COLOMBIA

Context

Colombia's Ministry of Environment estimates that deforestation in 2015 was 124,035 hectares. In order to reverse such a forest loss, Colombia is implementing a series of initiatives to reduce deforestation as part of good governance of forest resources and to simultaneously contribute to climate change mitigation. In particular, Colombia has committed to zero net deforestation in the Amazon Region by 2020 and to a 20% reduction in emissions by 2030 with respect to the baseline, which is likely to include a significant share of land-based mitigation.

Colombia is rapidly advancing into REDD+ implementation, completing the readiness pillars and the measuring, reporting and verification process through the presentation of REDD+ Technical Annex along with the BUR in 2016. This document and the respective technical analysis are available through the UNFCCC.

Colombia is part of the REDD+ Early Mover's Programme (REM) which will incentivize policies for reducing deforestation by rewarding REDD+ results. The Programme is focused in the Amazon Region. In addition, the Government of Colombia (GoC), the governments of Norway, Germany and the UK signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) to support Colombia in the transition to national implementation. This agreement considers two tracks of support: results based finance, for which a set of policy milestones has been agreed (Modality 1), and results based payments for REDD+ results at the national level (Modality 2). Colombia aims to complete all policy milestones of the DJI by 2018.

The UN-REDD Programme welcomed Colombia as a partner country in 2010 and approved a US$ 4 million funding allocation to Colombia's National Programme for REDD+ in March 2015, which is set to finalize at the end of 2017.

Rationale and approach

Coordination, strategic alignment and ensuring technical consistency across the different sources of results based support and finance represent a key challenge in this transition from Phase I to Phase II and requires strong leadership of the Ministry of Environment and strengthened capacities of relevant national and regional REDD+ stakeholders, especially considering the post-conflict context where the agriculture pillar includes specific commitments regarding land tenure, special zones of indigenous, afros and *campesino* reserves, development programmes with territorial approach, and incentives for sustainable production. The Government launched the Sustainable Colombia Initiative, whose fund will receive US $ 600 million to finance actions to achieve these goals. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is supporting Colombia in the development of this financial mechanism that will, among other funding, manage the resources of the results-based finance.

For the 2018-2020 work plan, the only modality of support that can be deployed to countries is Technical Assistance through a variety of UN-REDD experts to support country efforts on REDD+ based on identified country need. The support is given thematically by Agency, with some themes being jointly supported or complementary. Specific global/regional thematic experts will devote time to support the accomplishment of the outputs. The support through TA for the 2018-2020 from the UN-REDD programme defined here comprises technical support by regional teams on thematic areas defined as priorities by the GoC. In particular, there are needs related to:

- Expanding capacities for national forest monitoring, consolidating MRV process that conforms to international UNFCCC requirements and strengthen national MRV including consistent nested accounting.
- Consolidating the technical expertise that the NP has provided so far, as the NP is finishing in 2017.
- Securing additional funding to fully implement the national REDD+ strategy, for which Colombia needs to develop investment plans consistent with the milestones and roadmap.
- Promoting sustainable forest management as an economic alternative that additionally improves key environmental and social benefits to smallholders and communities.
- Articulating the REDD+ work related to the diversity of actors involved in REDD+ through effective partnerships that take advantage of their comparative advantages.
- Consolidating the REDD+ Strategy and PAMs for their implementation in territories, and coordination among stakeholders.
- Implementing tools for sustainable forest management, community forestry and forest law-enforcement.
- Identifying technical options to improve Rural productive systems for REDD+ PAM implementation in post-conflict areas (Including tenure).
- Identifying possible economic instruments for REDD+ actions scoped and designed in Phase I.

Technical Assistance requested

Results Framework

UN-REDD TA outputs (*)	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators (**)	Baseline (***)
Output 1. Colombia establishes and consolidates National Forest Monitoring Systems and submits Reference Levels that conform to international UNFCCC requirements and align to the NS/AP for REDD+. (Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 2.1)	FAO	2018-2020	2018: • Capacity building and piloting in various aspects of SMByC, CBM and integration of nesting approaches into the National MRV process (degradation, link with community based forestry, expand capacity of SMByC into vegetation classes beyond forest/non forests) also supporting Tier 2 reporting. (MoV: training materials – at least one training) • Technical inputs provided to the implementation of the National traceability system (including South – South exchange). (MoV: minutes of meetings, correspondence records, technical notes, briefs) 2019: • Technical guidance on the capacity building program to promote the use/relevance of the NFI & estimation of emission factors to advance to Tier 2 reporting provided. (in the framework of the Implementation plan) (MoV: minutes of meetings, correspondence records, technical notes, briefs) • Technical inputs for the construction of the national FREL/FRL provided and informing the submission to the UNFCCC and the	Under the 2017 TA the traceability system will be designed 30% of first cycle of NFI implemented; Implementation plan designed

