission reductions derived from the execution or implementation of the field activities or "REDD+ actions" in the property(ies) described in said document, and in exchange for which such beneficiary will receive compensation, retribution or benefit in proportion to the emission reductions assigned or transferred. The beneficiary agrees to attach to the assignment document the following documents, which shall form an integral part thereof, namely: a) Copy of the beneficiary's identity document, b) Copy of the identity document of the designated co-beneficiary, c) Cartographic map or cadastral plan of the property or parcel, d) Copy of the title to the property, in case of being the owner, e) Notarized Affidavit of Possession, in case of being the possessor.

Transaction Costs: correspond to those expenses associated with the transfer of benefits through the different channels required for the execution of the Benefit Sharing Plan, as well as expenses associated with the legalization of the agreements necessary for the operation of the REDD+ Program.

Operating costs: expenses of the REDD+ Coordinating Office and the Executing Entities related to technical support, administrative management, financial management of the REDD+ Program and the Benefit Sharing Plan, including the operation and maintenance of the system for the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification of emission reductions, the Grievance Redress & Conflict Management Mechanism System and the Safeguards Information System.

Benefit Distribution: is the distribution results-based payments obtained by the country from the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement among previously registered beneficiaries, in accordance with the Benefit Sharing Plan.

Greenhouse Gases: The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The REDD+ Program seeks to remove or reduce CO₂ emissions.

Executing Entities: Public and private entities previously selected to implement "REDD+ Activities" under the REDD+ Program.

Contingency Fund: is a mechanism of the Benefit Distribution Plan created to manage the performance risks of the REDD+ Program, guaranteeing the payment of benefits in periods when emission reductions are lower than expected due to events beyond the control of the beneficiaries, such as the effects of a natural catastrophe. The fund is financed with a pre-determined percentage (5%) of the "Gross Benefits" of the "Emission Reductions Payments Agreement".

Environmental and Social Management Framework: operational instrument of mandatory compliance that establishes the principles, guidelines and procedures to address, avoid, and minimize risks and adverse impacts associated with the implementation of projects, activities, policies or regulations related to the implementation of the REDD+ Program and comply with national and international regulatory guidelines agreed for REDD+.

Carbon Fund Methodological Framework: is the set of rules and procedures that Emission Reduction Programs included in the Carbon Fund must follow in order to claim payments for emission reductions in the forestry sector.

Reference Level: refers to the average net emissions (emissions and removals) in tons of CO₂e estimated in the January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2015 reference period. reference period

"Reference Level" means a scenario that reasonably represents the volume of emissions from the REDD+ Program consideration area against which emission reductions are compared, reported, and verified in accordance with the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework.

Reporting Period: the number of years covered by each monitoring and reporting period of the REDD+ Program. Under the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement there are three reporting periods. The first covers the period 1 March 2021-31 December 2021. The second covers January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. And the third one from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. There may be an interim payment option in December 2022, as defined in the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement.

Environmental and Social Management Plan: mandatory operational instrument that identifies the mitigation measures associated with the potential impacts identified for each "REDD+ type activity" and defines the framework for the application and supervision of environmental and social impacts throughout the implementation of the activity.

World Bank Operational Policies: refers to the principles and procedures established by the World Bank to identify, avoid, and minimize harm to people and the environment involved in the projects and programs it finances. The Carbon Fund requires the country to address and report on the management of environmental and social risks previously identified in the Environmental and Social Management Framework, in order to receive payments for "Emission Reduction Payments Agreement" results.

Property: area of land (parcel of land) with property title or affidavit of possession, registered in the REDD+ Initiatives Registry.

Emission Reduction: is the reduction or removal of greenhouse gases through the implementation of REDD+ activities, whose impact is measured at the national level in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and compared to the "Reference Level" previously defined for the REDD+ Program.

Net Emission Reductions: refers to previously verified transferable¹ emission reductions for the reporting period.

REDD+ Initiatives Registry: is a centralized national system for the registration, monitoring and management of all emission reduction initiatives within the scope of the REDD+ Program. The registry seeks to (i) provide support to avoid double counting at the time of transfer and commercialization, and (ii) support the sharing of benefits from the REDD+ Program.

Uncertainty reserve: according to the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework, an amount of the verified Reduced Emissions generated must be set aside to be deposited in the Carbon Fund Reserve. This reserve reflects the level of uncertainty associated with the estimation of ERs during the ERPA Term. These ERs will not be traded or transferred during the ERPA Term unless expressly provided otherwise in the Methodological Framework.

Reversion Reserve: in accordance with the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework an amount of the Reduced Emissions generated and verified under the ER Program must be set aside to be deposited in the ER Program Carbon Fund Reserve based on a Reversion risk assessment. These ERs will not be traded or transferred during the ERPA Term unless expressly provided otherwise in the methodological framework.

Convention safeguards: refers to the environmental and social safeguards of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

¹ After the Carbon Fund's reversionary and uncertainty buffer" discounts, according to the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework

1. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Brief Introduction to the Reducing Emissions from Forest Deforestation and Degradation Program (REDD+ Program)

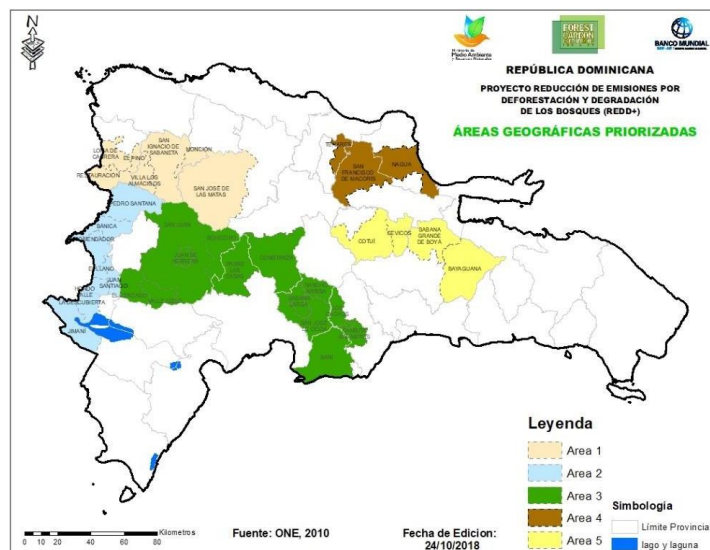
1. The Dominican Republic's national Emissions Reductions Program (REDD Program) is a national program designed by the Government of the Dominican Republic (GoDR) through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN due to its acronym in Spanish). The REDD+ Program aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) by implementing strategic actions that boost the regeneration of forest cover in degraded areas and promoting the sustainable management of forests and the creation of agroforestry systems for coffee, cocoa and silvopastoral systems.
2. The goal of the REDD+ Program is to reduce emissions from the sector by 4,735,129 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)²². With the REDD+ Program, the GoDR seeks to improve the quality of life in rural Dominican communities and to increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change. With this set of strategic actions, the Dominican Republic (DR) seeks to become a net carbon reservoir of the Forestry sector. The GoDR considers the REDD+ Program a key instrument for increasing the flow of funds to the environmental sector, promoting the implementation of practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, strengthening the national REDD+ agenda, and responding to the commitments made by the country before the international community.
3. Changes in land use in the DR are mainly explained by the development of the agri-food sector. Considered one of country's engines of growth, the agricultural sector includes agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fishing activities. This sector contributed to 5.6 percent of the national GDP in 2017³. Slash and burn agriculture, and extensive livestock production practices in upper watersheds have been identified as the main direct activities driving deforestation in recent years. Wildfires, mining, pests and diseases, infrastructure (including urban, road and tourism infrastructure) have also been identified as important drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Weak forest management institutions, the absence of an adequate regulatory framework for the forest sector, transboundary migration pressure and poverty constitute the main underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation. Table A.2.1. in Annex 2 lists the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the proposed interventions to address them.
4. The DR is simultaneously going through a REDD+ Readiness Preparation process and implementing the REDD+ Program. As part of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process, the GoDR is developing a National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+ per its acronym in Spanish). ENREDD+ includes a set of mitigation and adaptation measures that will contribute to reducing deforestation and forest degradation and promote productivity of the forest sector. The ENREDD+ is being developed by the Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of the Environment based on the results of several analytical studies funded by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant. The REDD+ Program is expected to become the first step towards implementing the ENREDD+. REDD Program activities are based on three strategic pillars comprising 22 strategic actions:
 - a) Strengthening of the legal and institutional framework and enforcement of the law, for the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources.
 - b) Establishing, strengthening, and applying public policies to limit and/or contain the expansion of the agricultural and cattle ranching frontiers and infrastructure into forest areas.

² Central Intelligence Agency (2019), "Dominican Republic", *The World Factbook*.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dr.html>.

³ GoDR will pursue selling initially 5 million tCO₂e on the Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement

- c) Promoting natural resource management models that contribute to sustainable and productive uses, including the growth of local and small and medium forest enterprises, as well as the conservation of forests.
5. Whereas pillars a) and b) include strategic actions aimed at strengthening the environment favorable to the implementation of REDD+ Program; pillar c) refers to strategic actions and training programs that promote sustainable forest management. More specifically, pillar a) groups activities targeting collaboration with institutions to improve the existing legal frameworks that do not promote the emissions reduction or act as a perverse incentive that expands deforestation. It also aims at establishing the appropriate enforcement mechanisms to counteract deforestation and forest degradation. Activities grouped in pillar b) include establishing areas for sustainable forest management, and the zoning of areas for agricultural and livestock production compatible with forest conservation. Actions grouped in component c) will promote sustainable forest conservation and management, as well as the establishment of sustainable productive systems based on agroforestry and sustainable livestock farming. The first two strategic options or pillars will generate legal and institutional conditions to meet the established reduction goals, while the third includes actions to be carried out in the field through successful plans, programs and projects being developed in the country. Annex 3 contains a detailed list of the different strategic actions per each strategic option under the REDD Program.
6. REDD+ activities will be implemented through various public and private entities including government agencies such as the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture or the private sector such as San Ramón Foresters Association referred to as Executing Entities (EEs) in this document. REDD+ activities are linked to EE plans, projects and programs. EEs will sign an inter-institutional agreement with the Ministry of the Environment to comply with the conditions stipulated in the REDD+ Program and in this document, following which participating EEs will be registered. EEs identified to date include the following: (a) Vice-Ministries of Forest Resources, Protected Areas and Biodiversity, (b) the Technical Implementing Unit of the Presidency for Agroforestry Development Projects (UTEFDA), (c) the Cocoa Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, (d) Dominican Coffee Institute (INDOCAFÉ), (e) General Livestock Directorate (DIGEGA) / the National Board for Regulation and Development of the Milk Industry (CONALECHE), (f) San Ramón Foresters Association, and (g) the Sustainable Forest Development Association from the Municipality of Restauracion (ASODEFOREST)³.
7. **The REDD Program area comprises the entire national territory, with the exception of some small islands, keys and islets with no forest cover.** The DR is located in the Caribbean Sea on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti. The REDD+ Program has national coverage with the exception of some small islands and islets. The country occupies an area of 48,198 km² (4,819,800 ha), of which 47,733 km² correspond to the Program's accounting area (Annex 1). To distinguish the regions with the greater propensity to deforestation and forest degradation, five strategically important priority areas were identified due to the presence of river basins and human populations that could benefit from forest ecosystem services. Areas with high deforestation and forest degradation rates were identified using statistical spatial models that employ geographic and socio-economic variables (Annex 2), among other key variables such as distances to roads, markets, protected areas and correlations to past deforestation and forest degradation rates, resulting from the 2005 and 2015 land-use maps. Clear identification of prioritized areas (vulnerable areas) allowed the GoDR to focus efforts and the implement REDD+ activities in areas with high potential for GHG emissions. The detailed description of the methodology used to calculate deforestation and degradation scenarios and outcomes of these forecasts is represented on the maps and data tables available in Chapter 4.1 of the ERPD. The following figure shows the priority areas (divisions at the municipal level) where REDD+ Program efforts and activities will be focused.

Figure 1. Geographic areas prioritized in the REDD+ Program

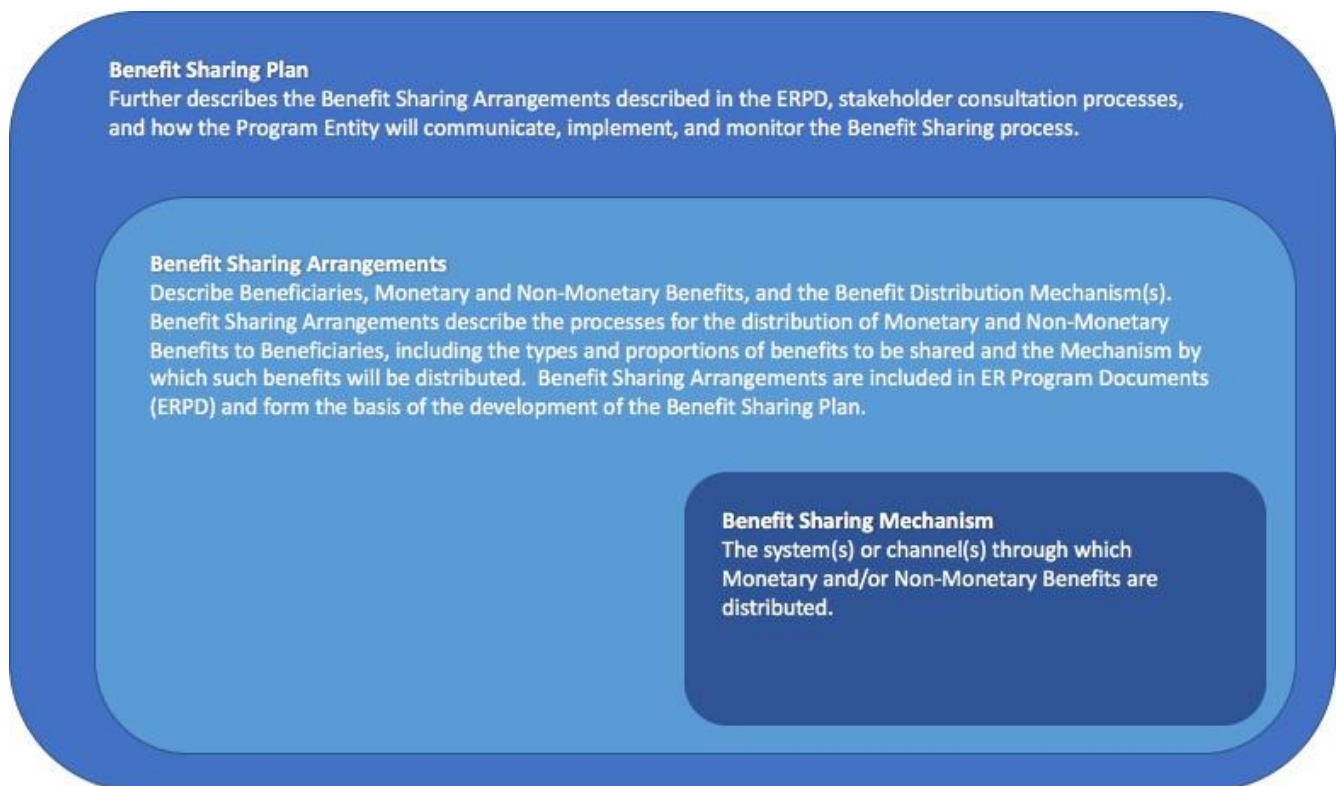


8. **Implementation of the REDD+ Program will cover a five-year period from 2021 to 2025.** The REDD+ Program implementation period is the period during which the country will receive payments from the World Bank for the sale of verified emissions reductions (ERs). The ERPA was signed on 1 March 2021. Monitoring events and respective payments (i.e., disbursements) against verified emission reductions and removals results are expected to occur in 2022, 2024 and 2025. Results-based payments would be received by the Dominican Republic around 6-8 months following each ER verification.
9. **The reference period of the REDD+ Program is 2006-2015 and the Reference Level (RL) of the Program is of 6,321,442 tCO₂e ERs.** The RL includes emissions from deforestation, degradation, and absorption from enhancement of carbon stocks resulting from afforestation/reforestation activities. Reducing uncertainties, the expected volume of ERs is of 4.74 million tCO₂e. Confident that the implementation of the REDD+ Program will produce a slightly higher number of ERs, the sale of 5 million tCO₂e to the Carbon Fund (CF) was negotiated in the ERPA. The payment for ERs will be based on ERs achieved against a RL (Annex 4). Any adjustment or improvement to the RL must follow the current guidelines of the Methodological Framework.
10. **The REDD+ Program is built on broad participatory process that includes the participation of different stakeholders.** Key stakeholders that participated of the design of the REDD+ Program and are expected to contribute to its implementation include: public sector agencies (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD), Ministry of Finance, the Department of Cocoa of the Ministry of Agriculture, the General Livestock Directorate, UTEPDA, CONALECHE, INDOCAFÉ, representatives from the private sector such as ADODEFORST, San Ramón Foresters Association, Los Botados Organic Producers Association (APROGLOBO), academia and research institutions (Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Universidad ISA) and the civil society (Cibao Ecological Association, CRESER – Regional Center for Studies and Services), the Loma Quita Espuela Foundation, Sur Futuro Foundation, SOH Conservación, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Dominican Institute of Agricultural for Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF), Dominican Cocoa Producers National Confederation (CONACADO), the Federation of Cocoa and Agricultural Producers for the Development of San Juan (FECADESJ). To guide, raise awareness and train on forest and climate change relationship, present the REDD+ Program, the Information and Safeguards System (SIS), the Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework (FGRM) and the Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP), in 2021, 76 activities such as meetings, gatherings and workshops were held for a total participation of 1,035 people, 84% of which were men and 16% women. Meetings specific to the BSP totaled 19 regional and national workshops to address items such as types of beneficiary and definition, decision-making bodies, criteria and possible benefit sharing criteria and modalities.

3.2 General Considerations of the Benefit Sharing Plan

11. The delivery of 5 million of measured, reported, and verified ERs of tCO₂e to the Carbon Fund (CF) is expected to translate in the pay up of USD 25 million. The preparation of a Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) is important to ensure that the payments resulting from the implementation of the Program are distributed in a transparent and equitable manner among the different actors who will carry out efforts conducive to achieving the REDD+ Program's emissions reduction goal. In this regard, it is expected that the payments received can be used to finance activities that address the identified causes of deforestation and promote carbon sequestration, thus generating additional emission reductions. The BSP specifically expects:
- Individuals and families, small and medium forest producers, individual farmers or associates to receive the **most significant part**⁴ of the ERPA's benefits, since they are the actors whose activities will generate the ERs.
 - The benefits obtained should reward the **efforts** to reduce emissions and/or increase carbon sequestration with respect to the reference level.
12. Taking the above into account, this document seeks to clearly define the principles, and provide the general guidelines governing the institutional arrangements and mechanisms that the REDD+ Program will use to distribute benefits (Figure 2). This BSP will be accompanied by the Project's Operations Manual (POM) that will include specific procedures to set up the benefit sharing governing bodies that will be created for this purpose, i.e., the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC) and Beneficiary Committee (BC), as well as specific guidelines regarding the monitoring of the performance of EE REDD+ activities, and reporting to the Ministry of the Environment, and the verification of the reports of the Ministry of the Environment.

Figure 2. Description of the Benefit Sharing Plan, Benefit Sharing Arrangements, and Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the distribution of benefits and the relationship between each



⁴ 70% of the net payments for results obtained starting with the ERPA.

3.3 Principles of the Benefit Sharing Plan

13. This BSP has been designed in accordance with the implementation approach of the DR's REDD+ Program, considering the applicable legal framework, the country's available institutional and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) capabilities; and compliance with the social and environmental safeguards of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Bank Operational Policies. The BSP is governed by the following principles:

- **Justice and equity:** the BSP will reward beneficiaries according to their contribution to the achievement of GHG mitigation results and incentivize participation (particularly that of women, youth, and vulnerable groups). In addition, it will establish decision-making bodies with the participation of all involved actors to ensure a fair benefit distribution process.
- **Transparency:** the BSP will contain measures to ensure that its operation is transparent as well as accountable, making it mandatory to publish all information on how decisions have been made for the distribution and transfer of resources to beneficiaries and all the benefits generated by the REDD+ Program. Benefit sharing arrangements have been designed to be simple and easy to understand.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** the BSP will be based on existing institutions and capacities to minimize transaction costs and maximize the number of benefits that will reach the developers of REDD+ activities.
- **Solidarity:** the BSP will explicitly recognize that attaining results-based payments will depend on the joint responsibility of all actors involved and will, therefore, contain measures to ensure the proper performance of each and to provide solidarity incentives for those whose performance have been negatively affected by catastrophic events.
- **Continuous improvement:** the BSP will be reviewed periodically as required to improve benefit sharing, taking into account, for example, improvements to the MRV System and the capabilities of the EEs to collect and process data, while taking advantage of lessons learned from the implementation of the Plan.

3.4 Legal basis of the Benefit Sharing Plan

14. This Benefit Sharing Plan was designed based on: (a) the land tenure regime and the current legal instruments that allow for recognition of ownership, and (b) the legal system for natural resources conservation compensation mechanisms and the legal instruments and provisions for the transfer of carbon and/or ERs in the Dominican Republic.

a. Land tenure regime and legal instruments for the recognition of property

15. Formal property rights in the Dominican Republic are based on private documentation and registration. On the contrary, untitled rights are characterized, in principle, by the possession or material apprehension of property. Currently, material apprehension of property is an initial fact that serves the basis for acquiring land by acquisition or usurpation, provided that the characteristics and requirements required by law are met; this is distinguished from the right of ownership and can be held independently from it. Generally, the most common form of making that right visible is materially possessing the property (living in the property or making use of it). For lands rights to be recognized for those with untitled lands rights, an individual must comply with the conditions and requirements set out in Article 2228 of the Dominican Civil Code and Article 21 of Property Registration Law No. 108-05.

16. Land tenure regime constitutes an important aspect in determining land use. However, informal tenure in the DR does not represent an obstacle for the recognition of benefits derived from ERs.

17. Apart from the legal provisions set forth above, there are recognized and adopted customary practices that establish the formal ownership rights registration system. These mainly involve the informal occupation of land, whether rural or urban, by individuals who do not have access to the land by means of conventional legal procedures or are in a discontinued or expired phase of the consolidation process established by law.
 18. De facto possession of land can be acknowledged by demonstrating occupation by generations of occupant families, provided it can be documented by any means of evidence recognized by the country's legal system⁵. For this purpose, the REDD+ Program does not contemplate different approaches for each type of tenure (formal or informal). Customary practices and requirements established for the legitimization of informal landholders will allow for the recognition of rights over land use, permitting the participation of beneficiaries implementing REDD+ activities regardless of land tenure.
- b. Legal system for natural resources conservation compensation mechanisms, and legal instruments and provisions for the transfer of carbon rights and/or Emissions Reductions.**
19. Currently the DR does not have any specific legal provisions on the system of property and transfer of forest carbon and emission reductions. There are provisions, however, that could provide clarity for determining this right, applying by analogy the principles and concepts of the traditional property rights system and the instruments and legal provisions that recognize the different environmental services offered by natural resources.
 20. To tackle the ability of the country to transfer emissions reductions titles, the application of common law provisions relating to formal ownership and the forms of recognizing informal tenure adopted by customary law are considered. In this regard, a scheme of rights to carbon or emission reductions is established based on the generation of an environmental service (carbon capture) instead of linking it to formal tenure rights, thereby allowing most small farmers and informal landholders to also access the distribution of benefits and participate in the REDD+ Program.
 21. Based on the above, it is established that the forest is associated not only to the ownership of land or soil, but also to the resulting environmental services and accessories that the forest generates. For this, the country has legal provisions that recognize the environmental services provided by ecosystems through natural resources. Taking a broad interpretation of these legal provisions, we can say that the rights to forest carbon and emissions reductions resulting from avoided degradation and deforestation could adopt a similar legal system.

⁵ Dominican legislation does not include a specific period to prove possession. This recognition of the possession constitutes an initial fact that serves as the basis for acquiring the property of the land by acquisitive prescription or usucaption, that is to say, to opt for the formal registration of the property right, provided the occupant can also demonstrate a prolonged occupancy in accordance with the provisions and conditions of article 2262 of the Civil Code. Informal occupants can show that they own the land because they cultivate it or use it for any other lucrative use (material possession); because they are surrounded or by any other way that serves to determine their domain.

Article 21 of Law No. 108-05 of the Real Estate Registry establishes that possession exists when a person has a property under his or her own title or by another who exercises the right in his name. For the possession to be recognized, it must be public, continuous, uninterrupted, peaceful and proprietary. In this sense, it is considered a possessory act when the lands are cultivated or dedicated to any other lucrative use, the perception of fruits, the construction that is done in the property or the materialization of the limits. Likewise, the Real Estate Registry Law provides that possession can be demonstrated through any means of proof admitted by DR's legal system, including prolonged possession of generations of occupying families (Art. 22 Law No. 108-5 of Real Estate Registration). Likewise, the **Dominican Civil Code** establishes that possession is the occupation or enjoyment of a thing or a right that we have or exercise for ourselves, or for another who has the thing or exercises the right in our name and that, in order to be legitimized, it must be continuous and not interrupted, peaceful, public, unambiguous and as owner. (Arts. 2228 and 2229).

