



United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

MISSION REPORT

Distribution: CCB, JH, MG, TJ UNEP UN-REDD	Name of person(s) that undertook mission: Cordula Epple
	Period (including travel days): July 1-6, 2013
	Projects: 2650.05 UN-REDD 2013
	Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s): Meeting with the Costa Rican Biodiversity Institute (INBio) to discuss the project on lessons learned and capacity-building to implement REDD+ initiatives (3 rd July); inception meeting for the UN-REDD Targeted Support action on development of a Safeguards Information System (SIS) for Costa Rica (4 th July)
	Main Person(s) contacted: Carmen Roldán Chacón, Alexandra Sáenz Faerron (both Costa Rican National Forest Fund, FONAFIFO), Kifah Sasa (UNDP Costa Rica), Jose Arturo Santos (UNDP Panama), Gabriel Labbate (UNEP-ROLAC), Serena Fortuna (FAO), Sergio Muñoz (consultant); Sylvia Chaves, Alonso Matamoros, Manuel Vargas, Jesús Ugalde, María Auxiliadora Vargas and Oscar Chacón (all INBio)
File(s):	Objective(s): Establish personal contact with INBio team and discuss UNEP-WCMC's contribution to the capacity-building component of the INBio project; participate in UN-REDD Targeted Support action inception meeting to establish contact with the in-country partners and contribute to discussion of the work plan.

Brief summary:

Meeting at INBio offices, 3rd July:

The main item of the meeting was an exchange of ideas and information on the action plan of the project, with particular regard to the planned activities under objective 6 (strategy for capacity-building and knowledge transfer to the Central American region), to which UNEP-WCMC is providing input and advice.

Main points arising from the discussion that are relevant to the collaboration were:

- The document provided by BM on considerations for the documentation of lessons learned is sufficiently clear; a record of lessons learned will be kept in a simple format throughout the implementation of the project, based on the questions listed in the document.
- INBio would appreciate further input from UNEP-WCMC to start off the discussion on possible formats and contents for the capacity-building activities. It was agreed that we would put together a first document on questions that need to be clarified in order to decide on a set of activities that is both feasible and appropriate to the needs of Central American countries, and some ideas for possible capacity-building activities that could be included in the work plan.
- INBio's initial thinking with regard to the content of the capacity-building was that the focus would be on sharing the lessons that can be gained for the selection of REDD+ actions from Costa Rica's experience in forest conservation and payment for ecosystem services schemes; however, they are willing to consider including some capacity-building activities that will enable technical staff from partner countries to carry out assessments on the suitability of different options for the design and location of REDD+ actions in the specific circumstances of their countries.
- Discussions have taken place with FONAFIFO on possible links between the project and FONAFIFO's activities on REDD+ readiness, and there is a general willingness on both sides to support the making of such links. However, at the time of the meeting this had not yet been discussed at the level of specific outputs. No contacts had yet been made with Sergio Muñoz, who as a consultant for the Targeted Support action will be responsible for much of the work feeding into the development of a Costa Rican SIS.
- INBio staff are worried about being able to access relevant data from other Costa Rican institutions, and agreed that there may be scope for synergies on sourcing data with FONAFIFO's work.

Targeted Support inception meeting, offices of FONAFIFO, 4th July:

The discussion on the work plan for the consultancy that will lead and coordinate the main steps of the Targeted Support action focussed on the following points:

- Due to interlinkages between the different components of the work plan, the timing of activities needs careful consideration. In particular, the following steps need to feed into each other efficiently:
 - the process of "national interpretation" (wording from work plan) of the Cancun safeguards,
 - the development of a conceptual and methodological framework for the SIS, and
 - the development of a matrix of indicators for the "monitoring of safeguards and co-benefits" (wording from work plan).
- FAO argued in favour of replacing the word "monitoring" with "providing information on", pointing out that this might help to avoid overly high expectations towards the SIS. I added for the sake of clarity (in line with the understanding agreed in the UN-REDD safeguards group) that if Costa Rica wishes to use monitoring information as an input to its SIS, the UNFCCC decisions provide no reasons against that.
- The overall workload and time schedule for the consultancy were perceived as potentially challenging; options to mitigate this by extending the duration of the contract and/or bringing in additional support for certain tasks (e.g. workshop logistics) were discussed.

In order to establish clear and simple communication channels between the consultant, FONAFIFO and the UN-REDD agencies, it was agreed that (draft) outputs from the consultancy should be shared first with FONAFIFO and then with Kifah Sasa (contact person for the national level), who will coordinate input from the agencies. The possibility of teleconferences as a means for exchanging information and ideas during the early stages of the production of an output was discussed.

Interesting points from FONAFIFO's presentation and explanations on progress with the Costa Rican REDD+ Strategy include:

- REDD+ is seen as an important element in the country's efforts to become carbon-neutral by 2021.
- Costa Rica is aiming to enter the phase of results-based REDD+ activities; options for ensuring a guaranteed minimum price for carbon credits are being explored.
- The Costa Rican Emission Reductions Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) that was produced as part of the collaboration on REDD+ readiness with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) sets out an approach to maximize "co-benefits" (FCPF language) of REDD+ for the conservation of water resources, soils and biodiversity.
- Costa Rica is aiming to complement the activities carried out under the Targeted Support action with activities supported by GIZ and FCPF, especially with regard to consultations on the issue of safeguards.
- Good communication with stakeholders (including local governments / indigenous territories) is seen as key to the success of the REDD+ Strategy; there is still a risk of misunderstandings around the concepts and approaches related to REDD+.
- The governance structure for REDD+ in Costa Rica includes an inter-institutional commission, whose functions are to include facilitating access to data.
- Costa Rica is aiming to get recognition for carbon sequestration in wood products as an option under REDD+.

Recommendation(s)/Action(s) to be taken:

Follow up action:	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Report back to BM (project leader for both INBio work and UN-REDD Targeted Support).	CE	Done.
Discuss ideas for the document on questions, options and next steps for the capacity-building component of the project.	CE/BM	Done.
Prepare document and send to INBio.	BM/CE	Done.

Inform LM about outcome of discussions with GL on Paraguay ICA amendment and Latin America regional multiple benefits workshop. CE Done.

Agree text proposal for changes to Paraguay ICA description of activities with UNEP-ROLAC. CE/LM Done.

Provide comments on revision of the Targeted Support Prodoc. CE/BM/LM Done.

Detailed report <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A.	Documents <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input type="checkbox"/> list <input type="checkbox"/> non	Date 13 August 2013
Classification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> restr. <input type="checkbox"/> unrestr.	Signature(s) staff member(s)	Signature(s) supervisor