

**MISSION REPORT**

<b>Distribution:</b>	<b>Name of person(s) that undertook mission:</b> Valerie Kapos & Judith Walcott
	<b>Period (including travel days):</b> 14-21 September 2013
	<b>Projects:</b> 2650.06.E UN-REDD and 6197 UN-REDD Paraguay
	<b>Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s):</b> UN-REDD workshops on REDD+ Scenarios and Multiple Benefits hosted by the ministry of environment (SEAM) and attended by participants from SEAM, the Forestry Institute (INFONA), Guyra (the national Birdlife Partner), FAPI and indigenous people’s representatives, amongst others, plus separate meetings with SEAM and other local partners.
	<b>Main Person(s) contacted:</b> Gabriel Labbate & Diego Martino, UNEP-ROLAC; Pablo Imbach, CATIE; Lic Cristina Morales, Minister of the Environment; Luz Coronel; Gustavo Casco, SEAM; Lilian Portillo, UNDP; Leticia Portillo, CONARED; Romina Cardozo, and others from, Guyra; Federico Pekholtz, GIS consultant; Gustavo Ruiz Diaz, Consultant opportunity costs
<b>File(s):</b>	<b>Objective(s):</b> Contribute to workshops on REDD+ scenarios and multiple benefits under the UN-REDD National Joint Programme in Paraguay, and to discussions on future developments in the NJP to which UNEP-WCMC might contribute

**Brief summary:**

The visit provided an excellent opportunity both to liaise with colleagues from UNEP-ROLAC and to get to know key actors and stakeholders in REDD+ in Paraguay.

The scenarios workshop was attended by some 70 participants and included both technical presentations and lively discussion during its 1.5 day duration. The presentation on multiple benefits mapping during this workshop was well received, and there was particular interest in the draft outputs of work on potential opportunities for forest restoration. The discussions in the scenarios workshop provided a chance to:

- understand further the modelling approaches being implemented by CATIE and discuss refinements to improve its relevance for Paraguay, including for example the important differences (in climate, land use patterns, forest status and trends) between eastern and western Paraguay that mean that the modelling may need to address the two halves of the country separately.
- hear technical stakeholders’ views on drivers of deforestation and mitigating factors
- see examples of available data – these included the compilation of spatial data being undertaken by Federico Pekholtz. These covered an impressive thematic range, but had not yet been thoroughly documented, and the audience raised concerns about the way some of the data were presented.

The day-long multiple benefits workshop was attended initially by some 30 participants. The presentations focused on REDD+ safeguards and the potential risks and benefits associated with REDD+, on mapping work on multiple benefits, and on the role of such work informing decision making on REDD+. Participants were active in interactive exercises on identifying potential REDD+ actions, the potential risks and benefits of those actions, measures that might help to minimise risks and enhance benefits, and mapping approaches that would help to address these. There was particular interest in issues of, expansion of large scale agriculture and cattle ranching and their dual impacts on forest cover and local livelihoods. Fuelwood extraction, and the use of fire to degrade forest and alter land status in relation to legal restrictions were also of interest. Soil protection, conservation of

biodiversity, provision of employment and contributions to livelihoods were seen as important potential benefits from REDD+ actions. There was strong interest in the potential for forest restoration and in the benefits it might bring.

In meetings with the Minister and colleagues in SEAM, it was clear that planning for REDD+ is still developing. The discussions included renewed emphasis on their interest in map-based analyses to support identification of opportunities for forest restoration. There was also discussion of who should be involved in such analyses and emphasis that they need to be done using officially approved data.

It was unfortunate that the scheduling of the workshops made it impossible for either Diana Gauto, the UN-REDD national coordinator, or Oscar Rodas from Guyra to participate in the meetings and workshops, because of an important conflicting meeting. Nonetheless, the mission provided an excellent opportunity to meet many of the key stakeholders and actors involved in preparing for REDD+ in Paraguay.

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

<b>Follow up action:</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Time-frame (by)</b>
Follow up with Diana Gauto to get her opinions of priorities, plans and formats for further work	JW/VK	Done and ongoing
Write up and send to Diego a summary of multiple benefits workshop and make sure something goes in UN-REDD newsletter/round up– JW/VK	JW/VK	ASAP
Follow up with Pablo on risk map for Paraguayan forest	VK/JT	Done
Follow up with Gabriel on Paraguayan opportunity cost data	VK	Done
Follow up with Guyra colleagues to cement relationships and discuss data	JW/VK/JT	ongoing
Make connection between Ralph Blaney and Gustavo Ruiz Diaz on valuation and opportunity cost work	VK	ASAP

<b>Detailed report</b> [ ] encl. [X] N/A.	<b>Documents</b> [ ] encl. [ ] list [ ] non	<b>Date</b> 20 June 2011
<b>Classification</b> [X] restr. [ ] unrestr.	<b>Signature(s) staff member(s)</b>	<b>Signature(s) supervisor</b>