22. At the national level, the plan is to regulate the recognition of carbon rights as the “right to reduced emissions or of carbon captured in forests,” linked to the implementation of activities that conserve, restore, or increase forest areas, whether under the responsibility of formal owners or duly recognized de facto holders. This legal-institutional alternative will be enough to grant legal certainty to transactions with the FCPF.
 23. To this effect, the ownership of rights to the ERs is based on effective participation in the provision of said environmental services, good faith land tenure, and the fulfillment of certain necessary requirements to be recognized and legitimized as a beneficiary. These requirements could be linked to being an informally tenured or a good faith land holder, having an approved management plan, signing a commitment agreement, the assignment of incentives or compensation and assignment rights to ERs, among others. Effectively, the power to access “rights to reduced emissions or carbon captured in forests” will be closely associated with effective participation in activities that generate specific ERs, while avoiding any link to formal land titles.
 24. The following are the legal provisions related to the recognition of environmental services and the respective general framework for compensation considered relevant for the implementation of the BSP.
-

Table 1. Relevant legal provisions for Benefit Sharing

| Legal Instrument | Relevant Legal Provisions for the Benefit Sharing Plan |
|--|--|
| <p>General Law No. 64-00 on the Environment and Natural Resources August 18, 2000</p> | <p>Article 15 - The objectives of the law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prevention, regulation, and control of any of the causes or activities which result in the deterioration of the environment or contamination of ecosystems, as well as the degradation, alteration, and destruction of the natural and cultural legacy; 2. To establish the means, forms, and opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, acknowledging their true value, which includes the environmental services which they provide, within a national plan based on sustainable development, with equity and social justice; <p>Article 35 - The objectives of establishing protected areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To promote and encourage conservation, recuperation, and the sustainable use of natural resources 4. To guarantee environmental services derived from protected areas, such as carbon setting, decreasing the greenhouse effect, contributing to the stabilization of climate (weather) and sustainable energy use; <p>Article 63 - The Dominican State acknowledges the environmental benefits offered by the country's natural resources and shall establish a procedure to include their value in national financial statements.</p> <p>Paragraph: In the case of natural resources belonging to the nation, the value of the environmental services they offer shall be based on their quality and quantity and shall reflect conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Article 64 - The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources shall create the necessary mechanisms and shall issue the standards for the recognition of environmental benefits. When these benefits come from resources belonging to the nation, the benefits generated must be reinvested in improving the quality of the environment and in reducing the vulnerability of the area from which they come.</p> |
| <p>Law No. 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services August 31, 2018</p> | <p>Article 1 - Objective: Aims to conserve, preserve, restore, and sustainable use of ecosystems, in order to ensure the environmental or ecosystem services that they provide through a general framework for the compensation and remuneration of environmental services.</p> <p>Article 3 - Definitions in the context of this law are understood as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Beneficiaries or Users: Public or private individuals or legal entities that use or benefit from ecosystem services for sustaining life or economic exploitation. 25. Payment for Environmental Services: This is a flexible environmental management instrument that can be adapted to different conditions that points to a financial payment to a person to ensure land use that guarantees the maintenance or provision of one or more environmental services recognized by this law and its general implementing regulation. 37. Environmental Services or Ecosystems: Those benefits society receives through the use of different elements of nature, which may consist of wildlife ecosystems and whose effects on quality of life are tangible and intangible. They include, but are not limited to, soil fertility and creation; pollination, growth and reproduction of edible species; storm mitigation; waste assimilation; climate regulation; and the control of pests and phytopathogenic elements. 38. National Payment and Compensation System for Environmental or Ecosystem services: Set of interrelated regulations, standards, principles, procedures and institutional arrangements destined to contribute to the conservation, preservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems in order to guarantee the environmental services or ecosystems of natural |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>resources and the sustainability of the interaction between the natural environment and human activities.</p> <p>Article 4 - Environmental or Ecosystem Services. The main environmental services considered for the purposes of this law are: 1. Water regulation, protection, and conservation of water sources; 2. Conservation of ecosystems and wildlife habitats; 3. Soil conservation; 4. Capture of carbon and other greenhouse gases; and 5. Scenic beauty or landscapes.</p> <p>Article 5 - Criteria of Environmental Services. The following criteria must be taken into account by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources in defining a national system for environmental services: 1. Inclusion of the different types and modalities of environmental services identified; 2. Determining the mechanisms for the definition of policies, plans and national strategies on the subject of environmental services; 3. Development of the technical and zoning criteria for assessment and payment; 4. Identification of the mechanisms to define national priorities for investment in payment for environmental services; and 5. Determining the monitoring, control and audit mechanisms for the verification of the adequate use of ecosystems and natural resources.</p> <p>Article 6 - Economic Beneficiaries of the Service. Any activity, company, or institution, whether public or private, that uses or benefits economically from the environmental services recognized in this law have the obligation to pay a rate to ensure the provision of said services. The payment received from those who use or benefit from environmental services shall benefit the owners and legal or legitimate usufructuaries of the land where such services have been generated in accordance with the rates and procedures established in this law and in its general implementing regulation.</p> <p>Article 7 - Beneficiaries of the Payments. The owners and legal or legitimate usufructuaries, whether public or private, of lands where the recognized environmental services are generated shall have the right to access the payment and compensation processing system for said services in accordance with the procedures and requirements established in the general implementing regulation of this law.</p> <p>Article 18 - Sub-Account Resources. The funds in the payment for environmental and ecosystem services account will be applied in the amount of 85% to direct payments and compensation of suppliers, and the remaining 15% may be dedicated to covering the costs of operation, transaction and audits; investigations; technical studies; education programs; and environmental information.</p> |
| <p>Forestry Sector Law No. 57-18 December 10, 2018</p> | <p>Article 2 - The fundamental objectives of this law are:</p> <p>2) Ensuring the zoning, conservation, and sustainable management of forests to obtain the multiple goods and services that these ecosystems provide, including the regulation of the water system, protection of biodiversity, soil conservation, carbon adaptation and sequestration, energy production, among others.</p> <p>5) To value and compensate the environmental services that forests, and forestry plantations provide, as an incentive for their conservation and improvement.</p> <p>Article 4 – Definitions. For the purposes of this law and its regulation, the following terms shall be understood as follows:</p> <p>15) Environmental services: Those provided by natural forest, forestry plantations and other ecosystems that directly affect the protection and improvement of the environment and the quality of life of society in general. They are as follows: Soil protection, regulation of the water system, protection of biodiversity, maintenance of the landscape and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Article 13.- Duties. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, without prejudice to the powers assigned to it by the law creating the Secretariat of State for the Environment and Natural Resources and other forestry management.</p> <p>11) Duties: To regulate and promote compensation and payment mechanisms for the environmental services of forestry ecosystems.</p> |

3.5 Document Structure

25. This document is divided into 10 sections, including this introduction. Section 2 covers the different types of benefits in the Program and explains the relevant differences between gross and netpayments. Section 3 states the different types of beneficiaries, as well as the programs,

projects and plans of the EEs. This section also references the requirements that beneficiaries must meet to participate in the REDD+ Program and the general guidelines EEs must comply with to be eligible to receive the benefits in case they decide to participate in the REDD+ Program. Section 4 presents the criteria by which the benefits will be distributed, as well as a series of different hypothetical scenarios demonstrating how benefit sharing will take place. Section 5 shows the benefit sharing mechanism and the institutional arrangements that will operate BSP governance, covering the: (i) identification of beneficiaries and transfer of titles, (ii) flow of benefits and the decision-making process for the distribution of benefits, and (iii) arrangements for the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ and BSP activities. Section 6 refers to the safeguards applicable to the REDD+ Program. Section 7 identifies the provisions through which implemented activities will be monitored for performance and followed up to ensure compliance with safeguards. Section 8 summarizes the results of the consultations carried out so far at the government level and presents the work plan of the consultations to be carried out with beneficiaries in the coming months. Finally, Section 9 describes in broad terms how the communication of the REDD+ Program and the BSP will be carried out. Section 10 includes the annexes.

2. BENEFITS OF THE REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) PROGRAM

2.1. Types of benefits

26. The implementation of the REDD+ Program will generate two types of benefits: 1) Greenhouse gas mitigation benefits ("benefits associated with carbon") and 2) Benefits other than mitigation ("non-carbon benefits"), also referred to as co-benefits.

i. **Benefits associated with carbon:** Correspond to the results-based payments made from the sale of ERs to the CF.

ii. **Non-carbon benefits or co-benefits:** According to the FCPF, non-carbon benefits are any benefits produced by or in relation to the implementation and operation of an REDD+ Program other than monetary and non-monetary benefits associated with carbon. The Dominican Republic has identified the following potential non-carbon benefits that it could receive from the implementation of the REDD+ Program.

Environmental: (i) Conservation of biodiversity; (ii) Improvement of the provision of ecosystem services (water cycle regulation, carbon sequestration, landscaping, climate regulation); (iii) Improvement of water quality; (iv) Improvement of production techniques (applying good practices); (v) Soil conservation and stabilization; (vi) Rehabilitation of degraded land and (vii) Recovery of productive land.

Social: (i) Improvement of agricultural, forestry and livestock productivity; (ii) Increase of local forest culture for commercial purposes; (iii) Better domestic economies and poverty reduction; (iv) Job creation; (v) Recognition of land ownership rights; (vi) Better governance and (vii) institutional strengthening.

27. The BSP covered in this document is responsible for providing the general guidelines for the distribution of benefits associated with carbon. The different types of carbon benefits and how they will be monitored by the country are explained in more detail in Chapter 16 of the Emissions Reduction Program Document (ERPD).

28. In general terms, results-based-payments from the sale of emissions reductions to the CF may be distributed to the beneficiaries in a monetary or non-monetary form (in kind). The distribution and the way in which carbon benefits will be received will depend on the final beneficiaries, which will be responsible for defining the form of the benefits according to the agreed decision-making processes presented in Section 5 of this document. Brief definitions of monetary and non-monetary benefits are provided below.

- **Monetary benefits:** Refer to the delivery of cash to beneficiaries, financed through the results-based payments received from the CF.

- **Non-monetary benefits:** Refer to the benefits received by the beneficiaries by way of goods, services or other benefits funded by the payments to be received from the CF. Non-monetary benefits can include, but are not limited to, technical assistance for capacity building and the provision of inputs such as seeds, seedlings, equipment, infrastructure, etc.

29. Whenever possible, preference will be given to non-monetary benefits for the following reasons:

- a. Most EEs have traditionally granted this type of support, so they are better prepared to provide it; and
- b. Monetary benefits distributed at the individual level could be too small to encourage the

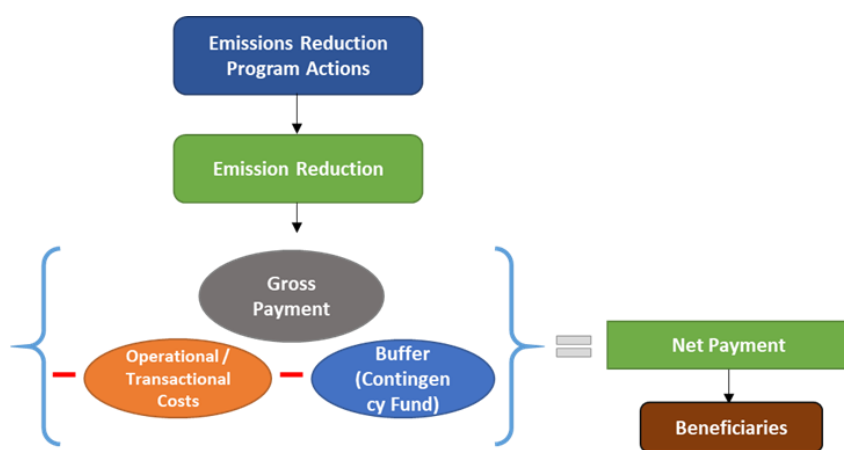
continuation or expansion of REDD+ activities or improve the living conditions of its recipients. What may be more feasible is concentrating all the individual benefits and dedicating them to program or community investments that represent the common good and have greater environmental and social impacts.

- c. The monitoring system to estimate the ERS will not allow to assign specific ERs to each participant, and it will be thus difficult to pay a specific amount of cash for each activity.

2.2. Benefit sharing “net monetary benefits”

30. The implementation of the REDD+ Program and the BSP involves a series of operational and transactional costs for the operating, monitoring, and reporting necessary to cover the proper execution of the program. For this, it has been decided that a limited amount (not more than 15%) of the total payments received from the CF may be used to cover said costs⁶ that will be distributed between the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (in its role as administrator of the REDD + Program) and the EE in a proportional percentage to the operational and transactional costs incurred. Due to the difference in scope and associated costs between programs and projects, as detailed in Table 2 below, the percentage distributed among the EE will not necessarily be done in equal parts.
31. On the other hand, in line with the principle of solidarity that governs the BSP, the creation of a Contingency Fund has been considered, which will seek to separate a percentage of the payments received to guarantee the payment of benefits in periods in which emissions reductions are less than expected due to events beyond control, such as the effects of a natural catastrophe.
32. Considering the above, it is worthwhile to differentiate the gross benefits from the net benefits that the Program will distribute to beneficiaries. Gross benefits correspond to the payments that the Dominican Republic will receive for the total emissions reduced during the REDD+ program period. Net benefits correspond to the amount that will be distributed as different types of benefits among beneficiaries, deducting: (i) operational and transactional costs; and (ii) resources allocated to the Contingency Fund: Figure 3 illustrates this relationship.

Figure 3. The relationship between gross and net payments



⁶ Article 18 on Sub-Account Resources in Law No. 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services specifies that “The Funds in the payment for environmental and ecosystem services account will be applied [in the amount of] 85% to direct payments and compensation of suppliers, and the remaining 15% may be dedicated to covering the costs of operation, transaction and audits, investigations, technical studies, education programs and environmental information.” Following the legal provisions of the country, it is then expected that no more than 15% of the payments received can be used to cover operating and transaction costs. Therefore, any cost greater than the 15% received in a specific monitoring and reporting period must be covered by the EEs. Similarly, if in any period the 15% exceeds costs, the remaining amount will be added to the amount to be distributed among the beneficiaries.

2.3. Operational Costs and Contingency Fund

2.1.1 Operational and transactional costs

33. Operational costs cover expenses related to the technical support, administrative management, and financial management of the REDD+ Program and the BSP. Transactional costs correspond to expenses related to the transfer of benefits through different channels required for the execution of the BSP, as well as the costs associated with the legalization of the agreements necessary for the operation of the Program, and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system; commissioning and operation of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM); and to partially cover expenses that will be incurred for the establishment of the REDD+ Coordination Office (OCR per its acronym in Spanish) to ensure the coordination and implementation of the Program and continuous oversight of compliance with the Program safeguards. The personnel of the Ministry of the Environment and EEs will implement and supervise the Program.
34. A preliminary estimate of operational and transactional expenses was made during the structuring of the REDD+ Program in the Dominican Republic, Table 2 presents the estimated budget of the operational and transactional costs for the implementation of the REDD+ Program over a 5-year period.

Table 2. Estimated operational and transactional costs of the REDD+ Program and the BSP. The costs of monitoring the data of DIARENA activities (Ministry of the Environment) are not included in this table. This cost estimate can be updated in a new BSP version, the POM and/or Annex 2 of the first ER report.

| OPERATIONAL AND TRANSACTIONAL COSTS | | | | | CF RESULTS-BASED PAYMENTS (15%) | | BREAKDOWN |
|--|---|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Sources funds | Concept | USD/Year | USD (5 years) | % Costs/EE | Estimated income (USD in 5 years) | % (base 15%) | |
| Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Budget | Wages and salaries (OCR technical and administrative personnel) | 156,228.07 | 781,140.35 | 36.53 | 1,370,038.48 | 5.48 | OCR. Division within the Department of Financial Mechanisms, Vice-Ministry of International Cooperation. It will have: 1 OCR manager, 1 OCR coordinator, 1 Environmental Safeguards Specialist, 1 Social Safeguards Specialist, 1 Legal Specialist, 1 Financial Administrative Specialist, 2 Coordinating Technicians with EE, 1 Administrative Support, 2 drivers/logistical support. |
| | Logistics and office expenses | 53,312.31 | 266,561.57 | | | | Logistical expenses for program monitoring (fuel, transportation, office supplies, toner, OCR per diem, plus expenses for REDD+ governance platform meetings). |
| | Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for REDD+ Program | 60,000.00 | 300,000.00 | | | | Management of the monitoring form, follow-up of the ESMP. Periodic training for beneficiaries on technical issues related to the projects implemented in areas 1,2,3,4 and 5. (6 per year) |

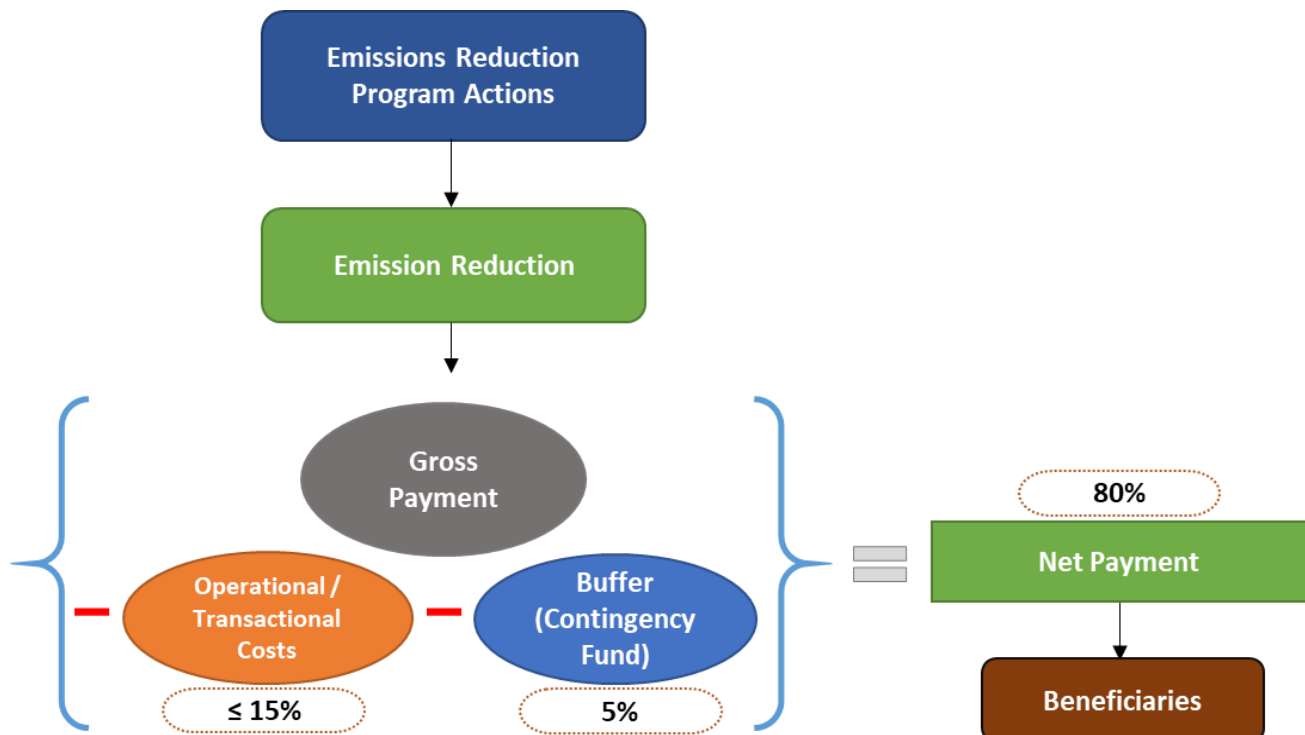
| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| | Documentation | 1,000.00 | 5,000.00 | | | | Preparation of annual reports on the achievements in the prioritized areas and a document that systematizes the experiences of the implementation of standard actions). |
| | Legalization and registration of EE agreements and transfer of ER titles | 2,500.00 | 12,500.00 | | | | Payment of legal expenses (notarization of agreements, etc.) |
| | Communication and dissemination REDD+ and BDP Program | 3,000.00 | 15,000.00 | | | | Development of materials for program dissemination |
| Sub-total | | 276,040.38 | 1,380,201.92 | | | | |
| Budget of the 7 EE | Logistics and office expenses | 110,512.63 | 552,563.13 | 63.47 | 2,379,961.52 | 9.52 | Seven executing entities. Logistical expenses for program monitoring (fuel, transportation, office supplies, toner, OCR per diem, plus expenses for REDD+ governance platform meetings, etc.). |
| | Recruitment of liaison technicians/safeguards specialists | 186,433.87 | 932,169.33 | | | | 10 technicians specialized in safeguards for the EEs (responsible for implementing safeguards instruments at the project or program level). These technicians will be supported by the extension technicians of the EEs. |
| | Mobilization resources for monitoring and follow-up of the ESMPs | 107,000.00 | 535,000.00 | | | | 1 pickup truck and 2 motorcycles for each of the EEs (7 pickup trucks) |
| | Technical assistance to entities and producers participating in the REDD+ program | 50,000.00 | 250,000.00 | | | | Logistical expenses for training and exchange of experiences. |
| | Documentation | 4,000.00 | 20,000.00 | | | | Preparation of annual reports on the achievements in the prioritized areas and a document that systematizes the experiences of the implementation of standard actions). 1 Annual report |
| | Legalization and registration of ER/Beneficiary title transfer agreements. | 4,000.00 | 20,000.00 | | | | Payment of legal expenses (notarization of agreements, etc.) |
| | Logistics governance bodies for the implementation of the REDD+ and BDP Program | 16,576.89 | 82,884.47 | | | | Room expenses, refreshments, fuel, transportation costs |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | Communication and dissemination of the REDD+ and PDB Program | 1,000.00 | 5,000.00 | | | | Development of materials for program dissemination |
| 15% of CF payments for results to operational and transactional costs | | | | | 3,750,000.00 | | 15% of the CF payments would be distributed in proportion to the estimated operational and transactional costs: 5.41% to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and 9.59% to the EEs. |
| Sub-total | | 479,523.38 | 2,397,616.92 | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 755,563.77 | 3,777,818.84 | 100.00 | | | |

2.1.2 Contingency Fund

35. The Contingency Fund is a mechanism through which the GoDR will set aside 5% of the total payments received from the CF so that beneficiaries who cannot meet performance expectations in a given period (due to force majeure) may be able to receive a symbolic incentive to continue the implementation of REDD+ activities. The criteria under which the contingency fund will be applied will be defined by the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC) and will be reflected in the POM. Section 4 gives three different scenarios that could take place depending on the performance of the REDD+ Program.
36. Figure 4 is a graphic representation of the operational and transactional costs in relation to gross and net payments.

Figure 4. Depiction of operational and transactional costs in relation to gross and net payments (after discounting the reserves for uncertainty and reversions. See methodological framework) and gross payments



3. TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENEFIT SHARING

3.1 Types of beneficiaries

37. The “beneficiary” refers to the person or group of persons who, having met the applicable participation requirements, including evidence, during the reporting period, are eligible to receive benefits derived from any result-based payments from the CF in exchange for emissions the reductions generated by the Program during the stated period.
38. Law 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services provides the basis for defining the types of beneficiaries:

Payment to Beneficiaries: The legal or legitimate owners and usufructuaries, both public and private, of land where recognized environmental services are generated will have the right to access the system of payment and compensation for such services following the procedures and requirements established in the general regulation of the law.

Owner: Person or legal entity that has the right to ownership over one or more immovable properties.

Suppliers: The legal or legitimate owners and usufructuaries, both public and private, of land in which a certain environmental service is generated (all natural persons who manage to demonstrate the right to ownership of their land). These categories will primarily apply to beneficiaries at the individual and family level who own land, and to informal landholders located within and/or in buffer zones of protected areas who exert pressure on forest resources and will be the beneficiaries of the actions of the National System of Protected Areas. Likewise, these categories and definitions will be applied to the beneficiaries of the National Reforestation Program (Quisqueya Verde).

Resolution 39-19 of the Ministry of Agriculture also sets a framework to define the categories of Agricultural Producers and Associations, the beneficiaries of the EEs that develop the Agroforestry Systems of Shade-Grown Coffee and Cocoa and Silvopastoral Systems. The Resolution establishes the categories of agricultural producers according to the following criteria.

- **Small producers** are physical persons who are engaged in agricultural production, with a maximum volume of production or extension of land per average production unit, meeting the following criteria:
 - A. Agriculture (all crops): up to 50 “*tareas*”⁷, or 3 ha
 - B. Livestock: up to 30 heads
- **Medium producers** are natural persons who are engaged in agricultural production with a production volume or extension of land per average production unit, in accordance with the following classification:
 - A. Agriculture (all crops): from 51 up to 500 *tareas*, or 3.145 up to 31.44 ha
 - B. Livestock (cattle): from 31 up to 100 heads
- **Large producers** are natural persons who are engaged in agricultural production with an extension of land per average production unit greater than 500 *tareas* (31.44 ha) or more than 100 heads of cattle.

⁷A *tarea* is a common unit of land measurement in the Dominican Republic and is the equivalent of approximately 1/16 of a hectare.

Family farmers, who, in addition to the criteria established in Articles 1 and 2 of this Resolution, have productive units that simultaneously meet the following characteristics:

- i) The administration and management of the productive unit is carried out by the family.
- ii) Members of the nuclear family participate in the activities of the production unit and can occasionally use hired labor.

39. Similarly, Resolution 39-19 of the Ministry of Agriculture establishes that:

- **Small producers’ organizations** are whose membership is at least 60% composed by small producers, according to the classification and meet the formal requirements of Law No.122—05 on the Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL per its acronym in Spanish) and/or Law No.127 on Cooperative Associations from 1964.
- **Medium producers’ organizations**, whose membership is at least 60% composed by medium producers, according to the classification and meet the formal requirements of Law No.122—05 on the Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Law No.127 on Cooperative Associations from 1964.
- **Large producers’ organizations** must have at least 40.1% large producers or 0% to 59.9% small and medium producers, and therefore do not fit within the categories of small and medium producers’ organizations.