			technical annex to the BUR. (MoV: technical exchanges records, summary of meetings) • Capacity building and piloting in various aspects of SMByC, CBM and integration of nesting approaches into the National MRV process (degradation, link with community based forestry, expand capacity of SMByC into vegetation classes beyond forest/non forests) also supporting Tier 2 reporting. (MoV: training materials – at least one training)	Report assessed at subnational level; Technical analysis report Accounting rules for REDD+ finalized SMByC consolidated but in continuous process of improvement
			2020: • National FREL/FRL submitted to the UNFCCC and the technical annex to the BUR informed with inputs from UN-REDD. (MoV: technical briefs and notes, minutes of meetings, UNFCCC submission) • Capacity building and piloting in various aspects of SMByC, CBM and integration of nesting approaches into the National MRV process (degradation, link with community based forestry, expand capacity of SMByC into vegetation classes beyond forest/non-forests) also supporting Tier 2 reporting. (MoV: training materials at least one training)	
Output 2. PAMs design and implementation supported in line with country priorities and/or REDD+ strategies (Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.1)	UNDP/ PNUMA/ FAO	2018-2020	**2018:** • Technical inputs/analysis/recommendations on the Forestry Law, including land tenure provided to the Government (contingent on timeline to complete in 2018). (MoV: Technical notes) • KM products/activities on green commodities shared and facilitated with GoC and relevant stakeholders developed (milk, meat, palm, wood). (MoV: draft documents, recorded webinars, documents shared on REDD+ Web Platform)	First draft of Forestry Law up to the end of 2017. Colombia recently joined the TFA, first national meeting to be held in June 2017
			2019: • Technical inputs/analysis/South-South cooperation activities to support Community Forestry, Sustainable Forest Management and Landscape approach, provided to the Government. (MoV: Technical notes) • Analysis of cost-effectiveness of priority REDD+ PAMs and impact assessments with Technical inputs from UN-REDD experts (including carbon and other multiple benefits) provided. (MoV: minutes of meetings, correspondence records, technical notes, briefs)	Low Carbon Rural Development Strategy, Draft Strategy for Deforestation control Initial cost analysis of REDD+ PAMs
			2019-2020: • KM products/activities on green commodities shared and facilitated with GoC and relevant stakeholders developed	

			(milk, meat, palm, wood) – tentatively continued from 2018 activity. (MoV: draft documents, recorded webinars, documents shared on REDD+ Web Platform)	
Output 3. Multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms supported to effectively underpin PAM implementation (Linked to UN-REDD strategic Output 3.1)	UNDP	2018-2019	2018: • Technical inputs/analysis/recommendations for implementation of the participation processes provided. (MoV: minutes of meetings, correspondence records, technical notes, briefs) 2019: • Technical assistance provided for integrating REDD+ participation processes within the national system for climate change (SISCLIMA). (MoV: minutes of meetings, correspondence records, technical notes, briefs)	Participation plan 2017 First REDD+ National Platform meeting minutes
Output 4. REDD+ PAMs have safeguard measures associated and reported to the convention. (Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.1)	UNDP / PNUMA / FAO	2018-2020	2018: • Technical inputs provided for the assessment of environmental and social benefits and risks of PAMs. • Technical inputs provided on the safeguards summary submitted to the UNFCCC and its update (2018). (MoV: technical documents, records of technical exchanges, submission to the UNFCCC) 2019: • Recommendations for institutional agreements, legal and compliance frameworks to implement the NSS and the SIS (2018-2019) provided. (MoV: minutes of meetings, records of correspondence) 2020: • Technical inputs provided on the safeguards summary submitted to the UNFCCC and its update (2020). (MoV: technical documents, records of meetings and submission to the UNFCCC)	1st subnational summary of information for the Amazon Region submitted to REM on 30 September 2016. It is being adjusted in 2017 and uploaded to information hub. Second National Information summary expected in 2018. Draft NSS and SIS documents to be completed by the end of 2017 First subnational summary of information for the Amazon Region submitted to REM on 30 September 2016. It is being adjusted in 2017 and will be uploaded to information hub. Second National Information summary expected in 2018 and third in 2020.