40. Based on the above, the following definitions are considered for the REDD+ Program:

Table 3. Types of Beneficiaries in the REDD+ Program

| Types of REDD+ Program Beneficiaries | |
|---|--|
| Individual and Family Landowners | Any natural or legal person who has the right to own both public and private land that, having fulfilled the applicable participation requirements and fully fulfilled the commitments developed with the Executing Entities (EE) in the context of the REDD+ Program for a period of results, is capable of receiving the benefits derived from any results-based payment received from the CF in exchange for the emission reductions that the REDD+ Program would have generated during said period. |
| Suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) | Owners and/or legal or de facto usufructuaries’, both public and private, where the emissions reductions activities take place. These beneficiaries, having fulfilled the applicable participation requirements and fully fulfilled the commitments developed with the Executing Entities (EE) in the context of the REDD+ Program during a period of results, will be able to <u>receive</u> the benefits derived from any results-based payment received from the CF in exchange for the emission reductions that the Program would have generated during that period. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Forestry or Agricultural Producers | Forestry or agricultural producers are considered those individuals who are engaged in forestry or agricultural production, with a maximum production volume or average extent of land per production unit, according to the following classification of small producers’, medium producers and large producers as explained above. |
| Associations and/or Federations | <p>Small or medium producers’ organizations, whose membership is composed by at least 60% small or medium producers, which meet the formal requirements of the Law on Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Cooperative Associations.</p> <p>Large producers’ organizations, whose membership is less than 60% composed of small or medium producers, which meet the formal requirements of the Law on Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Cooperative Associations.</p> <p>Federations are the union or institutionalized grouping of relatively autonomous social entities (associations).</p> |

41. The actors and potential beneficiaries that will participate in the REDD+ Program may do so through the different REDD+ programs (programs plans and projects) currently implemented by the different EEs participating in the REDD+ Program. The BSP will reward incurring in additional efforts to implement REDD+ activities. Given that the accounting of the REDD+ Program is at a national level, the actions carried out throughout the national territory can be reported, however, special efforts shall be promoted in priority areas of the REDD+ Program. Table 4 presents the EEs which will be part of the REDD+ Program. Table 4 presents the potential universe of beneficiaries, their scope and location. Annex 5 provides a more detailed table of REDD+ activities and types of support provided by the different REDD+ activities implemented by EEs shown in Annex 5. Table 4 is only indicative and does not attempt to represent the final number of beneficiaries.

Table 4. EEs’ Programs currently under implementation and potential beneficiaries of the REDD+ Program.

| Current Programs | REDD+ Type Activities | Executing Entity | Type of Beneficiary | | | | Location and Scope |
|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | Individuals and family owners | Suppliers (Legal or Legitimate Usufructuaries) | Forestry and Agricultural Producers | Associations, Federations and/or Cooperatives | |
| Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO) | Agroforestry Systems | Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing - MAG | | | X | X | Cocoa producers located throughout the national territory |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| La Celestina Forestry Management | Sustainable Forest Management | San Ramón Association of Foresters, La Celestina | | | X | | 71 associates and 340 small non-associate producers located in the municipality of San José de las Matas |
| SINAP | Forest Conservation | Protected Areas Directorate – PA & Biodiversity Vice Minister Ministry of the Environment | X | X | | | Proprietary individuals and families and suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) of land located within and in the buffer zones of Protected Areas |
| National Reforestation Program | Reforestation | Reforestation Directorate, ViceMinistry of Forest Resources-MARN | X | | X | X | 1,140 individual forest producers and 279 producer associations located throughout the national territory 303 tree-planting brigades |
| Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Coffee (CAFÉ) | Agroforestry Systems | Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ) | | | X | X | 28,000 small and medium-sized associated coffee producers located throughout the national territory |
| Sustainable Forest Management Plan | Sustainable Forest Management | Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration (ASODEFOREST) | | | X | | 64 associate forest producers and 546 non-associate forest producers located in the province of Dajabón |
| Agroforestry Development Project | Agroforestry Systems | UTEPDA | | | X | X | 11,000 small and medium forestry and agricultural producers located in the upper basins of the provinces of Elías Piña, Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana, Independencia, Azua, Bahoruco and Pedernales |
| MEGALECHE Program | Silvopastoral System and Forest Conservation in Cattle Ranches | DIGEGA / CONALECHE | | | X | X | DIGEGA: Small and medium dairy producers; CONALECHE: 1,747 small and medium milk producers located throughout the national territory |

3.2 Eligibility requirements for the participation of beneficiaries

42. The different Executing Entities will develop the process of disseminating information to potential beneficiaries, in such a manner that stakeholders interested in participating in the REDD+ Program may carry out the process of complying with the legal and administrative requirements to be incorporated. The actions will be public and bear precise information on eligible REDD+ activities, as well as the criteria and requirements that applicants must meet to be incorporated and the obligations they commit to, including compliance with safeguards. The MRV periods of reduced emissions will also be specified, as el as the benefit sharing criteria and modalities established in the NBSC. Further to the selection requirements specific to each REDD+ activity, the selection of beneficiaries by the EE will consider the following criteria:

The beneficiaries must be able to demonstrate ownership or possession rights of the lands in which they plan to implement REDD+ activities with the support of EE⁸. Future beneficiaries will not be eligible by virtue of their citizenship rights; that is, no distinction will be made on this matter for Dominicans and foreigners.

- a. The beneficiaries must carry out the REDD+ activities coordinated by the EE programs that will integrate the REDD+ Program.
- b. Comply with the procedures and requirements established in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) corresponding to the development of the respective REDD + activity (Annex 6); and
- c. Lands on which the beneficiaries will develop REDD+ activities must count on mitigation potential in accordance with the type of activity that is planned. This potential must exist during the results period during which the selected REDD+ activities will be developed. In the case of activities that seek to reduce deforestation, the EE should consider the analysis of causes and agents as well as other information that is relevant when choosing the regions where potential beneficiaries will be sought.
- d. Once the applicant has completed the requirements, and has been deemed eligible, he sign an assignment agreement with the corresponding EE, where he undertakes to comply with the required points in the call and make the legal transfer of ownership of emissions reduced in their property and receive the corresponding benefits according to the BSP. The EEs will enroll the beneficiary in the Registry of REDD+ Initiative, in accordance with the provisions in the guidelines for participation in the REDD+ Program in Section 3.3.

⁸ With regard to the recognition of de facto possessions, there are currently legally recognized and customary mechanisms which allow for peaceful interventions to be endorsed as an acquisitive prescription scheme or presumption of informal tenure legality. For the recognition of this presumption of informal land tenure legality in the implementation of the REDD+ Program, the following documents or acts may be considered valid, namely:

- Notarizing, registering and transcribing purchase of communal land.
- Not notarized act of Selling or purchasing witnessed by the mayor
- Selling measured lands.
- Notarized act of possession with witnesses.
- Determination of heirs for succession cases.
- The employment of existing legal mechanisms, to include landholders without land titling as potential beneficiaries, aim at including all potential beneficiaries of the Program

43. In situations in which beneficiaries participate in more than one REDD+ type activity in the same property during the reporting period, such REDD+ type activities must be carried out in different areas of the property. The beneficiary shall voluntarily select the REDD+ type activities and the specific area (with geographic coordinates) of property he/she wishes to register in the REDD+ Program and shall request registration through the corresponding EE. The beneficiary could register up to two REDD+ type activities in different areas within the property through the same or different EEs. The registry has been designed to automatically avoid duplication of areas within a property. Detailed procedures will be incorporated to the POM.
44. The participation of the beneficiaries in the REDD+ Program will always be voluntary. The decision to register through an EE must be made before the start of implementation of the REDD+ activities for which the payment will be generated.
45. The benefits that Beneficiaries of the REDD+ Program may receive two types of benefits: **monetary and non-monetary** (section 2.1). Beneficiaries will decide on the types of benefit they will obtain through the BCs according to the regulation of these. In this regards, it is through the BCs that beneficiaries may decide whether they wish to receive benefits in cash or in kind. In this latter case, beneficiaries can choose either to scale up the benefits that the EEs offer or invest the benefits in different activities or projects of interest to the community that do not generate GHG emissions. The BCs must be representative, and its members must be selected in a participatory and transparent manner. The composition and election of BC participants will be based on the provisions of the BC regulations. These procedures will be defined in detail in the POM that will be drawn up during the first year of the implementation of the REDD+ Program. Table 5 has two types of potential benefits that are expected to be provided through the different EEs. These are the result of a series of exchanges carried out with each EE to identify the possible types of benefits anticipated and the operational and social implications of each, which allowed developing the benefit sharing principles contained in this document. Therefore, the information in Table 5 is only indicative of the types of benefits currently shared, however, it does not aim to limit the possible benefits to those included in the Table.

Table 5. Potential types of monetary and non-monetary benefits provided by the EEs

| REDD Activity | Executing Entity | Benefit Type | Benefit Description |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO) | Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing - MAG | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefit: Provision of quality cocoa hybrid plants which will be delivered to the producers, subsidized at cost. Technical assistance. |
| Sustainable Forest Management | San Ramón Association of Foresters | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefit: Expand and strengthen the capacity of the Association to provide facilities (equipment, machinery, etc.) to current and new partners to ensure the intervention area and boost its growth, which has been limited by existing shortcomings. |

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| Forest Conservation in Protected Areas with Community Participation | Protected Areas Directorate - Vice Ministry of PA and Biodiversity – Ministry of the Environment | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefits: Will be used to finance land use change actions favorable to the conservation and restoration of Protected Areas. Actions would include technical assistance according to the management plans of each PA to reduce its vulnerability. |
| REDD Activity | Executing Entity | Benefit Type | Benefit Description |
| Reforestation | Reforestation Directorate, Vice Ministry of Forest Resources- Ministry of the Environment | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefit: Includes the delivery of seeds, planting of seedlings and technical assistance. |
| Agroforestry System (with Shade-Grown) | INDOCAFÉ | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefit: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others. |
| Sustainable Forest Management | ASODEFOREST | Non-Monetary | Non-monetary benefit: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others. |
| Agroforestry Systems | UTEPDA | Monetary | Monetary benefit: Monetary payments to beneficiaries |
| Silvopastoral Systems and Forest Conservation in Livestock Farms | National Council for Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry– CONALECHE/General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA) | Monetary and non-monetary | Monetary benefit: Credit financing at preferential/ subsidized rates. No-monetary: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others. |

46. Although the benefits granted by the EEs may be like the benefits currently provided by these programs, EEs will have to follow the granting benefits procedures presented in this document (refer to section V) and to clearly distinguish between the benefits given as a result of the program. The type of benefit to be granted by an EE must be agreed through Beneficiaries Committees (BC) that will be created for each EE program. Governance and decision-making procedures are explained in more detail in Section V of this document. The Beneficiary Committee of each EE will be chosen from among the participating members in each entity, considering the representation of the entity's management staff, representative of associations and federations as well as direct beneficiaries in each prioritized area. The number of members will be established in the regulations that will be prepared by Committees for this purpose.

3.3 Guidelines for participation in the REDD+ Program

47. The following sections describe the minimum guidelines for ensuring that the EEs and beneficiaries that participate in the REDD+ Program will apply uniform rules and procedures to enable the proper implementation of the BSP.

3.1.1 General Guidelines

- a. Each EE should ensure that the resources obtained from results-based payments reach the beneficiaries who have been involved in REDD+ activities that contributed to generate ERs during the report period for which payments have been received from the CF.
- b. Each EE should take the necessary measures to ensure not to exclude any possible beneficiary who meets the requirements established in the call to participate in the REDD+ Program, and contributes to the emission reduction results, regardless of land ownership (formal ownership or de facto possession.)
- c. Each EE must take the necessary measures to ensure its beneficiaries include a minimum number of women or members of any other population deemed as vulnerable. The threshold should be set by the NBSC, in accordance with the Gender Action Plan

3.1.2 Identification of potential beneficiaries

48. Each program shall identify potential beneficiaries in areas where the supported activities result in the reduction of emissions from deforestation or the increase of forest carbon stocks, for which they must consider, where appropriate, the causes and rates of deforestation and forest degradation in such areas. The EEs in charge must ensure that REDD+ activities proposed are appropriate to respond to said causes and that beneficiaries have the capacity to carry out the proposed activities. The EEs, with the support from the Ministry of the Environment will oversee communicating the arrangements and benefits of the BSP to potential beneficiaries. The potential beneficiaries that express their interest in participating in the REDD+ Program and are interested in being eligible to receive results-based payments, must first comply with the requirements as expressed in Section 3.2, *Eligibility Requirements for Beneficiary Participation*, and register as beneficiaries in an EE depending on their choice.
49. Registration must take place before implementing any activity leading to ERs. The registration of beneficiaries in the Registry of REDD+ Initiatives will be carried out on a rolling basis through the corresponding EE. To register as a beneficiary, eligible individuals, associations, or federations must sign an ER title assignment agreement with the EE. On signing said agreement, the potential beneficiary commits to i) the proper implementation of the REDD+ Program activities; ii) follow the BSP guidelines for the sharing of benefits.⁹, for the remaining years of the ERPA in accordance with the registration date;

3.1.3 Provision of information to potential beneficiaries

50. The EEs, with support from the Ministry of the Environment, will oversee communicating the arrangements and benefits of the BSP to the possible beneficiaries, their expected roles, their obligations and the type of benefits that they could receive by participating of the REDD+ Program. This information

⁹ The agreement will also include a section wherein the potential beneficiary affirms that he/she has not registered the sameland on which REDD+ activities will be implemented with a different EE.

must be provided before signing the ER title transfer assignment agreement through accessible means and in formats and languages that are easily understood by potential beneficiaries. Provision of information to potential beneficiaries should not generate unrealistic expectations and must inform potential beneficiaries on the possible risks of underperforming in the REDD+ Program's underperformance. More information on the communication of the Program is provided in section 9 of BSP communication.

3.1.4 Agreements between the REDD+ Coordination Office and the Executing Entities

51. Like beneficiaries, every EE participating of the REDD+ Program must sign an inter-institutional agreement with the Ministry of the Environment, in which it agrees to meet the following commitments and criteria:
 - a. To apply the MRV instruments and the Safeguards Information System (SIS) of the project in accordance with the procedures presented by the OCR for information monitoring and systematization in the REDD+ Registry, and submit the reports required by the BSP in the agreed frequency and formats.
 - b. To comply with the guidelines established for participation in the REDD+ Program and the BSP, as they relate to governance, potential beneficiary identification and provision of information to the same.
 - c. To apply the procedures and requirements established in the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the REDD+ Program to ensure they align with environmental and social safeguards, in order to comply with UNFCCC Environmental and Social Safeguards and World Bank Operational Policies.
 - d. To participate in the periodic evaluations that the OCR will coordinate and carry out to verify compliance with the Environmental and Social Safeguards of the UNFCCC and the World Bank Operating Policies.
 - e. To participate in the OCR training program aimed at strengthening institutional capacities.
 - f. Sign contracts for the distribution of benefits with federations, associations and individual beneficiaries that determine the obligations and responsibilities ensuring and regulating the right to transfer ownership of emissions reductions through clauses stipulating the conditions of sale/assignment thereof, where the ownership or legitimacy of informal tenure and the execution of activities that generate rights to emissions reductions are also formalized and consequently allocate compensation or benefits¹⁰.

3.1.5 REDD+ Initiative Registry

52. Each EE must be registered in the REDD+ Initiative Registry in which all beneficiaries participating in REDD+ activities that may generate emissions reductions through which the CF can provide results-based

¹⁰Specifically, each contract or agreement will be negotiated under all the relevant points set forth above and will address elements related to the: **1)** Application of the General Conditions and Definitions; **2)** Description of the Emissions Reduction Program; **3)** Good or service on which it is contracted. In this case, the EE and beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries will agree to transfer their rights to the ERs to the government of the Dominican Republic as a condition to receive the benefits derived from the results-based payments provided by the FCPF and the compensation or price that the remunerator will grant to each beneficiary (Conditions of Sale/Allocation); **4)** The express consent of the EE, beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries to participate in the REDD+ Program, to apply the procedures and requirements established in the ESMP and the activities estimated budgets in the ESMF and to allow for the inclusion of their data in the REDD+ Registry; **5)** Commitment to prepare and submit the reports required by the BSP with the frequency and templates established for this purpose; **6)** Schedule of activities to be carried out and the duration of the Emissions Reduction Program; **7)** Guarantees and specific conditions of compliance; **8)** Policies for dispute resolution, conflict resolution mechanism, grounds for dissolution of the agreement, penalties for non-compliance, and applicable law.

payments, as well as the areas covered by each and the REDD+ activities carried out in them, and any other information the REDD+ Initiative Registry requires. The REDD+ Initiative Registry will be managed by the OCR and it sufficiently robust to avoid double count or over reporting the number of hectares intervened. The detailed procedures to use the Initiative Registry will be incorporated to a user guide and the MOP.

3.1.6 Monitoring of REDD+ activities

53. Annually, EEs must submit a progress report on the implementation of the REDD activities by the beneficiaries, following the methodology and formats established for this purpose in accordance with the Guidelines for the Participation of Executing Entities in the REDD+ Program in this document.
54. The EEs in charge are responsible for reviewing the progress report and monitoring the actions implemented directly, validating and reporting the number of hectares where activities have been carried out in accordance to the provisions contained in the agreements, including compliance with safeguards. Therefore, they should monitor the implementation of REDD+ activities periodically to verify that these are implemented in accordance with the provisions in the agreements, including compliance with the safeguards, and identify any incident that could affect its successful development. The Ministry of the Environment, through the OCR is responsible for coordinating the proper implementation, monitoring and coordination of the REDD+ activities. Tasks include consolidating information in reports, aiding EEs on safeguards compliance when required, facilitating coordination, managing the registry, communicating benefits of REDD+, facilitating dialogue among different entities that form part of the NBSC.¹¹
55. In December of 2021, there were meetings with directors and representatives of the seven EEs implementing the REDD+ Program to gather information on their capacity to collect data and prepare the reports regarding verification and reporting on safeguard compliance on the land of beneficiaries. A total of six EEs responded, highlighting the following as their main limitations: a) few personnel assigned and available to prepare the reports; b) insufficient transport means, c) access to the sites due to poor road conditions during rainy season. Considering these limitations, it has been deemed appropriate that each EE's annual safeguards compliance report cover a universe of at least 70% of the land, with a biannual monitoring report of at least 35% of the land in each case. This will take place through random sampling offering sufficient certainty regarding the monitoring results, while reducing the costs of such.¹²

3.1.7 Review of beneficiary reports

56. Each EE will produce annual reports prepared by the beneficiaries on the development of REDD+ activities, including compliance with the safeguards and identification of benefits other than carbon. The information will be collected by EE technicians through the Safeguards Information System (SIS), and each EE will send these to the OCR, which will compile the same and then forward it to the NBSC tasked with verifying that reports are complete. If the report is incomplete the OCR will ask the EE for the relevant clarifications and additions.

3.1.8 Presentation of EE performance reports

57. Each EE must prepare and present reports on the performance of REDD+ activities carried out with the support of the NBSC, with the frequency and formats as the latter determines, and that likely to participate in the sharing of benefits. In case an EE implements several REDD+ activities, it must consolidate the information by REDD+ activity prior to the sharing the benefits as stipulated in this BSP, including the information necessary to confirm compliance with applicable environmental and social safeguards, as well as information on the achievement of

¹¹ The EEs will aim to improve the follow up activities for the duration of the Project, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and the WB, to cover gradually the largest beneficiary population possible each year, highlighting the aspects compliance with safeguards.

¹² As necessary, this information may be updated in new versions of the BSP and/or Annex 2 of the ER reports.

benefits other than the carbon identified as priorities by the NBSC. Ministry of Environment (OCR) will consolidate the information, and the NBSC will allocate the benefits based on the reports from the Ministry of the Environment.

3.1.9 Monitoring the BSP Application

58. Each EE must monitor the application of benefit sharing among its beneficiaries to confirm that this has been done in accordance with what was agreed upon through the Beneficiary Committees. This includes verifying that the benefits have been used for the established purposes and that the sharing of benefits among the beneficiaries (described in Section 5.1) has been carried out following the principles of the BSP and respecting the conditions described in this document. Monitoring of the BSP application should follow the guidelines established by the NBSC for this purpose.

3.1.10 Reporting on Benefit Sharing

59. On each occasion in which the EE distributes benefits related to the Carbon Fund's results-based payment, each EE (with the approval of the corresponding BC must prepare and present a benefit sharing report to the Ministry of the Environment. The report should include the results of the benefit sharing (how benefits were shared), the vouchers of respective transfers and information on any incident that occurred during the sharing process and how it was resolved (both in its interaction with the Ministry of Finance and with beneficiaries). This report should also detail how the EE met each of the requirements established in Section 3.3 of the Guidelines for the participation of EEs in the REDD+ Program. Once submitted to the OCR, the report will be consolidated and delivered to the NBSC for its approval and publication. The CF requires presenting the reports six months following receipt of the first ERPA payment and a year after the ensuing payments. Taking these deadlines, the EEs must deliver to the OCR their respective report no later than two months prior to the deadline the report presentation to the CF.

3.1.11 Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework– FGRM

60. The EEs must apply the FGRM established for the REDD+ Program to receive and resolve any complaints by the beneficiaries. More information on the FGRM is available in section 7.2.2.

3.1.12 Transparency

61. The EEs are required to disclose to the public all the information related to benefit sharing, including progress reports on the implementation of activities, minutes, and resolutions of the BCs of the respective EEs and the transfer of resources to beneficiaries, as well as information related to the internal and external audits performed.

4. CRITERIA AND SCENARIOS FOR BENEFIT SHARING

4.1. Benefit Sharing Criteria

62. The base criterion for the sharing of benefits will be the number of intervened hectares in which each EE and beneficiaries have carried out activities that lead to emissions reductions, as stipulated in their respective agreement with the Ministry of the Environment. The areas reported by each EE shall represent only those in which REDD+ activities have been successfully carried out and registered. It is not possible to include areas covered by Programs under implementation prior to the start of the REDD+ Program.
63. At a meeting held on November 4, 2021, the TAC agreed to recommend to the NBSC that, in addition to the number of hectares intervened, the following additional criteria be evaluated and considered in its final decision on the sharing:
1. Magnitude of ER potential according to the REDD+ activity carried out.
 2. Level of Effort (expressed on resources invested) according to the activity carried out: The greater the effort, the greater the weight in compensation per hectare.
 3. Area or size of the farm/land: More owners or holders of small and medium properties would have a higher compensation per hectare.
 4. Gender focus: Equality between men and women and involvement of minority groups, with greater weight on compensation per hectare.
64. The establishment and application of any of these additional criteria by the NBSC, as well as any others that might be established, should consider, and be consistent with, the general considerations (paragraph 12) and principles (paragraph 13) of this document.
65. The TAC also agreed to recommend to the NBSC to apply the allocation of a *limit of up to 30%* of the Net Amount (NA) of monetary benefits to be shared *among the EE* that would that the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment (*forest conservation in protected areas, with social participation*) would receive, to increase the resources that other EE could receive, and thus incentivize their participation in the REDD+ Program. The remaining 70% would be distributed according to compliance with the four additional criteria by the remaining EEs.

Table 6. Sharing of net benefits between the Vice-Ministry of PA and Biodiversity and the rest of the EE.

| Criteria | Weight (%) |
|---|------------|
| Ceiling for Vice-Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity | 30 |
| Magnitude of ER potential by REDD+ activity | 70 |
| Level of Effort | |
| Surface or size of the property/land | |
| Gender focus | |
| Total | 100 |

66. The NBSC is responsible for analyzing and determining the weighted weights for the four additional criteria, which may be *equal*, i.e., 17.5% each, or *differentiated*.¹³ The following is the case of the same weighted weight for each of the four additional criteria, with information on the parameter and the allocation rule to be considered.

Table 7. Criteria and additional parameters for the sharing of net benefits among the EEs

| Criterion | Parameter | Assignment rule | Weight (%) |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| | | | |

¹³ It is worth mentioning that in the meeting with TAC there were several weighting recommendations, but no consensus was reached, leaving open the determination by the NBSC.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| Emission reduction potential | Emission reduction or removal factor of the REDD+ Activity. | The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs whose REDD+ activities have a "High" reduction or removal factor, i.e., greater than 9 tCO ₂ e per hectare per year. 70% of the weight of this criterion is shared only among the EEs with a High factor, based on the area intervened. The remaining 30% is shared among EEs with a Low factor, depending on the area intervened. | 17.5 |
| Level of effort required to implement the REDD+ activity | Investment in US\$ per hectare required to implement a REDD+ activity | The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs whose REDD+ activities have a "High" implementation cost or greater than US\$300 per hectare. The weight of this criterion is shared equally among EEs with a High implementation cost, depending on the area intervened. | 17.5 |
| Inclusion of owners/possessors of small land units | Number of owners of land of less than 10 hectares | The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs that have a "High" participation of small producers or have more than 100 small producers with land of less than 10 hectares. The weight of this criterion is shared equally among the EEs with a high participation of small producers, according to the area intervened. | 17.5 |
| Application of the gender approach | Implementation of the Gender Action Plan | The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs that have made progress in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, duly verified in the SIS. The weight of this criterion is shared equally among the EEs showing advances in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, according to the area intervened. | 17.5 |
| Total | | | 70 |

67. The following is a simplified and explanatory hypothetical example of applying the benefit-sharing calculation considering only three EEs, to serve as a guide for stakeholders.

The calculation is the result of the following **assumptions**:

- Executing Entities: i) Vice-Ministry of PA Biodiversity (VPA), ii) Executing Entity 2 (EE2), iii) Executing Entity 3 (EE3).
- Amount of ER reported in the First ER Monitoring Report: 500,000 tCO₂ (ER), the uncertainty buffer is 11.27% (Inc) and the reversal buffer is 20% (Rev) as set out in Chapter 13 of the ERPD. For the purposes of this example, no advance payments or tax payments are assumed.
- Percentage of operational and transactional costs of the REDD+ Program including contingency fund: 20% (GO)
- Price per reduced ton of CO₂: 5 US\$/tCO₂ (P)
- Total area intervened: 100,000 ha: i) 50,000 ha PA, ii) 30,000 hectares of shade-grown coffee, iii) 20,000 shade-grown cocoa.
- Ceiling for Vice-Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity: 30% (L)
- Equal weighting for the 4 additional criteria, i.e. 17.5% each.

Step 1: Calculation of gross compensation (GC):

$$GC = \left[\frac{ER \times (1 - Inc)}{(1 + Rev)} \times P \right] - \text{Advance payments} - \text{Taxes} \quad \text{Ec. 1}$$

$$GC = \left[\frac{500,000 \text{ tCO}_2 \times (1 - 0.11)}{(1 + 0.20)} \times 5 \frac{\text{US\$}}{\text{tCO}_2} \right] - 0 - 0 = \text{US\$ } 1,848,541.67$$

Step 2: Calculation of the Net Amount (NA) of monetary benefit to be shared among EEs

$$NA = GC - (GC * GO) \text{ Ec. 2}$$

$$NA = US\$1,872,323 - (US\$1,872,323 \times 0.2) = \text{US\$1,478,833.33}$$

Step 3: Calculation of the amount assigned to the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity (VPA). If the area intervened by the Vice-Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity is greater than 30% of the total area intervened, then procedure is as followed:

$$VPA = NA \times L \text{ Ec. 3}$$

$$VPA = US\$1,497,820 \times 0.3 = \text{US\$443,650}$$

Step 4: Calculation of the total amount to be shared among the remaining EEs by means of the additional criteria (AC)

$$AC = NA - VPA \text{ Ec. 4}$$

$$AC = US\$1,497,820 - US\$449,346 = \text{US\$1,035,183.33}$$

Step 5: Amount to be shared in each of the four additional criteria (ACi)

$$ACi = \frac{AC}{4} \text{ Ec. 5}$$

$$ACi = \frac{US\$1,048,501}{4} = \text{US\$258,795.83}$$

Step 6: Sharing the amount corresponding to *criterion 1 Emission Reduction Potential*. The amount corresponding to this criterion is shared according to the emissions reduction potential of the REDD+ activity implemented by the EE. The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs whose REDD+ activities have a "High" reduction or removal factor, i.e., greater than 9 tCO₂e per hectare per year¹⁴. 70% of the weight of this criterion is shared only among EEs with a High factor, based on the area intervened. The remaining 30% is distributed among the EEs with a Low factor, depending on the area intervened. The following table shows the classification of REDD+ activities according to their ER potential:

Table 8. Classification of REDD+ Activities according to their ER Potential

| REDD+ Activity | Factor tCO ₂ /ha/year | Classification of ER potential |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Forest Conservation | 1.56 | Low |
| Sustainable Forest Management | 1.56 | Low |
| Regeneration | 9.7 | High |
| REDD+ Reforestation | 9.7 | High |
| Agroforestry Systems | 9.5 | High |
| Silvopastoral systems | 30.57 | High |

The calculation of the amount to be shared among the EEs that implement REDD+ activities with a "High" (EE **HIGHER**) or "Low" (EE **LOWER**) Emission Reduction Potential is as follows:

$$EE_{highER} = ACi \times 0.7 \times \frac{\text{Intervened Area of the EE}_{ERhigh}}{\text{Total area of EEs with a high ER}} \text{ Ec. 6}$$

¹⁴ Removal factors are the same used in the projection of Reduced Emissions consigned in Chapter 13 of the ERPD

$$EE_{lowER} = ACi \times 0.3 \times \frac{\text{Intervened Area of the EE}_{ERlow}}{\text{Total area of EEs with low ER}} \quad Ec. 7$$

If all EEs implement REDD+ activities with the same ER potential ("Low" or "High"), 100% of the amount allocated to the criterion is shared among the EEs according to the area intervened. Given that in this example both EEs have a "High" ER potential, the calculation of the amount corresponding to each EE is as follows:

$$EE2_{highER} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{30,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$155,277.50$$

$$EE3_{highER} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{20,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$103,518.33$$

Step 7: Sharing the amount corresponding to Criterion 2 Level of Effort required to implement the REDD+ activity. The weight of this criterion is given only to those EEs whose REDD+ activities have a "High" implementation cost or greater than US\$300 per ha. The weight of this criterion is shared equally among the EEs with a High implementation cost, depending on the area intervened. The following table shows the classification of REDD+ activities according to the level of effort required to implement the REDD+ activity.

Table 9. Classification of REDD+ Activities according to the Level of Effort required to implement the REDD+ Activity

| REDD+ Activity | Factor US\$/ha | Effort level classification |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Forest Conservation | 3 | Low |
| Sustainable Forest Management | 62 | Low |
| Regeneration | 307 | High |
| REDD+ Reforestation | 307 | High |
| Agroforestry Systems | 507 | High |
| Silvopastoral systems | 3 | Low |

Source: Econometría, 2019.¹⁵

The calculation of the amount to be shared among the EEs that implement REDD+ activities with a "High" level of implementation effort (**EE_HighLE**) is as follows:

$$EE_{highLE} = ACi \times \frac{EE_{highLE} \text{ Intervened Area}}{\text{Total area of EEs with a high LE}} \quad Ec. 8$$

Given that in this example both EEs have a "High" level of implementation effort, the calculation of the amount corresponding to each EE is as follows:

$$EE2_{highLE} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{30,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$155,277.50$$

$$EE3_{highLE} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{20,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$103,518.33$$

¹⁵Evaluación de los costos y beneficios y preparación de un plan de financiación para el programa de reducción de emisiones en República Dominicana *Producto 3 Informe Final ajustado*. Bogotá D.C. 31 de enero de 2019. (Econometrics, 2019. *Evaluation of costs and benefits and preparation of a financing plan for the emission reduction program in the Dominican Republic. Product 3 Adjusted Final Report*. Bogotá, D.C. January 31, 2019). Copia de 2019-01-20 Anexo 1 - Costos de Acciones REDD+.xls <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tyzkc8ivnc07d8w/Copia%20de%202019-01-20%20Anexo%201%20-%20Costos%20de%20acciones%20REDD%2B.xlsx?dl=0>

Step 8: Sharing of amount corresponding to Criterion 3 Inclusion of Smallholding Owners/Possessors. The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs with a "**High**" **participation of small producers**, defined as having more than **100 small producers with premises of less than 10 he**. The weight of this criterion is distributed equally among EEs with a high participation of small producers, according to the area intervened. The calculation of the amount to be shared among the EEs that implement REDD+ activities with a "High" inclusion of smallholding owners/landholders (**EE_highAI**) is as follows:

$$EE_{highAI} = ACi \times \frac{EE_{highAI} \text{ Intervened Area}}{\text{Total area of EEs with a high AI}} \quad \text{Ec. 9}$$

Given that in this example both EEs have a "High" inclusion of small premises owners/owners, the calculation of the amount corresponding to each EE is made as follows:

$$EE2_{highAI} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{30,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$155,277.50$$

$$EE3_{highAI} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{20,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$103,518.33$$

Step 9: Sharing of the amount corresponding to Criterion 4 Gender Mainstreaming. The weight of this criterion is given only to EEs that have **advanced in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan**, duly verified in the SIS. The weight of this criterion is shared equally among EEs in the making progress implementation of the Gender Action Plan, according to the area intervened. The calculation of the amount to be shared among the EEs that have made progress in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (**EE_gender**) is as follows:

$$EE_{gender} = ACi \times \frac{\text{Intervened Area of the EE_gender}}{\text{Total area of EEs with implementation of EE_gender}} \quad \text{Ec. 10}$$

Given that in this example both EEs have made progress in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, the calculation of the amount corresponding to each EE is as follows:

$$EE2_{gender} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{30,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$155,277.50$$

$$EE3_{gender} = US\$262,125 \times \frac{20,000 \text{ ha}}{20,000 \text{ ha} + 30,000 \text{ ha}} = US\$103,518.33$$

Step 10: Calculation of the **total amount to be received by each EE** (EE_{TA}) not including the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas and Biodiversity. The total amount is calculated by adding the allocations defined for each of the criteria. A summary table with the calculation of the total amount allocated for each EE is shown below:

$$EE_{AT} = EE_{highER} + EE_{highLE} + EE_{highAI} + EE_{gender} \quad \text{Ec. 11}$$

The calculation of the total amount corresponding to each EE is as follows:

$$EE_{TA-EE2} = US\$155,277.5 + US\$155,277.5 + US\$155,277.5 + US\$155,277.5 = US\$621,110$$

$$EE_{TA-EE3} = US\$103,518.33 + US\$103,518.33 + US\$103,518.33 + US\$103,518.33 = US\$414,073.33$$

Table 10. Hypothetical monetary benefits to be received by EEs because of ERs achieved during the first reporting period

| Executing Entity | Amount |
|---|-----------------------|
| Vice-Ministry of PAs Biodiversity | US\$ 443,650 |
| Executing Entity 2 | US\$ 621,110 |
| Executing Entity 3 | US\$ 414,073 |
| REDD+ Program Operating and Transactional Costs | US\$ 369,708 |
| Gross Compensation | US\$ 1,848,541 |

4.2. Sharing Scenarios

68. Benefit sharing can occur in practice under three scenarios:

Scenario 1: The REDD+ Program reduces emissions with respect to its committed target and all EEs contribute to this achievement during the reporting period.

Scenario 2: The REDD+ Program reduces less emissions with respect to its committed target and some EEs report below-expected performance during the results period.

Scenario 3: The REDD+ Program does not manage to reduce emissions with respect to its committed target and thus there are no benefits to share, although one or more of the EEs may have achieved a performance equal to or better than expected during the reporting period.

4.2.1 Scenario 1

69. Scenario 1 does not imply any additional considerations for the sharing of benefits. However, Scenario 2 and 3 do have implications in this regard.

4.2.2 Scenario 2

70. In Scenario 2, depending on what causes the lower performance of one or more of the programs, the NBSC, in accordance with the POM, would apply two additional measures when distributing benefits. If the EE Program had a significantly lower performance than expected due to force of nature events (hurricanes, wildfires, pests, floods, etc.), said REDD+ activity could receive a “solidarity contribution”. The solidarity contribution must be covered by the Contingency Fund, and in an extreme case, the remaining EE Programs could choose to grant additional assistance allowing the affected EE Program to receive an incentive, continue participating in the REDD+ Program and receive the technical advice of OCR technicians to improve performance.”.

71. Applying such an approach has a double benefit. First, it provides EEs and their beneficiaries affected by catastrophic events with an incentive, driving them to continue with their efforts. Secondly, it becomes evident to all EEs and their beneficiaries, that their participation in the REDD+ Program is “**solidarity**”, that when acting together, the performance of either of them can affect the level of the benefits that they can all receive. This approach to providing solidarityretributions must first be considered and accepted by the NBSC before adopting this BSP.

72. If the significantly low performance was due to causes demonstrably attributable to the poorperformance of the programs or poor management by EEs or to general and persistent failures in complying with the commitments agreed to by their beneficiaries, or both, the NBSC may agree on measures to prevent this situation from recurring. This may include, in extreme cases. an agreement, cancellation, and exclusion of the EE from the sharing of benefits during a given period. Establishing such a measure will make the participating programs and EEs more responsible in their management and more careful in applying the rules and procedures for the selection of beneficiaries and apply the same remedial or extraordinary measures in case of unjustified non-compliance.

4.2.3 Scenario 3

73. In the case of Scenario 3, the NBSC may consider compensating programs that would have performed well during the reporting period in two ways, by either:
- a. granting them a compensatory payment from the Contingency Fund, the amount of which would be determined by the NBSC; or
 - b. granting them an extra payment in the following period in an amount that would be defined by the NBSC.

As in Scenario 2, the programs with markedly poor performance may face some kind of sanction if the NBSC deems appropriate.

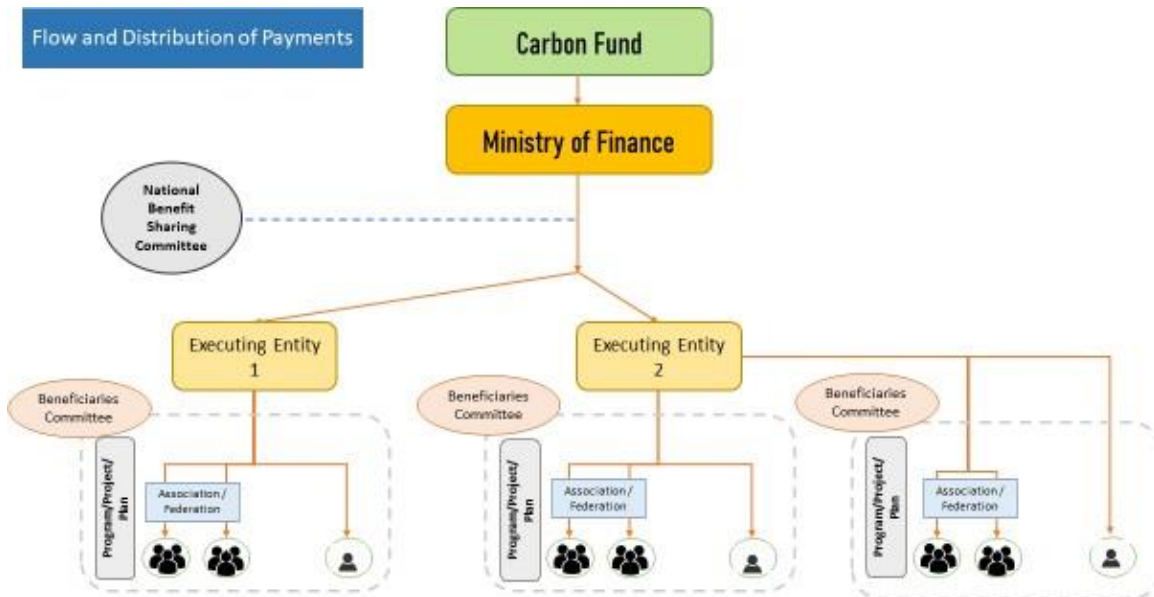
5. BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHARING OF BENEFITS

5.1. Flow of funds to beneficiaries and decision-making processes for benefit sharing

74. The GDR deems it convenient that the programs and EEs in charge serve as channels to distribute the benefits received from the CF. In this regard, the EEs will have to comply with the *Guidelines for the Participation of EEs in the REDD+ Program* described in section 3.3 of this document.
75. The distribution of benefits will be carried out in three levels described below:
- Level 1: From the CF to the Ministry of Finance;
 - Level 2: From the Ministry of Finance to the EEs;
 - Level 3: From the EEs to beneficiaries (federations, associations and individuals);
76. The following steps summarize the flow of benefits and the decision-making process for the sharing of benefits, as shown in Figure 5.
- I. The CF receive the consolidated report on the total performance of the REDD+ Program for the corresponding reporting period and transfers the results-based payments to the Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Finance¹⁶.
 - II. The beneficiaries (federations, associations, cooperatives, organized and non-organized groups and independent producers) provide their corresponding EE information on their performance (number of hectares intervened per activity type in the period, by beneficiary and compliance with safeguards). Each EE will prepare a consolidated report on performance per REDD+ activity in which the Associations and Federations will validate the information on their participation with regard to the areas intervened and participating beneficiaries in the reporting period and: once validated, the report will be forwarded to the OCR, which will review the report and prepare a general report of all EEs and send it to NBSC (after review by the WB) which applies the sharing criteria and determines the payable allocation to each of the EEs. The NBSC requests of the Ministry of the Environment to send the report to the Ministry of Finance for the transfer of funds (results-based payments) to the different EEs.
 - III. The Ministry of Finance transfers the funds to each EE, which must open a specific bank sub-account to manage REDD+ Program payments.
 - IV. Upon receiving the results-based payments, each BC will decide on how benefits will be shared among their beneficiaries. The BC must follow the criteria established by the NBSC for benefit sharing, unless beneficiaries request otherwise, for example, sharing of in-kind benefits for the construction/repair of rural roads, community schools, financing/scaling up of REDD+ activities, among others.
 - V. When applicable, the associations and/or federations of producers eligible to receive benefits, will follow their own procedures to distribute benefits among their members.

¹⁶ With regard to the ER Program transactions and transfers, the GDR supports the mixed competencies of MARN and the MoF to carry out transactions and transfer emissions reduction titles. The MARN will be specifically tasked with the technical evaluation, as well as determining the legal beneficiaries and usufructuaries in the BSP framework. In addition, it will be the entity in charge of transferring the emissions reduction titles to the FCPF. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance will have the authority to sign the ERPA, as well as allocating the monetary resources from the distribution funds to the EEs.

Figure 5. Flow of benefits and decision-making processes for the benefit sharing



77. The NBSC will oversee the sharing of benefits. The NBSC which will consist of representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and an equal representation of all relevant stakeholders, including the participation of women, and other vulnerable minorities according to the regulations of the NBSC and BCs¹⁷:

- a. To make decisions at Level 1, the NBSC will be responsible for the final determination of the benefit sharing criteria and the application of the contingency fund, the implementation, monitoring and auditing of the BSP at the national level and will report directly to the REDD+ Program Steering Committee (governance structure available in Chapter 6.1 of the ERPD). The NBSC will be composed of representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as representatives from all EEs and beneficiaries. The procedures for the selection of beneficiary representatives are established in the NBSC regulation.
- b. To make decisions on benefit sharing at Level 2, the BCs will be tasked with applying the BSP and monitoring the sharing of benefits. The BCs will report directly to the NBSC and will be composed by representatives of the corresponding EEs and the beneficiaries of said entity. The procedure to define the types of benefits will be through the sessions of the BCs of each EE. Representatives of the beneficiaries who participated in the implementation of REDD+ activities under the framework of the REDD+ Program will participate in each BC during the reporting period in which emissions reductions for which the payment associated with such benefits were achieved.
- c. The structure of NBSC and BCs will be determined by the regulations of both and detailed in the MOP. The procedures will ensure the proper representation of beneficiaries, in addition to including veto-approval mechanisms by the representatives of the beneficiaries in the

¹⁷ Each BC must be set up in accordance with their regulations and the representatives of each relevant stakeholder group must be identified in the Minutes of the Initial Constituent Act drawn to that effect.

decision-making process. At Level 1, representatives from federations, associations of beneficiaries per REDD+ activity and one representative of women organizations.

- d. Making decisions on the sharing of benefits within associations or federations of producers will be based on their existing processes, adapted when necessary to reflect alignment with those of this BSP.
- e. The composition of all the decision-making bodies described above must guarantee the effective and representative participation of vulnerable women and other minorities. Furthermore, these bodies will have regulations that facilitate equitable decision-making processes and avoid the capture of benefits by elites.

5.1.1 Benefit sharing within EEs (Level 2 Sharing of Benefits)

78. Having received the corresponding benefits according to the sharing criteria presented in Section 4, EEs, in turn, will share the benefits according to the ER results obtained and following the specific sharing criteria defined by the NBSC. In this case, the BCs will be responsible for applying the criteria, and considering the applicable legal provisions and provisions related to carbon rights¹⁸.
79. The BCs may incorporate additional benefit sharing criteria depending on the circumstances and proper justification. These additional criteria must be approved by the NBSC before being applied. Similarly, it will decide on the type of benefits to be shared.

5.1.2 Benefit sharing among beneficiaries (Level 3 Sharing of Benefits)

80. The sharing of benefits within groups of beneficiaries¹⁹, such as forest, cattle ranchers or agricultural associations or federations, will be carried out following the procedures established by said groups in a manner agreed with their members. The decision-making process, however, must consider the general rules for benefit sharing established in this document, including compliance with the safeguards and conditions for the use of benefits. The EEs will be responsible for monitoring compliance with these rules as part of the post-sharing reporting process previously described.

¹⁸ Document on carbon rights and the transfer of Emissions Reduction titles. Ludovino Lopes. Version V.02, June 29, 2018.

1. Forests owned by the nation: resources must be allocated to improve the quality of the environment and reduce the vulnerability of the territory from where they originate (Art. 64 General Law of the Ministry of Environment);
2. SINAP: carbon rights belong to the State (Sectoral Law on Protected Areas, Art. 9), the income generated by SINAP will be distributed prioritizing the maintenance of the system and the needs of the peripheral communities of the municipalities / provinces where they are located (Art. 29.1 Sectoral Law on Protected Areas)
3. Co-management of Protected Areas: the income generated by Co-management of APs will be shared prioritizing the maintenance of the system and the needs of the local communities that influence the Protected Areas, whose benefits must be acknowledged for their efforts in RED + actions. (Co-management Regulation);
4. Article 6 of the Environmental Services Law (No. 44/18) provides that the payments received by those who use or benefit from environmental services will benefit the legal or legitimate owners and users of the land where said services were generated, in accordance with the rates and procedures established by the same law and its general regulations.
5. Article 7 of the Environmental Services Law (No. 44/18) establishes that owners or users, both public and private, of land where recognized environmental services are generated will have the right to access the system for payments and compensation for said services following the procedures established in the general regulations of the law.

¹⁹ Defined for the purpose of this BSP as the individual beneficiaries who participate jointly in the REDD+ Program and have thus signed a contract or agreement with the respective EE through a representative.

5.2. Institutional arrangements and procedures for the sharing of benefits

81. Benefit sharing under the REDD+ Program will be carried out following the procedures detailed below:

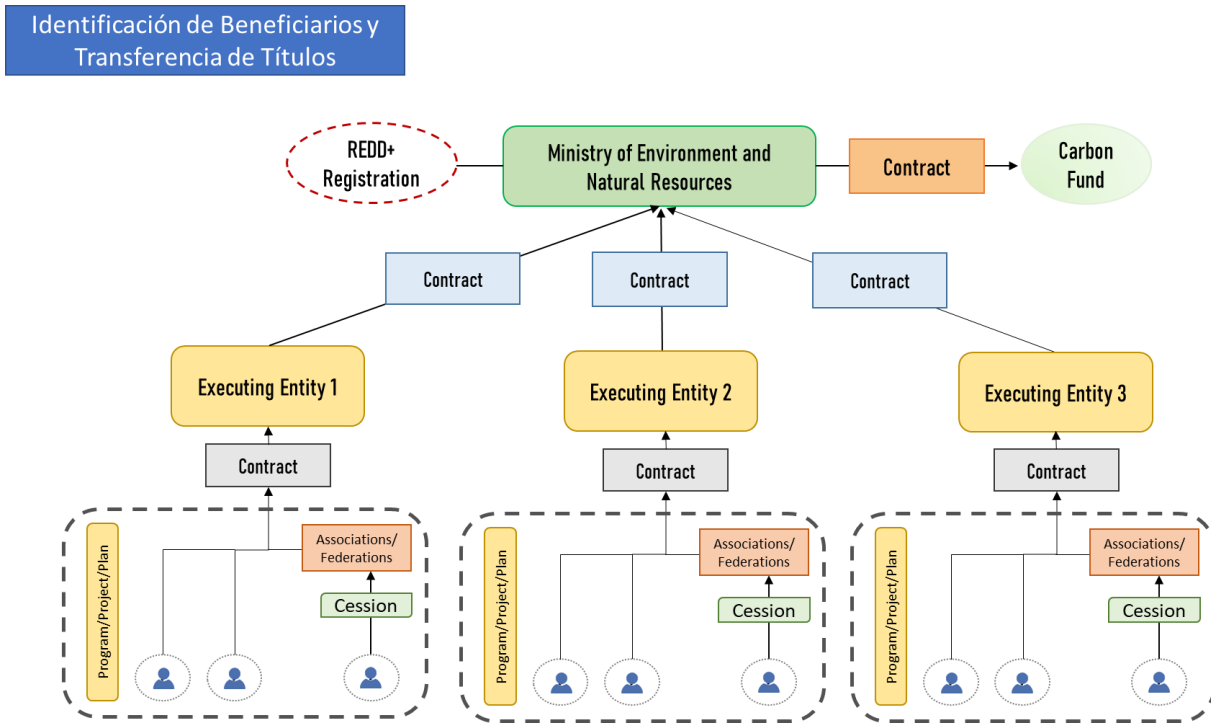
5.2.1 Procedures prior to benefit sharing

82. EEs participating in the REDD+ Program will identify and invite potential beneficiaries of the activities they promote. The potential beneficiaries who express their interest in joining the REDD+ Program and are interested in being eligible to receive results-based payments, may voluntarily apply and meet the requirements of section 3.2, to be finally selected and registered as beneficiaries with an EE depending on the REDD activity to be carried out.
83. To be eligible to receive benefits, beneficiaries must **sign an ER title assignment agreement** with the corresponding EE in which they commit to successfully carry out the REDD+ activities agreed to during the reporting period and comply with all other requirements in said agreement. The agreements will contain specific requirements for each EE and general requirements applicable to all of them, including the following:
- a. **Transfer of Carbon Rights:** Including a clause, when necessary²⁰ through which the beneficiaries will agree to transfer their rights to the reductions in GHG emissions or removals of CO₂ from the atmosphere (hereinafter referred to as "carbon rights") to the GDR as a condition to be able to receive the benefits derived from the results-based payments provided by the CF;
 - b. **Transparency:** The express consent of the beneficiaries to participate in the REDD+ Program and allow the inclusion of their data in the REDD + Initiatives Registry through the emissions reduction title assignment.
 - c. **The commitment to prepare and submit the reports required by the BSP** with the frequency and in the formats established for this purpose by the NBSC; and
 - d. **The commitment to reduce GHG emissions to receive benefits** (except in some *force majeure* cases) and to comply with the procedures and requirements established in the *ESMF* and *ESMP* corresponding to the development of the respective REDD+ activity.
 - e. **When agreements with EEs are signed by representatives of groups of beneficiaries** (associations or federations), they must provide evidence that each individual beneficiary meets the requirements established in said agreements specifically formal land tenure or recognition of the *de facto* possessions.