Risk Management Framework

Risk description	Rating	Mitigation measure
External risks		
In the course of the year the technical expertise provided by the programme is no longer considered relevant in certain countries	P= L I = M	The deployment of TA was done based on (i) gap analysis; (ii) in discussion with governments; (iii) according to the expertise of the team. In principle, this risk has a low probability of occurrence. However, should it materialize; the programme has built in a buffer to allow redeployment of teams where they are most needed. Also, while the UN-REDD team does not have oversight over the annual workplans of the sources of funds being assisted, the dialogue with and trust of the country counterparts should enable an early discussion and adjustment of the UN-REDD expertise made available.
In lack of a national team to channel the regional/global technical support, the technical assistance may not be effectively delivered	P = H I = H	While Colombia is making efforts to ensure sufficient personnel and institutionalization, failure to secure it on-time would require a contingent plan to secure the transfer of capacities through partnerships with other initiatives.
Multiple demands and coordination challenges posed by REDD+ initiatives in the post-conflict scenario limit the Government's availability and time to engage with the TA process	P = M I = M	The Ministry plans to strengthen its coordination and technical capacities with FCPF support. High-level political support would be needed to secure inter-sectoral coordination and integration of REDD+ implementation into the post-conflict portfolios.
The advice/recommendations of the UN-REDD team are not appropriated or adopted by the governments or stakeholders in country	P= L I = H	As above, in principle the TA has been jointly identified with counterparts. However, it is uncertain how and what the outcomes of this TA would be taken on. In cases where such advice or expertise is finally not taken on board, the impact will be quite high as the programme would have failed to deliver anticipated results.

Political changes in the country as a result of the upcoming presidential elections result in changes in government priorities away from REDD, changes in staff and loss of institutional memory hinder progress.	P=M I=H	Despite the fact that TA support is aligned with strong political commitments that go beyond the current government, changes could still ocurr.

Efforts to maintain close communication with government officials who oversee REDD+ would allow the Program to anticipate possible changes and information needs that would be useful to provide.

Taking early opportunities to present the program to eventually newly appointed government officials should also contribute to give visibility to the program. Documenting the products of UNREDD contributions should also help to mitigate this risk.

An additional measure could be mitigated with the continuity of the UN-REDD National Coordination Unit. |
The advances resulting from the assistance of the UN-REDD team are not attributed to the programme as it plays a supportive function	P = H I = TBD	In an environment where TA is deployed amidst multiple other funds, the impacts of this TA are likely to be unappreciated in comparison with the financial flows supporting that same activity. E.g. UN-REDD TA providing expert advice on MRV systems financed by other SOF. The likelihood of this occurring are high and impacts will have to be determined depending on the country context. The only possible mitigation measure is through the documentation of requests, support deployed and agreement with all partners of the impact of this support.
Internal		
The presence of in-country support through longer missions is requested from governments and increases costs beyond what is planned for.	P= L I =H	The budget covers primarily regional and global staff costs and contracts, with some resources allocated to missions and other local costs. Should certain support and expertise require longer missions/presence in country, the limited financial buffer would imply reallocating from one country to another or from one activity to another within the same country. The programme will undertake a mid-term revision of TA and budgets to determine what flexibility is available and table such reallocations for approval of the concerned country.
Inability to respond to changes in country needs due to the rigidity in reallocating resources from one agency to the other.	P = M I = H	While the TA to be deployed was identified in conjunction and consultation with counterparts, this was done quite early in the planning for 2017 and therefore may be subject to changes. This may entail requesting more expertise from one agency than the other. Considering the budgeting, contracting and fund allocation structures, it will be difficult to accommodate for changes that entail

		reallocation from one agency to another therefore diminishing the relevance of the programme to countries and subsequently its reputation.

* P: Probability; I: Impact ; TBD: To Be Determined ; L – Low, M – Medium, H – High

National ownership and sustainability
The proposed deliverables have been discussed with the Government (MADS and IDEAM). In particular, the needs assessment and identification of relevant contributions by the UN-REDD Programme for the period of 2018 - 2020 were undertaken during an in-country mission by members of the UN-REDD Programme team, held on 3 and 4 May 2017 at MADS's headquarters. Representatives from the various areas of MADS and IDEAM responsible for REDD+ implementation and M&MRV process were present. Throughout the meetings, the Government highlighted the need to maintain the core UN-REDD national team that will be needed to catalyze and support effective delivery of the technical assistance. The scope and extent of the TA depends on the consideration of this need.

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