Figure 6 illustrates the mechanism by which carbon rights are transferred from the beneficiaries to the CF.

²⁰ It is important to note that the transfer of "carbon rights" is not necessary in areas where, by law, these rights already belong to the State.

Figure 6. Procedures to be considered during and after the sharing of benefits

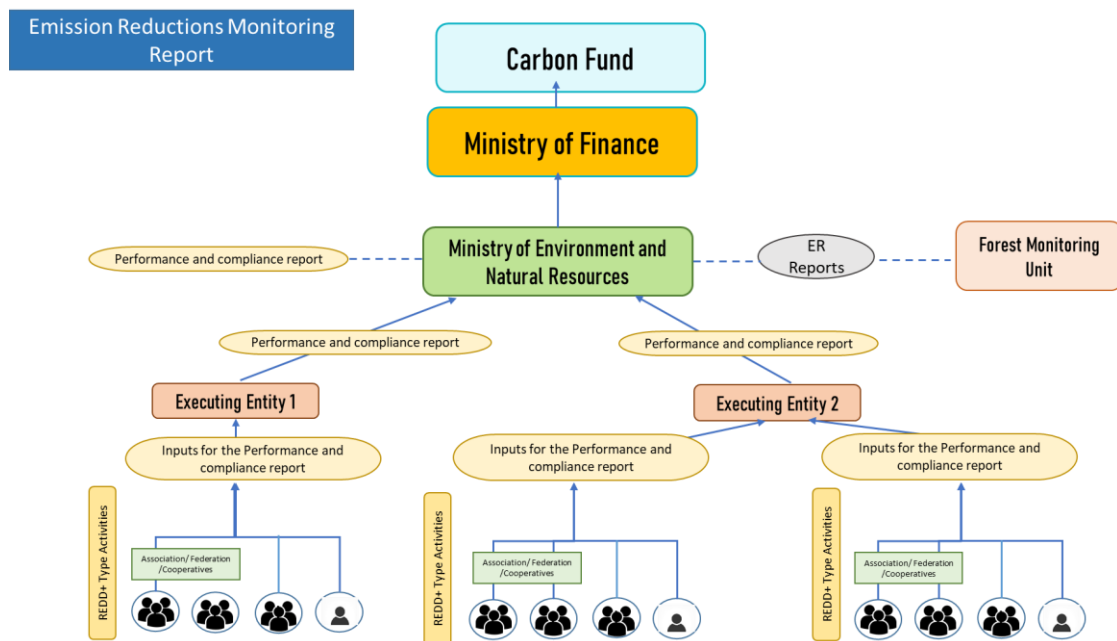


5.2.2 Procedures during and after the benefit distribution

84. DR must present to the WB a report on the benefit sharing implementation no later than 6 months after receiving each payment for the corresponding reporting period. To meet this deadline, the EEs must provide the OCR with a benefit sharing report no later than two months prior to the deadline for presenting the report to the CF. These reports will follow the methodology described in the POM and the forms prepared for this purpose, in accordance with the *Guidelines for Participating in the REDD+ Programme*.
85. The OCR will be the designated unit within the REDD+ Program for the provision of technical assistance for the preparation of reports and monitoring the implementation of activities. Additionally, this unit is expected to be responsible for reviewing progress reports. If necessary, the OCR may request clarifications or revisions from beneficiaries. To the extent necessary, the EE with the OCR will conduct field sampling to verify the data provided by them.
86. Once all EEs progress reports have been approved, the OCR will prepare a general report on the performance of the REDD+ Program for the reporting period. The information will be contained in the REDD+ Initiative Registry and the SIS. The report and the systems must contain a breakdown of information per beneficiary and the REDD+ activity performed. This report must include information on compliance with the safeguards (including the participation of women and youth), the application of the FGRM and the monitoring of benefits other than carbon generated by the activities carried out (co-benefits).
87. The steps required to report on compliance and performance regarding REDD + type activities that must be implemented to request and further share payments at different levels are detailed below and are illustrated in Figure 7a:
 - i. The EEs are responsible for preparing and submitting to the Ministry of the Environment the progress reports on the performance of REDD+ type Activities, with inputs from the

- associations, federation, cooperatives, and individuals and based on the SIS reports and the REDD+ Initiatives Registry.
- ii. The Ministry of the Environment (OCR) reviews the performance progress reports using the REDD+ Initiative Registry and the SIS and, if necessary, requests clarifications or revisions from the EEs until the report and systems comply with the requirements agreed to.
 - iii. Once the Ministry of the Environment (OCR) has the reports from all EEs, it will prepare a consolidated report on the total performance of the REDD+ Programs for the corresponding period, and after World Bank review, will send it to the NBSC, which applies the sharing criteria and determines the allocation payable to each of the EEs. The NBSC requests the Ministry of the Environment to deliver the report to the Ministry of Finance for the transfer of results-based funds to the different EEs. Finally, the Ministry of Finance send to the CF.
 - iv. The CF, after carrying out the necessary procedures, transfers the payments corresponding to the results into the Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Finance, which distributes them among EEs in accordance with the reports on the application of benefit sharing criteria prepared by the NBSC.
 - v. Before the second and third payment, the BCs should provide, through the EEs and OCR, information to NBSC on how the benefits have been shared within their respective REDD+ type activity, the type of benefits received by the beneficiaries and any mishaps or anomalies in the process identified using the FGRM.

Figura 7a. Necessary process to elaborate the ER monitoring report



88. After each payment, the EEs must prepare a report (with the approval of each BC), submit it to the Ministry of the Environment (OCR) and publish it with the results of the sharing criteria application (including type of land tenure, formal or *recognition of de facto possessions*), type of benefits granted, i.e., monetary or non-monetary and the amount), vouchers for respective transfers and information on any incident that occurred during the

distribution process. This report must also detail how the EEs met each of the requirements established in the *Guidelines for the Participation in the REDD+ Program* as well as the applicable safeguards, including the FGRM (See Figure 7b).

89. The Ministry of Finance must send the Ministry of the Environment its own report, which must provide the data and vouchers for the transfers received and made, including the timing and whether any incidents were encountered when carrying them out. The Ministry of the Environment, through the OCR, shall review and compile the reports produced by the EEs and the Ministry of Finance and prepare a general report on how the benefits have been shared to beneficiaries in the corresponding period in the context of the REDD+ Program.
90. The NBSC must examine the OCR’s consolidated report and, where appropriate, decide if it is necessary to apply corrective measures if one or more of the programs or EEs has/have not complied with the general guidelines for participating in the REDD+ Program, or make modifications to the BSP. Decisions made by the NBSC must be made public on the website of Ministry of Environment. As part of this process, the NBSC will also consider any complaint related to benefit sharing that the REDD+ Program’s FGRM has sent to it. Based on this feedback, the NBSC will decide if it is necessary to modify the BSP to improve its operation and, where appropriate, review said plan as necessary, or suggest modifications for the operation of the EE, the NBSC, or the Ministry of Finance in the context of the REDD+ Program.

Figure 7 shows the procedures to be considered after the distribution of benefits.

Figure 7b. Necessary procedures after benefit distribution

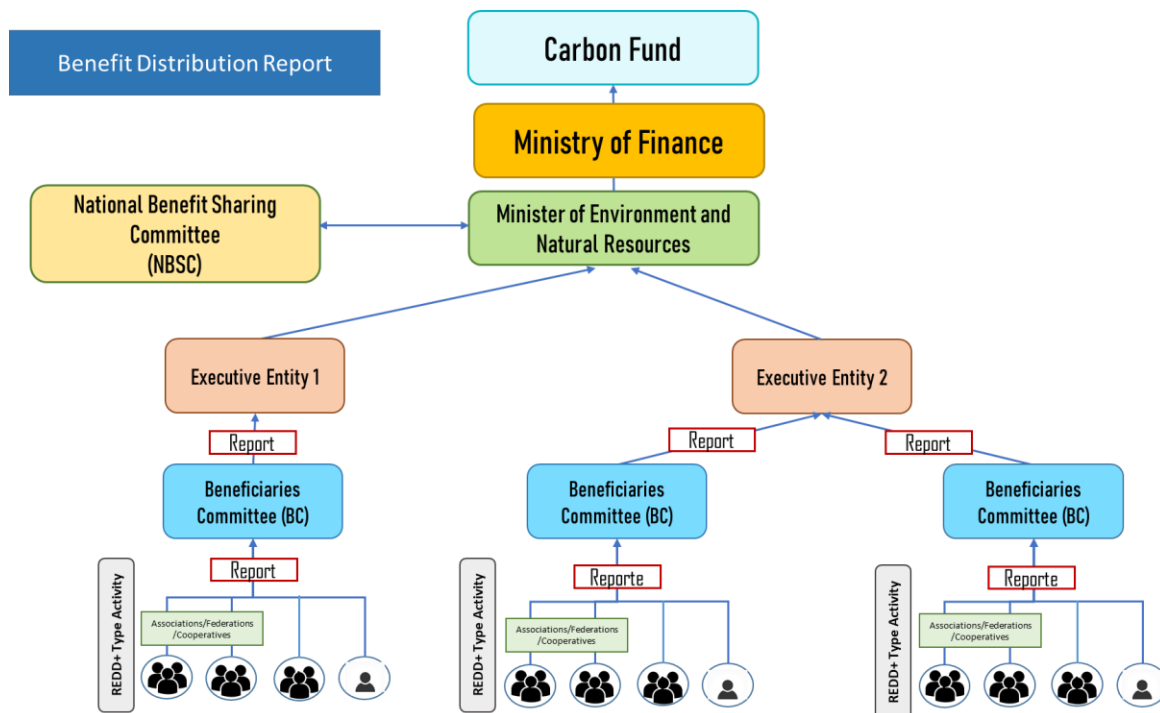


Table 11. Summary of responsibilities of participants

| Institution | Responsibilities |
|--|---|
| CF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfers the payments to the Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Finance based on the report produced by the OCR and submitted to Ministry of Finance. |
| Ministry of Environment Ministry of Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfers benefits to each EE according to the benefit sharing criteria application report prepared by the NBSC. - Sends the report of the transfers received and made to Ministry of the Environment (OCR) providing the data and proof of the transfers. |
| Ministry of Environment-OCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit responsible for coordination, implementation and monitoring of the REDD+ Program. - Participates in the preparation of the BSP of the POM. - Participates in the design of procedures for the establishment of NBSC rules. - Participates in the design of BC procedures with EEs and the beneficiaries - Facilitates the dialogue between EEs that are part of the NBSC and between the latter and the BCs - Manages the REDD+ Initiative Registry, the SIS and the FGRM. - Coordinates and monitors the Communication and Dissemination Program on the BSP at different levels. - Provides technical support to EEs in preparing reports and monitoring of the implementation of activities. - Supervises the implementation, procedures and the requirements established in the ESMF, the ESMP corresponding to REDD+ activity in both the EEs and the beneficiaries. - Provides technical assistance to EEs on compliance with safeguards when necessary - Performs, in coordination with EEs, field sampling to verify the data provided by them. - Reviews and compiles EE progress reports and consolidates the information in a general report. Submits it to NBSC and CF - If necessary, requests clarifications or reviews from the beneficiaries or EEs. - Prepares a general report on the sharing of benefits in each period and delivers it to the NBSC for its review, and further to the CF, making sure it is duly posted on the website. - Produces the reports of the MRV system and submits it to the Ministry of Finance. - Reviews the report of payments to EEs prepared by the Ministry of Finance. |
| EE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs the inter-institutional agreement with the Ministry of the Environment as a REDD+ PROGRAM participant, - Registers in the REDD+ Initiatives Registry. - Participates in the NBSC and complies with the regulations established for its operation - Coordinates the establishment of the BCs and participates in them. - Calls potential beneficiaries to disseminate the BSP in coordination with the OCR and collect letters of intent. - Prepares and publishes annual calls for participation in the REDD+ Program, considering social inclusion criteria and requirements to ensure potential beneficiaries have the capacity to carry out the proposed activities. |

| Institution | Responsibilities |
|--------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receives and organizes proposals submitted by potential beneficiaries and delivers these to the BC for evaluation. - Gathers information on the type of benefits that participants want and includes it in BC agreement. - Registers the beneficiaries selected in the REDD + Initiatives Registry. - Signs agreements with federations, associations, cooperatives and individual beneficiaries for their participation in the REDD+ Program. - Ensures that the funds obtained by the results-based payments reach the beneficiaries regardless of their land ownership status (formal or recognition of de facto possessions). - Applies the MRV instruments and the SIS and project FGRM in accordance with the procedures presented by the OCR for monitoring and systematization of the information in the REDD+ Initiatives Registry. - Applies the procedures and requirements established in the ESMF, ESMP of the REDD+ Program to ensure that they align with the environmental and social safeguards of the UNFCCC and World Bank operational policies. - Participates in the periodic evaluations that the OCR will coordinate and carry out to verify compliance with the UNFCCC environmental and social safeguards and World Bank operational policies. - Prepares and submits reports on the performance of REDD + activities carried out with its support and that may participate in the distribution of benefits with the frequency and formats determined for this purpose by the NBSC - Presents the reports required by the BSP in the frequency and formats agreed to. - Participates in the OCR training program aimed at strengthening institutional capacities. - Monitors the actions directly implemented, including compliance with safeguards, validating and informing the number of hectares where the activities have been carried out - Monitors the application of the sharing of benefits among its beneficiaries to confirm that it has been carried out in accordance with what was agreed to with the beneficiaries. - Prepares, with the approval of the corresponding BC, a report on the performance of the program for the period, documenting the sharing of benefits and the incidents that occurred throughout the distribution process. Submits the general report to the OCR and the NBSC. |
| NBSC ²¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes criteria and rules to set up NBSC. - Guarantees the effective and representative participation of vulnerable women, youth and other minorities in the composition of the NBSC. - Approves the NBSC Operation regulation, as well as its modifications and ensure its requirements are respected - Ensures the fair, equitable and transparent sharing of benefits from the implementation of the BSP under the framework of the REDD+ Program, as well as to the commercialization and sale of greenhouse gas emissions reductions generated by the country even if the resources are the ER market. - Applies the criteria for benefit sharing established in the BSP and proposes and approves additional ones as deemed convenient, to allow a better differentiation and weighting of the amount to be compensated, in order for the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources to request the CF to transfer the corresponding funds, in accordance with the REDD activity being dealt with and, provided the principles of equality, transparency and continuous improvement expressed in this regulation are respected (Chapter 5.2 of the BSP), in the framework of the possible modifications mentioned in the letter o) below; |

²¹ See the road map for formalization of the NBSC in Annex 7.

| Institution | Responsibilities |
|-------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepares the fund allocation report for each EE, based on the ER results obtained and the application of the approved benefit-sharing criteria. - Requests that the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources proceed to process the funds for the sharing of benefits with the Ministry of Finance. - Ensures that the consolidated reports on benefit sharing submitted by the country are published and made available to any stakeholder. - Oversees the implementation of benefit sharing, as agreed with the beneficiaries and ascertains that the benefits have been used in accordance with the established purposes established and shared following the principles and conditions established in the BSP. - Facilitates the implementation of the BSP at a national level and reports on its performance to the REDD+ Program Steering Committee. - Decides on the modification or update of the BSP, following its approval by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the REDD+ Program. |
| BC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decides the type of benefits and how they will be shared among the beneficiaries of each EE, based on the sharing criteria and scenarios established in the BSP and those which may be determined in the future; - Submits for the consideration of the NBSC additional benefit-sharing criteria, explaining the circumstances and providing clear justification; - Assists with monitoring the sharing of benefits as agreed with the beneficiaries and ensures that the benefits have been used in accordance with their intended purpose and shared following the conditions set out in the BSP; - Ensures compliance with the procedures and requirements established in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) according to the REDD+ activity; - Contributes to implementing, monitoring and auditing the BSP in accordance with the level of REDD+ activity and the corresponding Executing Entity; - Establishes and approves the operating rules of the BC in accordance with those set in the POM and by the NBSC, including the sharing of benefits to associations, federations, cooperatives and other individual and group beneficiaries; - Reports to the OCR and the NBSC any non-compliance by the corresponding EE regarding the general guidelines for participation in the REDD+ Program, where applicable; - Prepares a report on the benefits shared in each period and delivers it to the OCR; - Requests relevant clarifications and addenda to the EEs if the consolidated reports of the EEs are vague or incomplete; - Decides on the modification or adaptation of this Regulation for the Operation of the Beneficiary Committees (BC) considering and respecting the criteria and principles of the BSP; - Complies with the procedures to be set out in the BSP Operation Manual; - Defines the methodology and procedures necessary for making decisions as necessary; |

| Institution | Responsibilities |
|---------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If required, verifies that beneficiaries are duly registered in the REDD+ Initiatives Registry and that they are in compliance with the requirements set out in the BSP and the REDD+ program, particularly with respect to demonstrating property or possession rights over the land in which the REDD+ type activity is being implemented, as well as those requirements related to the transfer of emission reductions titles (also known as carbon rights); - If required, verifies the Title Assignments signed between the beneficiaries or group of beneficiaries and the corresponding EEs. |
| Beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attends information meetings called by the OCR and the EEs. - Expresses interest in participating in the REDD+ Program through the corresponding EE. - Attends the corresponding call, meets the requirements, and submits a proposal. - Signs an ER title transfer assignment with the EE, to comply with the requirements established for participation in the REDD+ Program and makes the ER title transfer assignment to the EE and follows the BSP guidelines for the sharing of benefits. - Complies with the procedures and requirements established in the ESMF and ESMP corresponding to the development of the respective REDD+ activity. - Prepares and submits a progress report annually following the methodology and formats established for this purpose in accordance with the BSP, including the type of benefits received, and any mishaps or anomalies in the process identified through using the FGRM and delivers them to the corresponding EE - When applicable, the associations, federations and cooperatives of producers eligible to receive benefits will follow their own procedures to share the benefits among their members. - Participates in the BC or NBSC when they have been elected and respects the rules established for their proper functioning. |

5.2.3 Expected timeline for the sharing of benefits

At the request of the Carbon Fund Secretariat, the Ministry of Environment, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance has provided the following benefit-sharing timeline to the beneficiaries when receiving payments from the CF. This timeline is only indicative and may vary as the POM is developed.

Table 12. Expected timeline for distribution of CF payments and benefits to final beneficiaries (This timeline is indicative of the time that it would take for the funds to flow and be distributed among the potential beneficiaries of the Program)

| Distribution levels | Description | Estimated time (measured in business days) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Level 1 | From the Carbon Fund to the Ministry of Finance | 15 |
| Level 2 | Performance review by the NBSC and decision regarding distribution of benefits among EEs. | 15 |
| | Transfers from Ministry of Finance to EEs | 15 |
| Level 3 | Performance review by the BCs and decision regarding distribution of benefits among final beneficiaries. | 10 |
| | Transfers from EEs to final beneficiaries | 15 |
| Total estimated time | | 70 |

5.2.4 Update of the Benefit Sharing Plan

91. A revision of the BSP to integrate lessons learned is envisaged following the delivery of the first BSP implementation reports. The BSP could also be revised if the NBSC so requests. Any modification regarding the Benefit Sharing criteria, mechanism or institutional arrangements must be approved by the REDD+ TAC and should follow a consultation process like the one carried out for the elaboration of this BSP. The revised BSP must be approved by the World Bank and the Carbon Fund.

6. SAFEGUARDS

92. Since the development of the REDD+ Program, the country has been developing actions aimed at achieving compliance with both the safeguards of the UNFCCC and the World Bank (WB) Operational Policies. Accordingly, the DR has adopted the necessary measures to establish mechanisms and develop the adequate tools for the efficient monitoring and reporting of REDD+ safeguards during the stages of implementation and results-based payments.
93. As part of the requirements established in the design of the National REDD Strategy and the REDD+ Program, the Dominican Republic carried out a Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA), designed the National Safeguards Approach (NSA), prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), established a Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanism (FGRM) and developed a Safeguards Information System (SIS).
94. The National Safeguards Approach: The NSA defines and provides guidelines aimed at: (i) describing the concrete ways compliance with REDD+ safeguards will be guaranteed, (ii) setting out a legal and political framework together with the institutions responsible for implementation and (iii) determining the aspects of compliance, such as conflict resolution, mechanisms for identifying non-compliance and the applying sanctions, and generating the corresponding reports (more details in Chapter 14 of the ERPD).
95. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment: SESA, as an analytical and participatory process, was carried out through a broad consultation process with the main stakeholders linked to the forestry, agroforestry, and livestock sectors to identify and analyze the likely risks and opportunities for the REDD+ Strategic Options. Based on this process, the ESMF was developed to analyze and contextualize the identified impacts and risks linked to the implementation of the REDD+ Strategic Actions (see Annex 3).
96. During the development of the process, a detailed analysis of the legal framework of the DR was carried out to determine the convergence of existing legal provisions with the essential principles and elements of WB Operational Policies and the UNFCCC Safeguards in order to identify any potential legal gaps and propose the necessary measures to solve them.
97. The Environmental and Social Management Framework: The ESMF functions as an operational document that establishes the principles, guidelines and procedures for addressing the UNFCCC safeguards and the WB Operational Policies. The document is based on a risk assessment of the strategic options and actions developed during the SESA to identify, through a multidisciplinary group, the positive and negative environmental and social impacts that each of the REDD+ activities could generate during implementation. The ESMF considers the environmental and socioeconomic context, and establishes the prevention, mitigation and compensation measures that must be applied to carry out the activities in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the national regulatory framework and the safeguard policies of the World Bank and UNFCCC. In order to guarantee the application of the Framework and full compliance with all safeguards, a mechanism, the Systematized information mechanism (SIS), was designed for their monitoring and follow-up during implementation.
98. The ESMF further includes a detailed capacities diagnosis of the EEs, which will be responsible for implementing the REDD+ actions selected in the national plans/programs/projects and systems where areas of opportunity were established to strengthen institutional capacity.
99. In parallel, the Involuntary Resettlement Framework (IRF) and the Procedural Standards for the involuntary restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas were developed in addition to the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) for the prioritized intervention of areas that, together with the previous information collected, allow for sounder contextualization and identification of environmental and social impacts related to REDD+ activities. All these safeguards instruments were

consulted and validated by stakeholders involved in each of the prioritized areas through five workshops held in June 2019.

6.1. Institutional provisions for the application of the ESMF

100. The leading institution responsible for the supervision and coordination of ESMF implementation is the Ministry of Environment via the OCR, which is composed of a multidisciplinary team with coordination, technical and financial advisory capacities to support the EEs responsible for implementing the REDD+ Program activities and complying with safeguards.
101. The EEs will coordinate with the OCR to implement the safeguard instruments, applying the monitoring and reporting mechanism for each beneficiary in accordance with the provisions of the institutional agreements that must be signed to access the sharing benefits of the REDD+ Program.

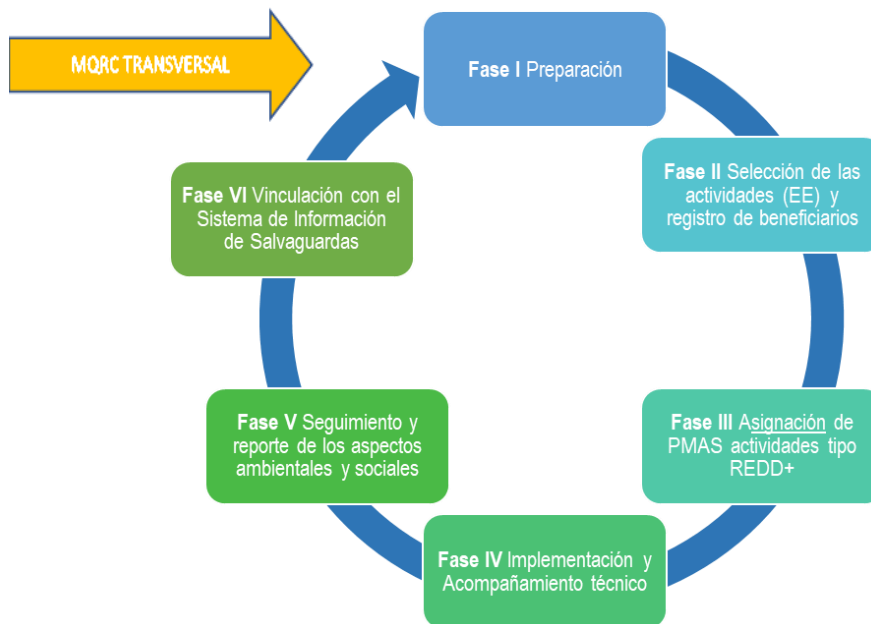
6.1. Procedures for the application of safeguards

102. Safeguards are applied in six stages throughout the entire REDD+ Activities Cycle, from the call for registration of potential beneficiaries to results-based payments:
 - a. **First stage - Preparation:** During this phase, the project will be socialized among the Executing Entities, their associates, technical assistance personnel and beneficiaries through training sessions, focusing on the list of excluded activities and compliance with the general and specific regulatory environmental and social requirements to qualify as potential beneficiaries.
 - b. **Second stage - Selection and registration of beneficiaries by the EEs:** To apply for registration in the REDD+ Program, potential beneficiaries must comply with the required documentation, including the data on the location and physical conditions of the property, verification and legitimization of each type of land tenure, general and specific environmental and social requirements for each activity (Annex 6), through the corresponding EE.
 - c. **Third stage - Environmental and Social Management Plans:** The ESMP guides on the status of environmental and social components in land where the REDD+ activities will be executed and establishes the most sensitive elements of the geographical, ecological, and social context. The EEs, with the support of technical agents, will guide the beneficiaries in applying good social and environmental practices that will allow compliance with the guidelines established in the ESMP that will be reported through the Safeguards Information System (SIS) to the OCR and to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for final validation.
 - d. **Fourth stage - Implementation and technical support:** A systematized mechanism, the Safeguards Information System (SIS), was designed for the application and follow-up of safeguards. It integrates potential impacts, all mitigation measures and good environmental and social practices to ensure each activity complies with the WB Operational Policies. A set of technical Guides targeting technical agents was also designed to strengthen compliance with the safeguards. Both the technical agents of the EEs. that will accompany the development of the activities, and beneficiaries must observe and fully comply with the mitigation measures considered. The SIS is the bases for the monitoring and reporting of safeguards that will operate through electronic registers.
 - e. **Fifth stage - Monitoring and reporting of environmental and social aspects:** The

monitoring of compliance with mitigation measures will be carried out by the EEs through the technical agents assigned to REDD+ activity. The technical agent will use the same the forms incorporated to the Safeguards Information System. In light of the limitations faced by the EEs in carrying out periodical monitoring activities, it has been considered appropriate for the annual safeguard compliance report prepared by each EE to include a universe of at least 70% of the land, with a biannual monitoring report of at least 35% of the land in each case. This will take place through random sampling offering sufficient certainty regarding the monitoring results, while reducing its cost. The semester report will identify possible non-compliances and provide technical support to strengthen beneficiary capacities. The system is designed to automatically generate the performance rating of beneficiaries that will be included in each file as proof of compliance for the benefit-sharing process.

- f. **Sixth stage – Link between the SIS and the annual report for the CF:** The OCR will collect information on safeguards compliance reported by the EEs through the SIS, which will be the information source to generate the annual report for the CF.

Figure 8. Application of safeguards within the REDD+ Activities Cycle



6.2. Development and strengthening of institutional capacities

103. Since the REDD+ preparation phase, institutional capacities related to REDD+ National REDD Strategy have been developed through activities to sensitize and involve the different institutions and stakeholders such as meetings and workshops covering general topics on REDD+, safeguards and carbon rights.
104. The preparation of staff in the ORC, TAC, and REDD+ Governance Working Groups will be strengthened by meetings and improved communication flow, as well as through the preparation of information for governing bodies and meetings with local organizations that have important impacts on REDD+ work. Likewise, training on safeguards and REDD+ will also be provided to the staff of the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas, Livestock and Agriculture.

105. To strengthen the institutions involved to fulfill successfully the responsibilities assumed for the implementation of the REDD+ Program, specifically in matters of applying and monitoring safeguards, the capacity-building process will continue during the implementation phase through an Institutional Capacity Strengthening Program. The Institutional Capacity Strengthening Program is based on the results of the Capacity Diagnosis of EEs (carried out by the Technical Management Unit, or UTG, in August 2019). As part of the program, technical courses and thematic workshops will be offered related to: ecosystems; environmental services; climate change; sustainable forest management; best environmental and social practices; integrated pest management; Involuntary resettlement; protected areas; international commitments; monitoring safeguards; legal framework; guaranteeing rights; participation and governance; conflict management; results-based payments and benefits; Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanisms; Safeguards Information System; etc. It is important to mention that the training program will be updated and adjusted in order to meet the training needs detected during the implementation, monitoring and supervision phase.

7. MONITORING

7.1. Monitoring performance

106. The implementation of this BSP will be monitored continuously through the reports that the EEs, and the Ministry of Environment (OCR) must prepare. The reports will be presented to the to the WB before they are delivered to the NBSC after each benefit sharing-event, as will the information have gathered through the SIS and FGRM of the REDD+ Program. These reports must be prepared following the guidelines and formats established by the NBSC and the POM and will be based on a series of criteria for monitoring that must also be adopted b said body. Following the principles of this BSP, the criteria that the NBSC may consider can include, among other:

- a. Streamlining distribution (the time required for the benefits to be transferred between the different levels);
- b. Compliance with distribution criteria and procedures;
- c. Transparency in the sharing of benefits.
- d. The inclusion of vulnerable women, youth, and other minorities among the beneficiaries; and
- e. Compliance with safeguards, including the FGRM.

107. At the level of beneficiaries, the EEs with OCR must additionally carry out monitoring based on random sampling to complement the information that will be provided by the beneficiaries through respective reports.

7.2. Monitoring safeguards compliance

7.2.1 Safeguards Information System – SIS

108. The SIS contains information related to compliance with the UNFCCC Safeguards and the WB Operational Policies set forth in the MGAS, the IRF, PMAS and the FGRM. The objectives of the SIS are to:

- a) respond to the requirements of the UNFCCC to report on the approach and compliance with the Safeguards and other sources of cooperation, during the implementation of REDD +, for the integrated reports.
- b) provide information on REDD + activities in a transparent, accessible, understandable, and culturally appropriate manner for different stakeholders.
- c) integrate the results obtained by the FGRM, the benefit-sharing system and other mechanisms or systems defined in the context of the safeguards and the national legislation applicable to the REDD+ National Strategy Program.
- d) strengthen the implementation of the REDD+ Program National Strategy with information and inputs to improve the provision of potential benefits and mitigation of potential risks associated with the implementation of the ESMF and the ESMP.
- e) provide key information for the implementation of development aspects of the forestry sector, governance, priority REDD + activities, technical assistance and

capacity development, operations and consultation and implementation processes for results-based payments.

- f) contribute to national objectives on sustainable development, climate change, forest governance, transparency, anti-corruption and human rights through the analysis, management and dissemination of information on social and environmental aspects of REDD + and the corresponding legal and institutional framework.
- g) provide risk indicators that allow making decisions in a timely manner.

7.2.2 Functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS

109. The functions of the SIS are closely related to the institutional arrangements of the BSP, since they will be carried out by the OCR and the EEs. The following Figure shows the proposed SIS scheme with the institutional arrangements and functions of each. (More details are in Chapter 14 of the ERPD.)

Figure 9. Institutional arrangements of the SIS

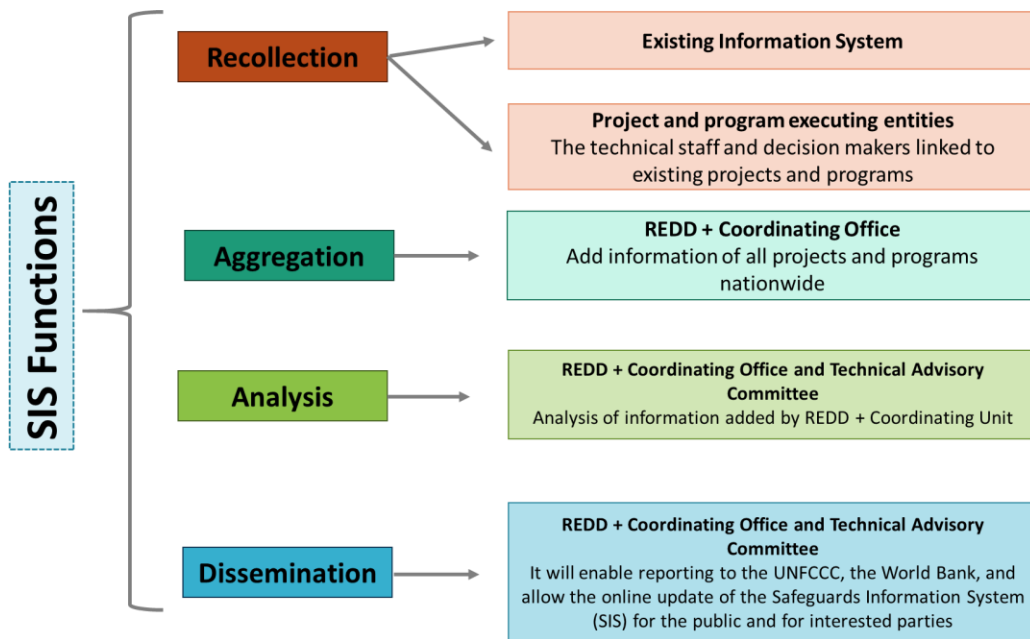
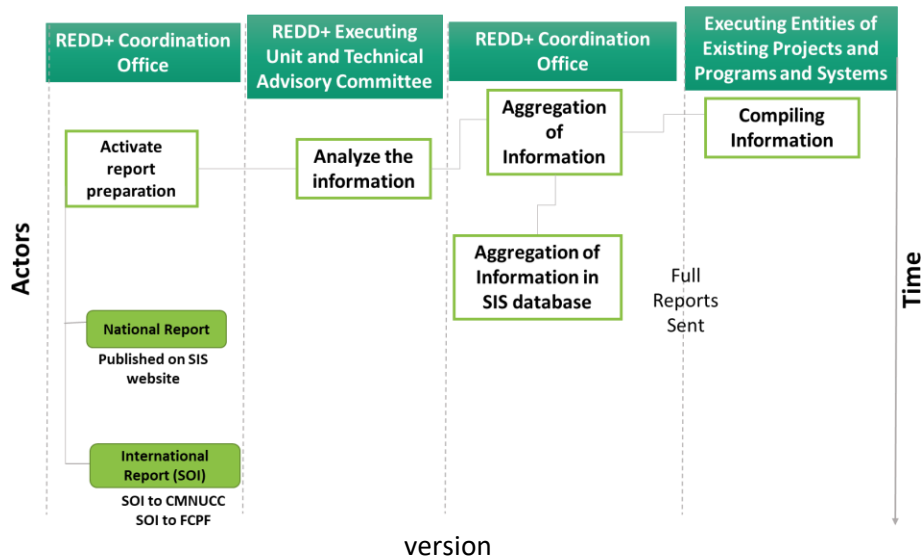


Figure 10. SIS Functions NEED TO REPLACE, figure not the same as page 68 of Spanish Final



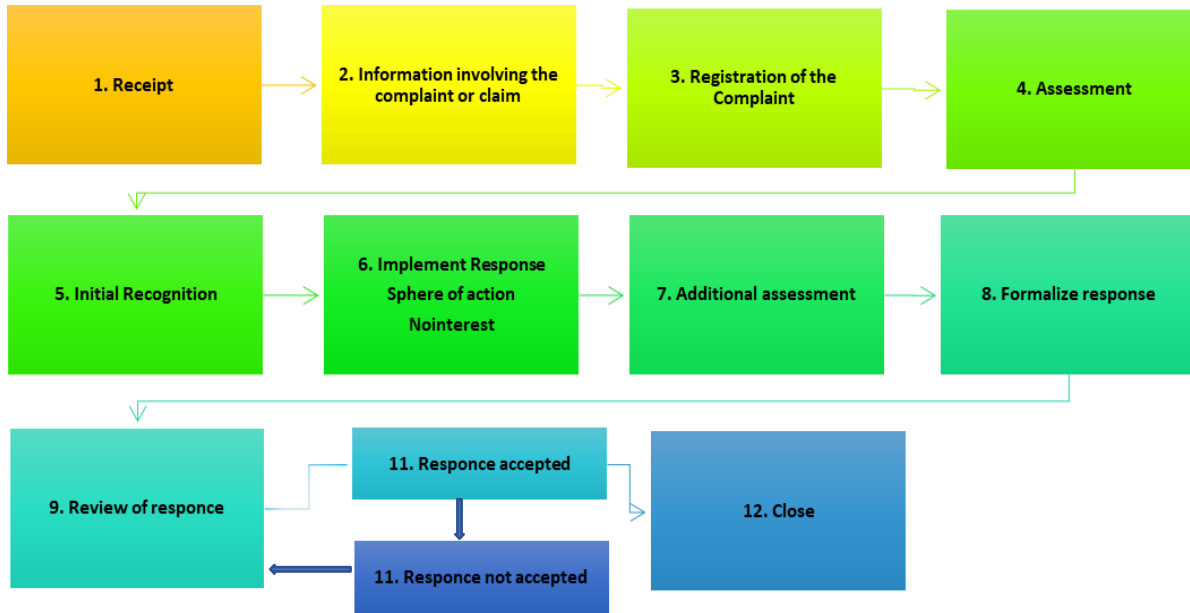
110. The SIS will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment through its website. A program will be developed allowing to manage data and information. To do this, a compatibility analysis will be carried out of the information systems managed by the various implementation entities and the requirements related to the aggregation, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of the information, which will be the responsibility of the OCR.
111. During the REDD+ implementation process, the operation of the SIS will be permanently monitored, and continually improved by strengthening inter-institutional linkages with the EE bodies.

7.2.3 Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism – (FGRM)

112. The FGRM will be applied throughout the national territory on all the actions or activities developed for the implementation of REDD+ in the DR to adequately handle the complaints, claims, and conflicts that arise in the process. The FGRM will allow clear and effective handling of complaints, claims or conflicts received arising from the implementation of REDD+ activities, with the aim of providing adequate replies, satisfactory solutions directly or, where appropriate, redirecting requests to other requests to other participating institutions that can settle and resolve issues accordingly. This mechanism will have a preventive, decisive and practical nature, preventing processes from having different consequences for multiple stakeholders.
113. The FGRM articulates the regulatory frameworks, mechanisms, and capacities existing among the institutions. The focal point of the FGRM is the Social Participation Directorate of the Ministry of Environment, within whose jurisdiction is the Green Line Management, which currently receives the complaints addressed to the institution. The thematic vice-ministries of the Ministry of Environment, who are part of this structure, are responsible for the monitoring, evaluation, and handling of the grievances and conflicts in each area. All the information and products generated will serve as inputs to improve the implementation of REDD+.

114. The FGRM operating procedure consists of the following steps, in accordance with FCPF guidelines and principles and international best practices:

Figure 11. FGRM Procedures in the Dominican Republic



115. Grievances will be registered through the REDD+ Program FGRM within the Ministry of Environment and will be assigned a tracking number. Social Participation Department (SPD) will send the grievance to the person in charge of the involved area, who in the shortest time possible (maximum 21 days) will analyze the case, conduct the respective consultations and verifications, listen to the complainant and prepares a written report indicating the solutions and proposals to give the complainant a formal reply.

116. In the cases where the responses merit additional evaluation and conflict resolution between the interested parties, it will be the responsibility of the SPD to coordinate actions with the OCR for their attention and resolution. Once the process is finished, the claimant is informed in writing and the corresponding agreements are signed.

117. Should an agreement not be reached or if the reply has not been accepted by the claimant, the latter is informed of other available alternatives, including the use of judicial or other administrative appeal mechanisms.

118. To provide credibility and the participation of key stakeholders, two representatives of community organizations, NGOs, academia or others, will be included in the step corresponding to the analysis of the site, particularly with respect to possible conflicts related to informal land tenure and the proposed strategic actions. The management of these disputes will be addressed by verifying the requisite documents supporting de facto possession. The requirements for determining the legitimacy of informal tenure under the acquisitive prescription scheme will allow reducing risks associated with potential conflicts.

119. The FGRM does not intend to replace the legal authorities or other forms of legal action existing in the country (including the mechanisms to handle claims at the project level), but to complement them. Therefore, the affected parties will be able to file claims and use all existing and relevant mechanisms under

the jurisdiction of each one.

120. The OCR is notified of each FGRM income related to REDD+ activities in real time, and uses it to follow the steps, time, and results. OCR will present reports every six months to the TAC regarding the amount and type of grievances and claims received and the responses provided. Finally, when there is an unsatisfactory response, the OCR will ask the FGRM working group of the TAC as a channel to evaluate and make recommendations on the case.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1. Summary of consultations carried out

121. The preparation of BSP draft considered the opinions expressed in the course of the SESA workshops carried out in 2018 through regional and national consultations with the participation of approximately 600 persons.
122. Likewise, during the months of January and February 2019, a broad bilateral consultation process was carried out with each EE to explain what the BSP is in the scope of the REDD+ Program, the issues to be defined, guidelines and basic principles that must be complied with, and further gather concerns and suggestions. Some 70 people participated, including technicians and managers.
123. Based on these inputs, an initial proposal on the mechanisms and criteria for benefit sharing was presented to and discussed and approved by EE representatives at a National Workshop held in February 2019 with the participation of 26 people. In addition, the Guidelines for the participation of Executing Entities in the Emissions Reduction Program were analyzed and validated. The results of this consultation are reflected in this document. The first draft of the BSP was submitted to each EE for revision and feedback.
124. In July and August 2019, a series of exchanges were carried out with each EE to identify and specify the criteria, definitions and types of beneficiaries they had planned for the REDD+ Program, as well as the possible types of benefits anticipated and the operational and social implications of each, leading to the benefit-sharing principles defined in this document.
125. In September 2019, a workshop was held with 35 people representing the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the organization of producers, universities, NGOs, the private sector, public institutions linked to REDD+ and representatives of the EE. During the workshop, issues related to the confirmation of the types of beneficiaries and the types of beneficiaries proposed by each EE, the criteria for the distribution of benefits, the governance structure of the BSP and the flow of funds to beneficiaries, as well as the processes and procedures for making decisions regarding the distribution of benefits were presented and validated.
126. Another meeting was held in September 2019 to present the REDD+ Program and the BSP, this time with 15 participants including the managers of the five regional federations of cattle ranchers.
127. In addition to the consultation process with the Executing Entities already described, between December 2019 and February 2020, a broad process of dissemination and consultation with interested parties and potential beneficiaries was carried out. The Consultation Plan has included the mapping of beneficiaries, including representatives of different individuals and families linked to the Programs. The invitation was coordinated with each EE. Contact and awareness regional meetings were held before the BSP consultation with Associations and Federations to offer key information of the REDD+ Program and the BSP.
128. Technical and feedback meetings with the authorities of the Ministry of Environment and Executing Entities were held, both bilaterally and collectively, in addition to sectoral and inter sectoral workshops with the Technical Advisory Committee (CTA) and its participants were held. The CTA was formally informed on February 13, 2020 on the progress concerning the REDD + National Strategy Program, ERPA and BSP.
129. The consultation process with different stakeholders focused on defining: i) who the beneficiaries would be; ii) criteria to regulate the BSP; iii) types and proportions of monetary and non-monetary benefits; iv) requirements that beneficiaries must meet; v) decision-making mechanism for benefit sharing; vi)

institutional arrangements, and vii) flow of information and the process of reporting and verification.

130. During January and February 2020, five regional meetings (one for each priority area) were held with associations and federations of forestry producers, coffee, cocoa, livestock farmers and community groups from surrounding areas to protected areas. Opinions, evaluations, and preferences of beneficiaries regarding the main components of the Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) were collected. There was also a national workshop with Cocoa Producers, and two livestock producer regional federation. In this process of consultation with beneficiaries, a total of 293 people were registered.
131. Despite the efforts made to focus the call on the participation of women, men have had a greater representation (83%) in the BSP consultation process. This is partly explained by the deep gender gap in agricultural and forestry activities and therefore in the levels of representation in organizations. The application of the newly approved gender action plan allows to expand the participation of women in the REDD +.
132. The participation of the beneficiaries who have attended the consultations yielded the following considerations: i) preference for receiving non-monetary and collective benefits; ii) all participants are in favor of adhering to the governance and decision-making mechanisms proposed in the BSP advanced draft and request to participate actively in electing their representatives in the BC; iii) agree that the SIS and the FGRM and their active participation in governance mechanisms are the tools available to address possible breaches of the agreements.
133. In February 2020, consultations were carried out with three farmer federations, corresponding to the North, Northeast and East regions of the country. Further, the Executing Entities linked to the dairy sector (DIGEGA and CONALECHE) were asked to continue informing their trade members on the BSP.
134. Additionally, 12 consultations were conducted with key stakeholders in five regions, for those who participated previously in the entire consultation process and for those who had not been able to participate yet. The consultations took place between the end of August and September 2020 with the aim of discussing with key stakeholders' additional criteria to make the distribution of benefits more equitable. The consultations yielded positive results for the inclusion of these criteria in the BSP advance draft. Given the restrictions of the COVID 19 pandemic, the consultations were carried out in person, observing the recommendations for social distancing and physical safeguards, which limited the number of participants. Attendance was limited to a total of 99 (21.1%) women and 372 (78.9%) men.

Table 13. Schedule of consultations with direct beneficiaries

| Meeting Place | Municipalities | Time | Participants | Men | Women |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----|-------|
| Cotuí | Bayaguana | January 30, 2020 | 2 | 2 | - |
| | Sabana Grande de Boyá | | 16 | 10 | 6 |
| | Cevicos | | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| | Cotuí | | 14 | 4 | 10 |
| | Constanza | | 9 | 9 | - |
| | Jarabacoa | | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | Monte Plata | | 3 | 3 | - |
| | Fantino | | 1 | 1 | - |
| TOTAL | | | 58 | 38 | 20 |
| San Francisco de Macorís | San Francisco de Macorís | | 3 | 3 | - |
| | Tenares | | - | - | - |
| | Nagua | | 7 | 6 | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Salcedo | January 31, 2020 | 1 | 1 | - |
| TOTAL | | | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| Santiago Rodríguez | El Pino | February 4, 2020 | 2 | 2 | - |
| | Loma de Cabrera | | 5 | 5 | - |
| | Restauración | | 6 | 6 | - |
| | San José de Las Matas | | 9 | 9 | - |
| | Monción | | - | - | - |
| | San Ignacin de Sabaneta | | 20 | 15 | 5 |
| | Villa Los Almácigos | | - | - | - |
| | Mao | | 9 | 9 | - |
| | Dajabón | | 3 | 3 | - |
| TOTAL | | 54 | 49 | 5 | |
| Baní | San Cristobal | February 5, 2020 | 15 | 15 | - |
| | Cambita Garabitos | | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Los Cacaos | | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| | Rancho Arriba | | 2 | 2 | - |
| | Sabana Larga | | - | - | - |
| | San José de Ocoa | | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| | Banica | | - | - | - |
| | Baní | | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| | Nizao | | 1 | 1 | - |
| TOTAL | | 40 | 35 | 5 | |
| Meeting Place | | Municipalities | Time | Participants | Men |
| San Juan | Comendador | February 6, 2020 | - | - | - |
| | Jimaní | | - | - | - |
| | El Llano | | - | - | - |
| | Hondo Valle | | 19 | 16 | 3 |
| | Juan Santiago | | - | - | - |
| | Pedro Santana | | 3 | 3 | - |
| | La Descubierta | | 6 | 6 | - |
| | Bohechio | | 1 | 1 | - |
| | El Cercado | | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Padre de las Casas | | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Juan de Herrera | | 1 | - | 1 |
| | San Juan | | 17 | 14 | 3 |
| | Vallejuelo | | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 55 | 46 | 9 | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Federation of Livestock Farmers of the North (Federación de Ganaderos del Norte) | | February 7, 2020 | 33 | 29 | 4 |
| National Workshop with Cocoa producers. | National level | February 11, 2020 | 42 | 39 | 3 |
| TOTALES | | | 293 | 246 | 47 |

135. Further to these consultation activities, during 2021 a consultation with each of the EEs was held where the proposal of the additional benefit-sharing criteria and weighting method was proposed and discussed. Once the comments and observations were gathered, on November 4, 2021, a National TAC multi-actor and multi-sectoral workshop was conducted where the additional benefit-sharing criteria and weighting method proposed were presented and validated, for further presentation the NBSC for final approval. An online TAC national workshop was also held to become acquainted with the plan and validate the Road Map (see annex 7) prepared to set up the 1st NBSC.

9. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

136. The objective of the Communications Plan is to raise awareness and empower key stakeholders in the role they play in the REDD+ Program and the BSP. In addition, it seeks to support enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders through educational and informational materials covering essential topics for their participation.
137. General questions that need to be answered when communicating the BSP include: What is climate change and how does it affect us?, Why are forests important and what is their role in climate change?, What are greenhouse gases?, What is the importance of forests for reducing the emission of these gases?, What is REDD+?, What can I/my community do to help prevent deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?, What are results-based payments?, How can you participate in this?, and finally, What is the BSP?, How will it work? Who does it target? What are the types of benefits and beneficiaries, criteria for the sharing of benefits and governance structure? Which are the potential risks of the REDD+ Program in the event of underperformance? What is the contingency fund?
138. The scope of the communication strategy is nationwide. Activities are prioritized at the regional level and in rural areas. The OCR and EEs will be tasked with the communication activities
139. Greater emphasis will be placed on communication targeting at key stakeholders, such as EEs, populations in prioritized areas, forest and agroforestry producers, livestock farmers, and communities surrounding protected areas. Communication actions and products disseminated to the public at large will be less frequent.
140. Special efforts will be made to ensure that vulnerable population groups are also informed on the REDD+ Program and the BSP. To convey these messages, the following identified channels will be used: traditional media (radio, press, e-mail), above all, community broadcasting stations printed materials (newsletters, brochures, summaries, posters, EN-REDD+ and REDD+ Program documents), billboards and posters, press meetings and continuous publication on respective websites and social networks (2.0), participation in federation and association meetings, etc.
141. The communication strategy comprises the approach and the results of the Gender Action Plan.²²

²²<https://ambiente.gob.do/reduccion-de-las-emisiones-producto-de-la-deforestacion-y-la-degradacion-ambiental/publicaciones/>

10. Annexes

ANNEX 1. Accounting Area of the ER-Program

The accounting area for the Emissions Reductions Program (REDD+ Program) for the Dominican Republic comprises the entire national territory, except for some small islands, keys and islets. The country occupies an area of 48,198 km² (4,819,800 ha), of which 47,733 km² will make up the accounting area. Although the REDD+ Program will be implemented on a national level, some components have an approach that require special attention in five priority geographical areas, based on the following criteria:

- Areas where high rates of deforestation, forest degradation and/or loss of soils are expected.
- River basins of strategic importance in terms of: i) protected areas/biodiversity, ii) supply of water and/or infrastructures such as hydroelectric dams, aqueducts and irrigation canals.
- Human population benefiting from ecosystem services from the river basins mentioned.

Figure A.1.1 depicts a map of the five priority areas in the REDD+ Program and Table A1.1 lists the municipalities for each corresponding area.

Figure A.1.1. REDD+ Program priority regions

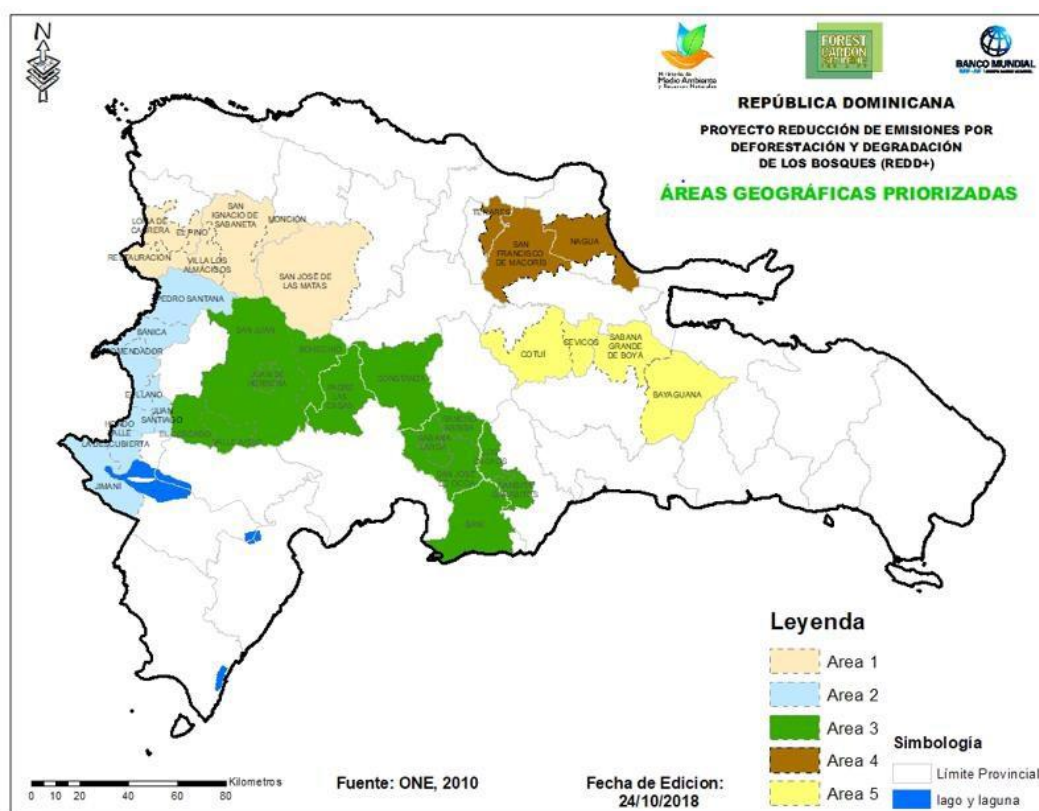


Table A1.1. Priority areas and their municipalities.

| Prioritized Geographical Area | Municipalities |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Loma de Cabrera, El Pino, San Ignacio de Sabaneta, Monción, San José de Las Matas, Restauración, Villa LosAlmácigos |
| 2 | Pedro Santana, Bánica, El Llano, Juan Santiago, Hondo Valle, La Descubierta, Jimaní, Comendador |
| 5 | San Cristóbal, Baní, Cambita Garabito, San José de Ocoa, Los Cacaos, Sabana Larga, Rancho Arriba. Constanza, Padre Las Casas, Bohechío, San Juan, Juan de Herrera, El Cercado, Vallejuelo |
| 4 | Nagua. San Francisco de Macorís, Tenares |
| 5 | Cotuí, Cevicos, Sabana Grande de Boyá, Bayaguana |

76.15% of the accounting area demonstrates potential for capturing emissions through the following land uses (Obando, 2018):

- a. Forests: Conservation, sustainable use, planting.
- b. Shrubland: Forest development and restoration.
- c. Subsistence crops: Establishing agroforestry systems and forest plantations.
- d. Pasture: Interior forest conservation and establishing silvopastoral systems.

The REDD+ Program is not only aimed at decreasing or halting deforestation and forest degradation. It is also important to address agriculture and livestock production systems, which are exerting pressures on forest resources. The REDD+ Program will be specifically supported by agricultural and livestock projects that have nationwide objectives and actions and a sustainable development approach, such as the case with shade-grown cocoa and coffee production and silvopastoral systems. Figure A1.2 shows the geolocation of the productive areas along with the priority areas (municipalities and natural protected areas).

Figure A.1.2. Cocoa, coffee, cattle ranching areas with silvopastoral systems, PES areas and areas with sustainable forest management, and their spatial relationship with priority areas.

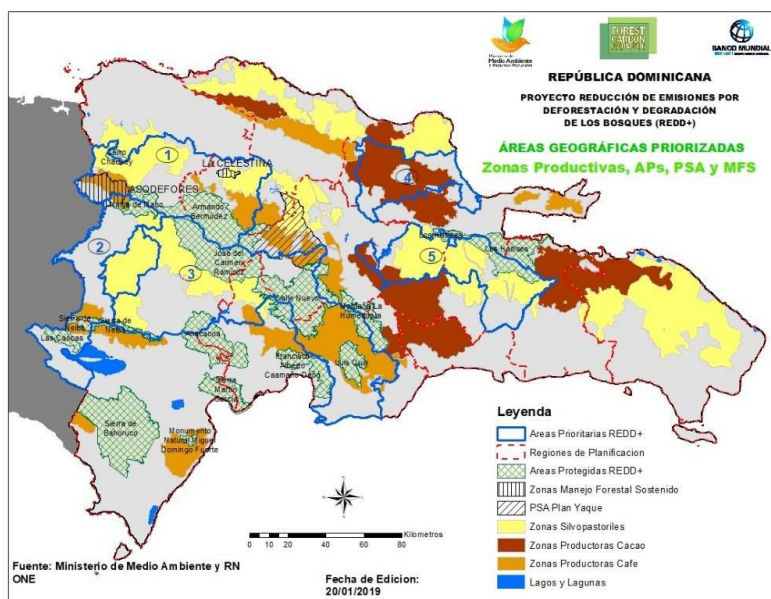


Table A.1.2. shows the strategic actions helping to prevent deforestation (D), forest degradation (FD) or increasing carbon reserves (ICR) with regard to their geographical scope, including priority geographical areas. Some of the direct actions for REDD+ will be implemented in one or several of the priority

geographical areas, some will have an impact on either one or several of the priority geographical areas as well as in another part or parts of the country, while others will have an effect at a national level.

Table A.1.2. REDD+ actions in relationship to the different REDD+ Programs and their geographical scope.

| STRATEGIC ACTIONS | ERPD ACTIVITIES | PLANS /PROGRAMS/PROJECTS | | | | | | GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| | | SINAP | COCOA | COFFE | SSP | SFM | PSA | |
| 2.4 Programs to improve ecological management and restoration in river basins | <i>Increase of Carbon Stocks</i> | x | x | x | x | x | x | National |
| 3.1. Improvement of reforestation and agroforestry plans and programs such as the National <i>Quisqueya Verde</i> Plan and the Agroforestry Program, which <i>Includes Reforestation, Agroforestry Systems (cocoa and coffee AFS), Sustainable Forest Management</i> | <i>Increase of Carbon Stocks</i> | | x | x | | x | x | National |
| 3.2. Promoting the incorporation of agroforestry systems to manage agricultural and cattle farms. <i>Consists of forest pasture systems and agroforestry systems (Cocoa, Coffee AFS)</i> | <i>Deforestation Increase of Carbon Stocks</i> | | x | x | x | x | | National |
| 3.3. Developing programs to raise awareness among key stakeholders on subjects such as environmental education and sustainable forest management. <i>Involves training in the form of courses, workshops, field days, exchanging experiences and publicity campaigns</i> | <i>Deforestation Degradation</i> | x | | | x | x | | National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 3.4. Reducing and/or halting deforestation and degradation in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources. <i>Includes Agroforestry systems (coffee, cocoa AFS), Plantations for wood energy, Diversification of income-generating methods for local users, creation of green jobs</i> | <i>Deforestation Degradation</i> | x | | | | | | National/SINAP |
| 3.5. Enhancing the program for protection and surveillance in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources. <i>Includes staffing at an adequate level, monitoring tasks, restocking with tree species and conservation of natural regeneration</i> | <i>Increase of carbon stocks</i> | x | | | | | | |
| 3.6. Rehabilitating forest ecosystems in fragile areas relevant for facilitating connectivity between forest fragments. <i>Includes the restocking of tree species, conservation of natural regeneration, protection of forest cover.</i> | <i>Increase of carbon stocks</i> | x | | | x | x | x | National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 3.7. Encouraging owners of private farms and community organizations to manage the natural regeneration of tree species. <i>Addressing regeneration of degraded natural areas, sustainable forest management</i> | <i>Deforestation Degradation</i> | | | | x | x | x | National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|--|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| <p>3.8. Defining and putting into practice financial instruments and mechanisms to develop activities associated with production, conservation and restoration of forestry ecosystems. Involves economic analyses, definition and adoption of financial alternatives</p> | <p><i>Deforestation Degradation</i></p> | <p>x</p> | | | <p>x</p> | <p>x</p> | <p>x</p> | <p>Priority areas 1, 2, 3</p> |
| <p>3.9. Updating and applying the National Strategy for Fire Management in the Dominican Republic. Involves revising and adapting the strategy, as well as the required equipment</p> | <p><i>Degradation</i></p> | | | | | | <p>x</p> | <p>National</p> |
| <p>3.11. Developing the program for restoring post-fire ecosystems affected. <i>Involves restructuring, restocking tree species, conservation of natural regeneration and protection of plant cover</i></p> | <p><i>Increase of Carbon Stocks</i></p> | <p>x</p> | | | | <p>x</p> | | <p>National</p> |

Social aspects of prioritized areas

A brief summary of the social aspects of the Priority Areas is presented below, covering: the size and growth of the population, gender and urban-rural distribution, predominant economic activities, level of general and extreme poverty, Human Development Index, and employment.

Priority Area 1

In terms of all the indicators analyzed, one of the three provinces that make up Priority Area 1 had the most predominant values with respect to the others. Santiago is the third-most populated province in the country, while the other two provinces, Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez, are much less populated. The area in general has low or negative population growth. The percentage of men and women varies little around 50 percent, while there is population concentration prioritizing urban areas. In terms of priority economic sector, the main cluster in the area is agriculture, with a weight of over 27 percent in the Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez provinces. The level of general and extreme poverty in 2010 varies among the three provinces that make up Priority Area 1, with Dajabón presenting a significantly higher percentage than the national average. According to the Human Development Index (HDI), which reports the level of development of a population, two of the three provinces exhibit Medium-Low development, while the province of Santiago (the most populated) exhibits a Medium-High HDI. The unemployment rate affects women significantly more, particularly in the two less populated provinces of Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez, with rates close to or higher than the national average (15 percent).

Priority Area 2

Priority Area 2 generally registers low population numbers and density and low or negative population growth. The percentage of men and women varies little around 50%, while there is a concentration of the population that prioritizes urban areas. The predominant economic activity is agriculture. The level of general and extreme poverty in 2010 was significantly higher than the national average. The area exhibits unemployment rates close to the national average (15 percent), with much higher percentages in the case of women (close to 30 percent).

Priority Area 3

Two of the country's five most populated provinces are located in Priority Area 3, while the other four[sic] provinces have a smaller population and generally negative or very little growth. The proportion of men and women is equal in the most populated areas, with a greater share of men in less populated areas. The population is mostly concentrated in urban areas. The predominant economic activity is agriculture. Overall, the area exhibits general and extreme poverty above national levels, although lower than those reported in 2002. According to the Human Development Index, the provinces with the highest concentration of population have indices closer to the national level (0.513) while the less populated provinces are farther away. The unemployment rate in the area varies between 11 percent and 23 percent on average, affecting women more significantly.

Priority Area 4

The area has a very low population density compared to the other Priority Areas, with the urban population in the most populated areas and the rural population in the least. Gender distribution is close to 50 percent in the most populated areas and predominantly male in the less populated ones. There is little agricultural activity, several mining concessions and higher levels in the service industry. The available data indicate significantly lower levels of poverty than the national average and also with respect to other Priority Areas. The Human Development Index corresponds to a Medium-High HDI, and the unemployment rate is well below the national average, although with higher values for women.

Priority Area 5

According to the scarce information available for the jurisdictions that make up Priority Area 5, it has the lowest population density compared to the other Priority Areas, which generally have a higher percentage of urban populations. The distribution of men and women is close to 50 percent. The predominant

economic activity is agriculture, particularly subsistence agriculture in the area near *Los Haitises* National Park. The Human Development Index is below the national level, with a Low-Medium HDI. The unemployment rate is around the national average, but significantly higher for women than for men.

ANNEX 2. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Dominican Republic

With regard to quantifying land use change for the DR, a multi-temporal analysis was conducted using remote detection tools and Geographic Information Systems to estimate *gains and losses* of plant cover for the 2005-2015 period. By 2005, it is estimated that the Dominican Republic had a forested area of 2,153,519 ha (including coffee and cocoa agroforestry systems). By 2015, the estimated forested area was 2,435,932 ha, which was a net positive change, or total forest gain, of 282,412 ha in the 10 years analyzed.

On analyzing the dynamics of the change using the non-biased sampling method (see methodology in the REDD+ Program Document), estimates refer to a gross gain in forest cover (woody vegetation which becomes forested lands and non-woody vegetation which becomes forested land) of 467,263.75 ha of forest over 10 years, while losses (forested land which becomes woody and non-woody vegetation) amounted to 184,851.39 ha for the 10 years analyzed. Based on these figures, the Dominican Republic showed an annual net positive change of 28,241 ha of forest on average in the 2005-2015 period (Table A.2.1).

Table A.2.1. Changes in forest cover during the 2005-2015 period.

| IPCC transition category | Change category | Area (ha) | Area (%) |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------|
| Land that remained as forest land | Broadleaf forest | 1,020,197.65 | 21.35 |
| | Dry forest | 372,137.03 | 7.79 |
| | Coniferous Forest | 266,872.55 | 5.59 |
| | Agroforestry crops | 309,460.87 | 6.48 |
| Subtotal | | 1,968,668.10 | 41.21 |
| Forest land converted to non-forest land (deforestation) | Broadleaf forest to vegetation | 41,128.34 | 0.86 |
| | Broadleaf forest to non-woody vegetation | 88,183.87 | 1.85 |
| | Dry forest to vegetation | 22,157.69 | 0.46 |
| | Dry forest to non-woody vegetation | 19,892.86 | 0.42 |
| | Pine forest to vegetation | 4,758.96 | 0.10 |
| | Pine forest with non-woody vegetation | 8,729.67 | 0.18 |
| Subtotal | | 184,851.39 | 3.87 |
| Non-forest land converted into forest land | Woody vegetation to broadleaf forest | 135,988.50 | 2.85 |
| | Woody vegetation to dry forest | 98,969.23 | 2.07 |
| | Woody vegetation to pine forest | 23,605.18 | 0.49 |
| | Non-woody vegetation to broadleaf forest | 138,618.35 | 2.90 |
| | Non-woody vegetation to dry forest | 34,823.72 | 0.73 |
| | Non-woody vegetation to pine forest | 12,433.13 | 0.26 |
| | Non-woody vegetation to agroforestry | 22,825.64 | 0.48 |
| Subtotal | | 467,263.75 | 9.78 |
| Non-forest land | Non-forest land | 1,986,187.34 | 41.57 |
| Transitions not considered | | 170,409.06 | 3.54 |
| National territory without satellite information | | 42,420.36 | 0.88 |
| Subtotal | | 2,199,016.76 | 45.6 |
| Total | | 4,819,800.00 | 100.00 |

The principal *cause of deforestation* in quantitative terms is the *conversion of forests into non-woody vegetation* (pastureland and annual farming). This type of dynamic entailed the loss of approximately 116,806 ha of forest in 10 years. This is followed by the conversion of the forests into woody vegetation in the order of 68,015 ha. In terms of loss, the most significant conversion involves the broadleaf forests, with losses of 129,312 ha between 2005 and 2015, followed by dry forest, with losses of 42,051 ha, and pine forest with losses of 13,489 ha in the same period.

Prioritized at national level, the *principal direct causal factors of deforestation* are: commercial livestock farming and the illegal logging of the natural forest, both identified as extremely high priority, followed by commercial and shifting/subsistence agriculture, catalogued as high priority causal factors. Prioritized at national level, the very high priority *principal direct causal factors of forest degradation* are: i) grazing of livestock in the forest, ii) the extraction of timber/firewood/charcoal, iii) badly organized/badly implemented management plans, iv) medium and low-intensity forest fires and v) the introduction of exotic/invasive species.

The very high priority *main indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation* at a national level are:

- i) deficiency of public policies, ii) deficiency in relation to the institutional status of the forestry sector, iii) lack of relevant education, and iv) informality in the firewood/charcoal market, v) migration dynamics and
- vi) low economic valuation of forests, identified as being of high priority.

Using the results obtained from the standardized and prioritized causal factors, the essential inputs needed to propose strategic REDD+ Program options and actions and to formulate the REDD+ National Strategy for the Dominican Republic were generated. Table A.2.2 lists the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the GoDR ENREDD+ proposed interventions to address them.

Table A.2.2. Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and GoDR ENREDD+ proposed interventions.

| Driver | Impact | Type of Driver | Description of driver | ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| Low level of harmonization between agricultural production, infrastructure development and forest conservation policies | Deforestation | Direct | Legislation does not directly consider its relationship with deforestation and forest degradation nor its impact on forests. Traditional government programs for promoting agriculture, livestock farming, and forestry still do not have a policy framework for forest conservation that is aligned at the local and national level | 2.3 Strengthen land zoning programs for crops, livestock and infrastructure that are compatible with the conservation of forests |
| | | | | 2.4 Strengthen watersheds and ecological restoration programs |
| | | Direct | Forests are managed without any consideration for the ecosystems and the | 3.3 Develop awareness programs for key actors on |

| Driver | Impact | Type of Driver | Description of driver | ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Poor and unsustainable use of forests lands | Deforestation and forest degradation | | ecological requirements necessary for their conservation. Degradation and deforestation are closely related to human activity, either due to carelessness, indifference and/or lack of skill in using fire. | environmental and forest management |
| | | | | 3.6 Rehabilitation of forest ecosystems to facilitate connectivity between fragmented forests |
| | | | | 3.9 Define and implement financial instruments to promote transformation, conservation and restoration activities |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|---|---|
| | | | | 3.10 Update and implement the National Fire Management Strategy |
| | | | | 3.11 Restore ecosystems affected by fires |
| | | | | 3.12 Strengthen the phytosanitary program in priority forest areas |
| Unsustainable management of agricultural and livestock lands | Deforestation and forest degradation | Direct | Farmers lack incentives and the technical capacity to properly manage lands to make them more productive. | 3.1 Strengthen agroforestry and reforestation plans and programs |
| | | | | 3.6 Rehabilitation of forest ecosystems to facilitate connectivity between fragmented forests |
| Expansion of livestock production | Deforestation | Direct | Extensive livestock farming is the land use system that has permanently replaced forest cover in the country. Traditionally, livestock farmers have taken advantage of small "conqueros" farmers to fell forest areas and transform them into pasture after years of cultivation. | 3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms |
| Expansion of grazing in forests | Deforestation | Direct | Extensive livestock farming occupies large grazing areas and the livestock is regularly moved from one place to another in search of new forage. | 3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms |
| Weak forest legislation and other norms associated with the management of the forest sector | Deforestation and forest degradation | Underlying | Lack of a policy framework for forest conservation and sustainable forest management that is well aligned with other land use sector policies. | 1.1 Promote the Forestry and Payment for Ecosystem Services Law |
| | | | | 1.2 Revise, elaborate and apply regulations related to the sustainable management of forests |
| | | | | 2.1 Strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms of conservation |

| Driver | Impact | Type of Driver | Description of driver | ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | and sustainable forest management policies |
| | | | | 3.7 Establish a forest evaluation and monitoring system |
| | | | | 1.2 Revise, elaborate and apply regulations related to the sustainable management of forests |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|---|---|
| Institutional weakness for sustainable forest management | Deforestation and forest degradation | Underlying | Lack of effectiveness and complementarity in public policies within the agro-silvopastoral and forestry sectors. | 1.3 Promote governance structures for the conservation of natural national heritage |
| | | | | 1.5 Strengthen control mechanisms for forest and forest by-products |
| | | | | 1.6 Strengthen institutional capacities of entities responsible for implementing REDD+ actions |
| | | | | 2.1 Strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms of conservation and sustainable forest management policies |
| | | | | 3.7 Establish a forest evaluation and monitoring system |
| Weakness associated with the rural land tenure regime | Deforestation and forest degradation | Underlying | Without a guarantee that the land will continue to belong to farmers, farmers have little incentive or motivation to invest in the land to make it more productive long-term. | 1.4 Define and apply legal mechanisms related to land tenure and PES in relation to REDD+ |
| Low economic valuation of forests | Deforestation | Underlying | Perceived economic value of forests is low. Forests are not perceived as a valuable asset. | 1.4 Define and apply legal mechanisms related to land tenure and PES in relation to REDD+ |
| | | | | 3.9 Define and implement financial instruments to promote transformation, conservation and restoration activities |
| High level of rural poverty and unemployment | Deforestation and forest degradation | Underlying | Poverty restricts economic options, reduces income-generating opportunities, and is an underlying cause of deforestation. Limited employment and low incomes, together with demographic pressures, contribute to deforestation. | 2.2 Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, protection of watersheds, biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services derived from forest ecosystems |
| | | | | 2.4 Strengthen watershed and ecological restoration programs |

| Driver | Impact | Type of Driver | Description of driver | ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 3.1 Strengthen agroforestry and reforestation plans and programs |
| | | | | 3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms |

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---|---|
| High pressure on forests due to population growth | Deforestation | Underlying | Horizontal expansion has been observed in the main cities in the country, which reduces both the agricultural area available and natural plant cover in the areas adjacent to cities. | 2.2 Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, watershed protection, biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services derived from forest ecosystems |
| | | | | 3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms |
| | | | | 3.4 Decrease and stop deforestation and forest degradation in relevant protected areas |
| | | | | 3.5 Strengthen surveillance programs in relevant natural protected areas |

ANNEX 3. REDD+ Program Measures in the Dominican Republic

The REDD+ Program is currently the most significant component in the Dominican Republic’s REDD+ Strategy, which will be implemented on a national scale. The main objective of the Program is to significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation and to substantially increase carbon reservoirs by implementing strategic actions aiming to boost coverage regeneration in degraded areas, sustainable forest management and the creation of coffee, shade-grown cocoa and silvopastoral systems. At the same time, the REDD+ Program aims to improve the quality of life in Dominican rural communities and increase the resilience of the natural ecosystems against climate change.

Through a participatory program with key stakeholders, Strategic Options and Strategic Actions were identified and agreed upon to offset or mitigate factors that: i) drive deforestation and forest degradation, ii) restrict conservation and sustainable forest management and iii) hinder growth of the forest charcoal stock. The participative process entailed several consultation workshops, internal consultations in the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and an analysis and technical discussion with the organisations that make up the REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee.

Based on the participatory process, the REDD+ Program includes fulfilling and implementing three *Strategic Options* and 22 *Strategic Actions*, which will comply with the core part of the National REDD+ Strategy. The Strategic Options are:

1. To strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources. Includes 6 actions.
2. To establish, strengthen and apply public policies in order to limit and/or contain the expansion of agricultural and livestock frontiers and of infrastructure in forest areas. Includes 4 actions.
3. To promote natural resource management models that contribute to forest conservation and sustainable use and to the increase of forest coverage. Comprises a total of 12 actions.

The first two options will generate legal and institutional conditions in order to meet the established reduction goals, while the third includes actions to be carried out in the field through successful plans, programs and projects being developed by the country. Table A.3.1 contains a summary of the main Strategic Options and their corresponding Strategic Actions.

Table A.3.1. REDD+ Strategic Options and Corresponding Strategic Actions, Scope, and Scale.

| STRATEGIC OPTIONS | REDD+ STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SCOPE: | SPHERE |
|---|--|--|----------|
| 1. Strengthening the legal and institutional framework to preserve natural heritage and promote the | 1.1 To promote the enactment and application of the Forestry Law and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) regulations. | Enabling Environment Activity: To support the formulation, approval, and enactment of forestry law and PSA operational instruments. | National |
| | 1.2 Review, create and apply rules concerning sustainable forest management. | Enabling Environment Activity: Review forest management laws and codes, adapting them and drafting new ones as required. | National |
| STRATEGIC OPTIONS | REDD+ STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SCOPE: | SPHERE |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|---|--|----------|
| <p>sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Scope: To promote the application of different laws and standards relating to the management and conservation of natural heritage, and to encourage governance structures at different levels.</p> | 1.3 | To drive effective governance structures for the preservation of natural heritage in the context of REDD+. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Establishment of the Management Committee, REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee, Central Work Groups and Local Coordination Groups. Review and strengthen their operating rules.</p> | National |
| | 1.4 | To define and apply legal mechanisms relating to the tenure of land and payments for environmental services in the context of REDD+. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Application of mechanisms for recognition of land tenure rights. Approval and dissemination of profit-sharing mechanisms for emissions reduction.</p> | National |
| | 1.5 | To strengthen mechanisms of forest control and supervision including the determination of the legal origin, exploitation and sale of forest products and sub-products. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Revise, update and implement existing mechanisms for traceability of forest products.</p> | National |
| | 1.6 | To strengthen the institutional capacities of the organizations responsible for implementing REDD+ actions. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Review, establish and assign human and logistical resources for implementation of REDD+ at an institutional level. Establish a training program at central and local level in all REDD+ governance structures.</p> | National |
| <p>2. Establish, strengthen and apply public policies to limit and/or contain the expansion of agricultural, livestock and infrastructure borders in forested areas</p> <p>Scope: To strengthen inter-institutional coordination and collaboration mechanisms to reach a harmony between productive activities and forest conversation.</p> | 2.1 | To strengthen effective mechanisms of inter-institutional coordination for consistency of public conservation policies, sustainable use and restoration of forests. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Establish inter-institutional agreements; joint implementation agreements; definition of joint standards and protocols.</p> | National |
| | 2.2 | Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, clean-up, protection of water basins, conservation of biodiversity and for other environmental services derived from forest ecosystems. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Integrate and expand on existing national programs with REDD+ focus (actions considered in strategic option 3).</p> | National |
| | 2.3 | To develop programs for the zonation of crops, livestock and infrastructure compatible with forest conservation. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity: Update productive zoning and conservation of the landscape and propose this to the Management Committee, to reinstate this among the REDD+ agreements.</p> | National |
| | 2.4 | To strengthen the focus on drainage basins in ecological management and restoration programs. | <p>Enabling Environment Activity To promote a basin management approach among the REDD+ Program Executing Entities.</p> | National |

| STRATEGIC OPTIONS | STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SCOPE: | SPHERE |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| <p>3. To promote management models for natural resources that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forests and an increase in forest coverage.</p> <p>Scope: To promote activity in sustainable productive systems based on agroforestry and natural resource management and conservation.</p> | <p>3.1 To strengthen plans and programs for reforestation and agroforestry such as the National Forestry Plan and the Agroforestry Program.</p> | <p>Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks: Identify areas of intervention: involve the community and organizations in reforestation and agro-forestry actions (Social Forestry, SAF cocoa and coffee), sustainable Forestry Management.</p> | National |
| | <p>3.2 Promoting the incorporation of agroforestry systems for managing agricultural and cattle farms.</p> | <p>Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks and deforestation. Intensification of livestock by means of silvopastoral systems.</p> | National |
| | | <p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Intensification of agriculture through agro-forestry systems (SAF cocoa, coffee). Incorporation of trees in livestock estates (silvopastoral systems).</p> | National |
| | <p>3.3 To develop programs to raise awareness among key players regarding the subjects of environmental management and sustainable forest management.</p> | <p>Enabling Environment Activity Deforestation-degradation Establish a program to train and raise awareness of environmental management and sustainable forest management. Training courses, workshops, sharing experiences, field days, dissemination campaigns.</p> | Priority areas I, II and III |
| | <p>3.4 To reduce and/or slow down deforestation and degradation in major protected areas for the conservation of forest resources.</p> | <p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Formulate and implement sustainable production actions in PA buffer zones (Dendroenergy plantations, agro-forest systems). Apply resolution N 0010/2018 Management of buffer areas of SINAP conservation units. Reduce dependency on use of resources within PAS (creation of green jobs).</p> | SINAP |
| | <p>3.5 Enhancing the program for protection and surveillance in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources.</p> | <p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Strengthen definition of the PAs. Draft and implement management plans in priority protected areas with social stakeholders. Restrict use and access to PA resources in accordance with management plans Strengthening and application of the Sanctions Regulation in the NPAs, in accordance with the management plans.</p> | SINAP |

| STRATEGIC OPTIONS | STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SCOPE: | SPHERE |
|-------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| | | Strengthen the protection and surveillance program in the core area of the NPAs through the National Park Guards Corps, administrators and local participating communities. | |
| | 3.6 Rehabilitating forest ecosystems in fragile areas relevant for facilitating connectivity between forest fragments. | Direct activity Improve existing Carbon stocks Include repopulation of tree species, conservation of natural regeneration, forest cover protection (Reforestation, Regeneration of degraded natural areas, Agro-forestry systems, Silviculture, Sustainable forest management). | National |
| | 3.7 To establish a system for evaluating and monitoring forest management. | Enabling Environment Activity: Generation of technical skills and technological infrastructure for integral forest management monitoring (GHG, Fires, Traceability, products, species, etc.). | National |
| | 3.8 To promote forest management and the natural regeneration of tree species between owners of private farms and community organizations. | Direct activity Deforestation and degradation: Recovery of degraded land through natural regeneration Increased the area under sustainable forest management and silviculture activities. | Priority area V |
| | 3.9 To define and put into practice financial instruments and mechanisms to develop productive conservation and restoration activities for forest and agroforest ecosystem. | Direct activity Deforestation and degradation: Review, assessment and broadening the scope of existing incentives. | Priority area III |
| | 3.10 Updating and applying the National Strategy for Fire Management in the Dominican Republic. | Direct activity Degradation: Strengthen institutional capacity for coordination, collaboration for application of the National Fire Management Strategy. Detect needs for Strengthening (RH, Surveillance Equipment, Protocols, early alerts). Update and apply the fire reporting system. | National |
| | 3.11 Developing the program for restoring post-fire affected ecosystems. | Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks: Cover the SINAP, basins, and all national programs that incorporate the REDD+ Strategy. | National |
| | 3.12 To develop a phytosanitary plan in priority forest areas. | Enabling Environment activity: Develop a plant health protection | National |

| STRATEGIC OPTIONS | STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SCOPE: | SPHERE |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| | | <p>plan that includes using and managing pesticides, integrated pest management, preventive, control and permanent plant health monitoring of native forest resources.</p> <p>Train professionals and technical personnel in surveying, detection, registration, prevention and pest control at a central and local level, including customs.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of National Plant Pathology laboratories.</p> | |

ANNEX 4. Expected Emissions Reductions

The emissions in the forest sector with reference to the historical data (2006-2015) were estimated to average 662,545 tCO_{2e}/year, including annual emissions of 3.2 MtCO_{2e} from deforestation, 0.57 MtCO_{2e} from forest degradation, and annual removals of -2.1 MtCO_{2e} from reforestation and -0.97 MtCO_{2e} from recovering forest stocks. Table A.4.1 illustrates the REDD+ Program Reference Level. The calculation report can be accessed at the following link: <https://app.box.com/s/297c6wkhw3crh7itx9zy0acachzv2x0f>. Any adjustments or improvements to the NF should follow the current guidelines of the Methodological Framework.

Table A.4.1. REDD+ Program Reference Level.

| year <i>t</i> | Average annual historical emissions from deforestation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr.) | Average annual historical emissions from forest degradation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e}) | Average annual historical removals by sinks over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr) | | Reference level (tCO _{2-e} /yr) |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | Lands converted to forest lands | Lands that remain as forest | |
| 1 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -214,007 | -968,088 | 2,588,608 |
| 2 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -642,021 | -968,088 | 2,160,594 |
| 3 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -1,070,035 | -968,088 | 1,732,580 |
| 4 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -1,498,049 | -968,088 | 1,304,566 |
| 5 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -1,926,064 | -968,088 | 876,552 |
| 6 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -2,354,078 | -968,088 | 448,538 |
| 7 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -2,782,092 | -968,088 | 20,523 |
| 8 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -3,210,106 | -968,088 | -407,491 |
| 9 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -3,638,120 | -968,088 | -835,505 |
| 10 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -4,066,134 | -968,088 | -1,263,519 |
| Average 2006-2015 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | -2,140,071 | -968,088 | 662,545 |

Based on the results of the 2006-2015 reference period, the Reference Level for the REDD+ Program Period between 2020 and 2024 totals 3,312,725 tCO_{2e}. The RL includes emissions from deforestation, degradation and removals from the enhancement of carbon stocks from afforestation/reforestation activities. With the implementation of the activities planned for the REDD+ Program, the emissions and removals during the REDD+ Program Period will account for 6,321,442 tCO_{2e} total. This implies that with the REDD+ Program, the country will be a net carbon sink. Table A.4.2 depicts the ex-ante estimation of the ERs expected from the REDD+ Program.

Table A.4.2. Ex-ante estimation of the ERs expected from the REDD+ Program.

| ER Program term year t | Reference level (tCO ₂ -e/yr) | | | | | Estimation of expected emissions / removals under the REDD+ Program (tCO ₂ -e/yr) | | | | | Emission Reduction | Expected ERs after discounting uncertainty | Estimation of expected set-aside to reflect the risk of reversal and level of uncertainty associated with the estimation of ERs during the Term of the REDD+ PROGRAMA (tCO ₂ -e/yr) | Estimated Emission Reductions (tCO ₂ -e/yr) |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | Annual Emission (t CO ₂ -e/yr) | | Annual Removals (t CO ₂ -e/yr) | | FREL | Annual Emissions (t CO ₂ -e/yr) | | Annual Removals (t CO ₂ -e/yr) | | FREL projected | | | | |
| | Forest lands converted to croplands / pastures | Lands that remain as forest | Lands converted to forest lands | Lands that remain as forest | | Forest lands converted to croplands / pastures | Lands that remain as forest | Lands converted to forest lands | Lands that remain as forest | | | | | |
| 2020 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | (2,140,071) | (968.088) | 662,545 | 3,020,604 | 561,641 | (2,333,882) | (968.088) | 280,275 | 382,270 | 343,543 | 57,257 | 286,286 |
| 2021 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | (2,140,071) | (968.088) | 662,545 | 2,520,187 | 540,041 | (2,527,694) | (968.088) | (435.554) | 1,098,099 | 992,841 | 165,474 | 827,368 |
| 2022 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | (2,140,071) | (968.088) | 662,545 | 2,452,745 | 517,962 | (2,721,505) | (968.088) | (718.886) | 1,381,431 | 1,244,209 | 207,368 | 1,036,841 |
| 2023 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | (2,140,071) | (968.088) | 662,545 | 2,432,048 | 495,883 | (2,915,317) | (968.088) | (955.474) | 1,618,019 | 1,452,572 | 242,095 | 1,210,476 |
| 2024 | 3,203,463 | 567,240 | (2,140,071) | (968.088) | 662,545 | 2,424,334 | 473,804 | (3,109,129) | (968.088) | (1,179,079) | 1,841,624 | 1,648,990 | 274,832 | 1,374,159 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | (3,008,718) | 6,321,443 | 5,682,155 | 947,026 | 4,735,129 |

According to the Monte Carlo analysis, the uncertainty of estimations of for the RL was estimated at 37.05% for deforestation, which represent a conservative factor of 8%, the estimated uncertainty of stock enhancement from reforestation was estimated at 68%, which represents a conservative factor of 12%, whereas the uncertainty of degradation and forest recovering were both >100%, representing a conservative factor of 15% (Table A.4.3).

Table A.4.3. Forest Reference Emissions Levels (in tCO₂e/year) with the respective uncertainty and conservativeness factor per activity.

| FREL | Emissions | Standard Deviation | Lower Limit (5%) | Upper Limit (95%) | Error | Conservativeness Factor |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| RL Deforestation | 3,773,493 | 852,097 | 2,460,578 | 5,256,427 | 37.05% | 8% |
| RL Removals | -2,294,122 | -1,017,527 | -4,067,560 | -723,310 | 68.47% | 12% |
| RL Degradation | 570,327 | 587,393 | -347,955 | 1,529,069 | 164.6% | 15% |
| RL Forest Recovering | -973,192 | 1,013,651 | -2,676,477 | +662,518 | 171.6% | 15% |

As a result of the uncertainty analysis, the corresponding buffer is 8% for deforestation, 12% for removal and 15% for degradation and forest recovery and according to the reversal analysis the corresponding buffer is 20%. As such, the quantity of reductions, which must be set aside to reflect the uncertainty level and the risk of reversals, is 1,586,314 tCO₂e. Total emission reductions for the REDD+ PROGRAM are then 4,735,125 tCO₂e (Table A.4.4).

Table A.4.4. Total expected net ERs (tCO₂e).

| Year | Gross ER | Reductions set aside to reflect uncertainty level and risk of reversals | Net ER |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|
| 2020 | 382,271 | 57,257 | 286,286 |
| 2021 | 1,098,098 | 165,474 | 827,368 |
| 2022 | 1,381,431 | 207,368 | 1,036,841 |
| 2023 | 1,618,019 | 242,095 | 1,210,476 |
| 2024 | 1,841,623 | 274,832 | 1,374,159 |
| REDD+ PROGRAM Period | 6,321,442 | 947,026 | 4,735,129 |

Annex 5. REDD+ activities and EEs participating of the the REDD+ Program and potential universe of beneficiaries, location, and potential types of support that will be offered.

| Program | Executing Entity | Type of Beneficiary | | | | Location and Scope | Type of Activities | Type of Benefits | Description of Benefits |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| | | Individual and Family Land-Owners | Informal Tenure | Forest and Agroforestry Producers | Associations and/or Federations | | | | |
| Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO) | Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing -MAG | X | | X | X | Cocoa producers located throughout the national territory | -Agroforestry systems (cocoa) | Non-monetary | Provision of quality hybrid cocoa plants which will be delivered to the producers, subsidized at cost. Technical assistance. |
| La Celestina Sustainable Management Project | Association of Foresters in San Ramón, La Celestina | | | X | | 71 associates and 340 small non-associate producers located in the municipality of San José de las Matas | -Sustainable Forest Management -Dendroenergetic plantations | Non-monetary | Expand and strengthen the capacity of the Association to provide facilities (equipment, machinery, etc.) to current and new partners to ensure the intervention area and boost its growth, which has been limited by existing shortcomings. |
| National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) | Protected Areas Directorate - Vice Ministry of AAPP and Biodiversity - MARN | X | X | | | Proprietary individuals and families and suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) on land located within and in the buffer zones of Protected Areas | - Natural regeneration in degraded areas - Forest conservation in priority protected areas with social stakeholders | Non-monetary | For the owners and informal holders, the benefits received will be used to finance land use change actions favorable to the conservation and restoration of AAPP. The actions would include technical assistance according to the management plans of each PA to reduce its vulnerability. |

| Program | Executing Entity | Type of Beneficiary | | | | Location and Scope | Type of Activities | Type of Benefits | Description of Benefits |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| | | Individual and Family Land-Owners | Informal Tenure | Forest and Agroforestry Producers | Associations and/or Federations | | | | |
| | | | | | | brigades 195 associations | | | |
| Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Coffee (CAFÉ) | Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ) | | | X | X | 28,000 small and medium-associated coffee producers located throughout the national territory | - Agroforestry systems (coffee) | Non-monetary | Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others. |
| Sustainable Forest Management Plan | Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration (ASODEFOREST) | | | X | | 64 associated forest producers and 546 non-associated forest producers located in the province of Dajabón | - Sustainable Forest Management - Dendroenergetic plantations | Non-monetary | Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others. |

| Program | Executing Entity | Type of Beneficiary | | | | Location and Scope | Type of Activities | Type of Benefits | Description of Benefits |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| | | Individual and Family Land-Owners | Informal Tenure | Forest and Agroforestry Producers | Associations and/or Federations | | | | |
| MEGALECHE Program (silvopastoral system and forest conservation on livestock farms) | General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA) / CONALECHE) | | | X | | Small and medium milk producers located throughout the national territory | Silvopastoral systems Forest conservation | Non-monetary | Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others. |

Annex 6. Criteria for the selection of activities established in the ESMF

A.6.1. Exclusion List

The following activities are considered environmentally or socially high risk or contravene the Operational Policies of the WB and cannot be selected as part of the REDD+ Strategy.

Table A.6.1. List of excluded activities

| List of Excluded Activities | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Activities that require the large-scale ¹⁸ involuntary acquisition of land or subsequent land-use change that produces losses or irreversible damage to the assets or income of local residents. |
| 2 | Activities that significantly affect ¹⁹ vulnerable populations, or where populations have not given their support. |
| 3 | Activities that irreversibly affect archaeological or historical sites (including sites with archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious or unique natural values). |
| 4 | Activities that cause irreversible degradation, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources or place a large quantity of scarce resources at risk. |
| 5 | Conversion, deforestation or degradation or any other alteration of natural forests or critical habitats. |
| 6 | Activities related to illegal logging and unauthorized extraction of non-timber products for their sale. |
| 7 | Acquisition of agrochemical product formulations that belong to categories Ia (extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous) of the World Health Organization or product formulations from Category II (moderately hazardous), if it is likely that they will be used by inexperienced personnel, farmers or other people without training, or without the equipment and installations for handling, storing and applying these products correctly ²⁰ , as well as those established in the Forestry Health catalogue ²¹ . |
| 8 | Funding elections or electoral campaigns. |
| 9 | Construction and/or restoration of religious buildings. |
| 10 | Activities and crops implemented and/or cultivated with the general purpose of producing and/or selling alcohol and/or tobacco. |
| 11 | Purchasing tobacco, alcoholic beverages and other drugs. |
| 12 | Purchasing arms or munitions. |
| 13 | Those that do not comply with the established documentation in the legal framework for each eligible activity. |

The EEs must apply the list of excluded activities as the first filter. Any *specific activity* that includes one or several of the listed activities will be rejected from selection as activities eligible for REDD+.

¹⁸ More than 200 cases of involuntary acquisition are considered significant.

¹⁹ Situations considered to have significant negative impacts on vulnerable populations and therefore considered “non-eligible”, including the following: a) significant cultural disruptions that seriously affect practices and ways of life, such as physical displacement of these vulnerable populations without their free, prior and informed consent and without them benefiting in a fair and equitable way from the sub-project; b) impacts on common-use land and traditionally used natural resources irreversibly affecting the livelihoods of vulnerable populations; and c) severe and/or irreversible effects on cultural resources or practices.

²⁰ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44271/9789241547963_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

²¹ http://www.reddccadgiz.org/documentos/doc_1417514524.pdf

A.6.2. General selection criteria for activities

The specific activities must prove that they align with the selected REDD+ activity types²², and that they promote some of the criteria set out below:

- Improving the livelihoods of the local population.
- Enhancing the participation of local communities in the management of the forest landscape.
- Tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Offering environmental benefits in addition to ERs, such as biodiversity and hydrological services.
- Avoiding deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management.
- Protecting environmental services.
- Increasing carbon stocks in the forest landscape.
- Promoting activities with a low environmental impact that promote sustainable use and agroforestry for timber and non-timber products.
- Incorporation of low carbon production systems in agriculture.
- Strengthening of community forestry companies.
- Aligning with the central objectives of the Program or National Project and with the NS REDD+.
- Their social, environmental and economic feasibility and sustainability are justified.
- Exchange of experiences between men, women, and youth, as well as between different production systems. Give visibility to different groups.

A.6.3. Specific selection criteria that each activity must satisfy

After filtering for excluded activities and general criteria, the EE in charge of the proposed activities must apply the specific selection criteria related to the environmental and social compliance standards set by the national legal framework for each type of activity considered in each projector program.

The specific requirements by REDD+ activity type is presented below:

²² Sustainable Forest Management, reforestation, agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems, natural regeneration in degraded areas, dendroenergetic plantations, and management plans in protected areas.

Table A.6.1. Specific selection criteria for Sustainable Forest Management in the REDD+ framework

| 1. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) |
|--|
| As a prerequisite, these operations must comply with national regulations in force on forest management plans and landregistry regulations. |
| Letter from the rights holder declaring under oath that the proposed activities are considered within the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. |
| Present MARN authorization of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan in Forest. |
| Environmental Permit (Category B). Requires an Environmental Impact Statement to be drafted when performed on an area greater than 200 hectares. |
| Environmental Certificate (Category C). Only requires compliance with the environmental regulations in force when performed on area of up to 200 hectares. |
| Copy of the letter of authorization or, if applicable, authorization of the amendments to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan in print and digital PDF format. |
| Authorized and valid electronic file of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. |
| Letter of submission and electronic file of the execution, development and compliance report of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan corresponding to the immediately previous year exercised (ONLY FOR PROJECTS IN OPERATION) |

Table A.6.2. Specific selection criteria for Reforestation in the REDD+ framework

| 2. Reforestation in the Context of REDD+ |
|--|
| Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas. (The reforestation units or zones operate under the administration and responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources through the Provincial Directorates of the Environment and Natural Resources, responsible for operational work) |
| Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings. |
| Present a reforestation plan that contains: Aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the plantation and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others. |
| Declaration of the human settlements in the intervention area (if there are people settled or making use of the intervention area, describe the number of people, activity and resource dependence). Inform whether the activity implies the displacement of activities or people or some type of use restriction. |

Table A.6.3. Specific selection criteria for Agroforestry Systems in the REDD+ framework

| 3. Agroforestry Systems (shade-grown coffee, cocoa) |
|--|
| <p>Certification of Plantation with Right to Harvest (for New Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Permit for Harvest, Shade Control and Exploitation of Trees (for Existing Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Environmental Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment for projects categorized by Law 64-00 (Category C).</p> |
| <p>Present an agroforestry establishment plan including aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p> |
| <p>The proposal includes best practices such as activities with minimum tillage and not using slash-and-burn practices, good waste and pesticide handling and the establishment of forestry tree species in the same area.</p> |

Table A.6.4. Specific selection criteria for Silvopastoral Systems in the REDD+ framework

| 4. Silvopastoral Systems |
|---|
| <p>Certification of Plantation with Right to Harvest (for New Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Permit for Harvest, Shade Control and Exploitation of Trees (for Existing Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Environmental Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment for projects categorized by Law 64-00 (Category C).</p> |
| <p>Present an agroforestry establishment plan including aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p> |
| <p>The proposal includes best practices such as activities with minimum tillage and not using slash-and-burn practices, good waste and pesticide handling and the establishment of forestry tree species in the same area.</p> |

Table A.6.5. Specific selection criteria for Natural Regeneration in Degraded Areas in the REDD+ framework

| 5. Natural Regeneration in Degraded Areas |
|---|
| <p>Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas.</p> |
| <p>Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings.</p> |
| <p>Present a reforestation plan that contains aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p> |
| <p>Declaration of the human settlements in the intervention area (if there are people settled or making use of the intervention area, describe the number of people, activity and resource dependence). Inform whether the activity implies the displacement of activities or people or some type of use restriction.</p> |

Table A.6.6. Specific selection criteria for Dendroenergetic Plantations in the REDD+ framework

| 6. Dendroenergetic Plantations |
|---|
| Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas. Certificate of Plantation with Multiple-Use Right to Harvest (Corresponding to Environmental Certificates, Category C). Authorization for Forestry Plantation Management (Certificate of Minimum Impact) |
| Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings. |
| Present a reforestation plan that contains aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others. |
| For the energy production process, a concession is required from the National Energy Commission, which initially grants a provisional concession followed by a definitive concession, and if production continues, an energy use agreement is established. |

Table A.6.7. Specific selection criteria for Forest Conservation Activities in priority protected areas along with social stakeholders in the REDD+ framework

| 7. Forest Conservation Activities in Priority Protected Areas along with Social Stakeholders |
|---|
| Present a certificate issued by the director of the SINAP confirming that the activities to be performed in the Natural Protected Area are on the list of permitted activities established in the Management Program in effect based on its zoning. |
| If there is no specific Management Plan for the intervention area, it must comply with the provisions for the conservation of forests established in General Law No. 64-00 on Environment and Natural Resources; Law No. 202-04, Sectorial of Protected Areas; Law No. 57-18, Forest Sector of the Dominican Republic and those contained in the Forest Technical Standards and Forest Regulations. |
| Apply the criteria and comply with the objectives set forth in the Policies for the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). |
| Comply with the legal criteria and procedures for the management of SINAP deriving from the provisions contained in the Constitution of the Republic; General Law No. 64-00 on Environment and Natural Resources; Law No. 202-04, Sectorial of Protected Areas; Law No. 105-05 on Real Estate Registration and Law No. 344-43 establishing the Expropriation Procedure. |
| Present proof of land tenure (for informal occupants) or Certificate Title and registration plan (owners). |
| Present an action plan with the requirements of the NS REDD+ Resettlement Policies Framework, drafted in a participatory fashion with the agreement of the social stakeholders present in the natural protected area. |

Once EEs can demonstrate compliance with the specific criteria contemplated in the national legal framework, the activities may be selected for integration into the REDD+ Program. Compliance with the environmental and social safeguards of the WB must be demonstrated during their implementation in order to qualify for the benefit distribution system.

Additionally, the following list is included, which offers guidance for identifying potentially compromising factors according to the scope of WB OP 4.12. To the extent that any proposed activity or action involves one or more of the factors included in the following list, the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework, included in Annex 2 of the ESMF, shall apply.

- Unintentional loss of land and / or partial or total impairment of assets (OP/BM 4.12).
- Loss of crops, walls, fences and other assets.
- Loss of livelihoods or access to assets.

- Involuntary displacement of communities/people linked to activities in protected areas and land use change.
- Involuntary (partial or total) economic displacement due to land use change.
- Limitation of access to resources linked to protected natural areas.
- Loss of access to land where there are resources that are sources of income for affected people.
- Displacement of uses or activities that potentially imply the loss of assets or reduction of income regardless of land ownership.

ROAD MAP FOR SETTING UP THE REDD+ NATIONAL BENEFIT SHARING COMMITTEE, BSP (FINAL AND UPDATED)

| Main Activities | Responsible Party | MILESTONES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | September 2021 | | October 2021 | | November 2021 | | December 2021 | | January 2022 | | February 2022 | | March 2022 | | April 2022 | |
| | | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight | 1st fortnight | 2nd fortnight |
| Deliver the final version of the BSP to the WB, including the proposal for benefit-sharing criteria validated by the TAC and a road map that includes the formalization/ activation of the committee and the process to analyze, weigh and determine the criteria/processes for the use of the criteria by the NBSC. | OCR | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |