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| UNDP_Logo-Blue%20w%20Tagline-ENG | **Back to Office Report****Submitted by:** Clea Paz-Rivera, Bruno Guay**Title: BTOR mission to Costa Rica** **Date submitted: October 27, 2014** |
| 1. Practice area : BPPS |
| 2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From : October 14 to: October 17 |
| 3. Type of mission: Official | 4. ClientsFONAFIFOUNDP Costa Rica |
| 5. Purpose of mission Costa Rica has a second targeted support approved in July 2014, and in implementation. In the last inter-agency mission it was agreed that a high-level coordinator would be hired to coordinate the targeted support and to support FONAFIFO’s overall REDD+ efforts. The coordinator was hired in December. The mission had the purpose of: * Review progress of Costa Rica´s 4 pillars
* Review progress of the UN-REDD targeted support
* Agree on next steps
 | 6. Documents, materials, resources * Mission’s agenda
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| 7. Mission members Carla Ramirez (FAO); Clea Paz-Rivera and Bruno Guay (UNDP); Daniela (UNEP). | 8. CostsUS $2329.66 (UNDP staff) |
| 9. Brief summary of the mission *9.a Findings*.* Participants: Jorge Mario Rodriguez (opening), Alexandra Saenz, José Joaquin Matarita, Vera Luz Salazar, Natalia Arze (FONAFIFO), Ricardo Ulate, Edwin Vásquez,Tania López, Maureen Ballestero, Ricardo Sancho (UN-REDD consultants supporting FONAFIFO)

**Progress of Costa Rica´s REDD+ pillars*** In September 2015, FONAFIFO completed the main products required for the FCPF [R-package](http://reddcr.go.cr/es/centro-de-documentacion/paquete-de-preparacion-2015) process: Draft National REDD+ Strategy (NRS, September version), SESA and MGAS, ERPD document, R-package document, SIS proposal, and mid-term self-evaluation. UN-REDD provided substantive support for the NRS and SIS proposal, and provided comments to the ERPD document. There is one key product missing: the reference level (commissioned to the Agresta Consortium) which was presented in draft form, but has not yet being accepted by FONAFIFO due to technical concerns.
* The products were presented in detailed by FONAFIFO, which permitted achieving additional understanding and the opportunity to provide more feedback, highlighting:
	+ There are great complexities on achieving the deadlines under the FCPF roadmap while ensuring there is an integrated approach with consistency and coherence among the products, and of the package vis-à-vis Costa Rica’s national vision
	+ The need to clarify that the NRS document will be accompanied by an implementation plan where the REDD+ policies and measures will be supported by an implementation framework, and the timeline for the strategy consisting on: early efforts (1997-2010) to reduce gross deforestation, short term implementation of the NRS (2010-2020 or 2025), and medium term from 2020 to 2030.
	+ Greater understanding (due to Rodrigo Sierra’s report) of drivers of deforestation with primary drivers consisting mainly on forest conversion to pasture for cattle ranching, followed by secondary drivers due to land renting for pineapple and other agriculture commodities
	+ It is proposed that through the ERPD, 3 of the 6 NRS policies will be implemented. The REL will include deforestation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks due to regeneration, and conservation.
	+ While there was a Ministerial decree on forest monitoring directed to all institutions working on it, institutionalization of the National Forest Monitoring System in agreement with all institutions working on monitoring remains of critical importance (FAO will focus its support on this)
* FONAFIFO is requesting support to mobilize investment finance. Costa Rica lacks investment finance to implement its national strategy. Without such finance it is unlikely to be able to generate the emissions reductions/removals for which it will seek RBP from the FCPF-Carbon Fund.
* FONAFIFO is requesting support to assess how best to align their current efforts with the UNFCCC process. The issue of consistency between the FCPF carbon fund and the UNFCCC process is a concern for Costa Rica. More specifically the following sub-issues were discussed:
	+ The BUR is a way to report on performance relative to the INDC. Costa Rica believes INDCs should be hard commitments to reduce emissions. A consistent approach is required for the country’s performance in the LULUCF sector to be internationally recognized.
	+ Costa Rica would like to submit its FRL to the UNFCCC by the end of the year 2015. The issue is that Costa is at risk of following 2 parallel processes of FRL revision: one by the FCPF-CF TAP and another under the UNFCCC.. The main issues are the following:
	+ Financial viability requires that Costa Rica be able to seek results-based payments for all of the ERs generated, however current legal interpretation of the law only allow the Costa Rican State to claim title to 32% of the ERs it will generate (Protected areas and lands registered in the PES scheme). 68% of the ERs will be available for funding via other means so Costa Rica is really interested in posting all of this on the info hub, but currently lacks capacity to fulfill all UNFCCC requirements while making progress in the UNFCCC process.
* **Progress of the specific UN-REDD products:**
	+ Systematization of the consultation process (supported by UNDP) is underway and will include a video to be presented at the PB meeting. The report will be ready in December.
	+ A draft report on the institutional analysis (supported by UNDP) was presented and discussed among the team, the final report will be completed in December.
	+ Monitoring of drivers of deforestation (supported by UNDP) is also advanced with the analysis for pineapple for 2014 completed
	+ The costing of the NRS and private sector engagement work (supported by UNEP) is well advanced and has been coordinated with the BIOFIN project
	+ An analysis of the opportunities for private sector investment (supported by UNEP) with the oil-palm and pasture sectors will be completed in January
	+ With the Ministerial decree, FAO can now move on recruiting the consultants and implementing their activities. This will be supported by the TS coordinator and the institutional analysis consultant. However FONAFIFO is yet to confirm who will be the focal point in FONAFIFO, to coordinate the technical aspects of the NFMS.
	+ Overall, UN-REDD support was recognized as strategic, with high-technical quality, and fully responsive to the country’s needs
* On extension and budget: It was agreed that UNDP’s prodoc, plus FAO and UNEP’s activities will be extended until June 2016 and the main consultants (Ulate, López and Ballestero) contracts extended until then.
* On concerns on the performance of the coordinator, FONAFIFO confirmed that since corrective measures were applied in August, it has improved significantly and requested his contract to be extended.
* On the Paris negotiations Costa Rica explained that they their position is: 1) recognizing the new agreement does override past COP decisions 2) to guarantee the likelihood of the new agreement it important to keep it generic, yet ambitious 3) It is not necessary to have references to REDD+ all over, only on the finance section, moreover, the push for it can be damaging as other countries will want to insert other issues in the same sections (loss and damage, CCS, others)
* On the PB, and during the mission it was agreed with the UN-REDD Secretariat and FONAFIFO that Costa Rica will present on the lessons learned session. Costa Rica will also like to highlight its work on private sector engagement.

*9.b Results achieved (key outputs)** Substantive technical advice provided to FONAFIFO
* Agreements on extension and next steps for the TS
* ToRs for consultancies drafted and agreed upon
* Synergies with BIOFIN identified

*9.c Expected outcomes and impacts** As a result of this mission, is expected that Costa Rica´s targeted support will be completed in June 2016, contributing strategically to complete Costa Rica’s REDD+ readiness process and enabling implementation.
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| 10. Key counterparts* FONAFIFO REDD+ Secretariat
* UNDP CO
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| 11. Follow up action matrix |
| Action to be taken | By whom | Expected completion date |
| Follow up extension and budget agreements | UNDP, UNEP, FAO mission participants | 06/11/2015 |
| Carry out coordination calls every two weeks | Coordinator and UN-REDD team | Starting after the PB |
| Support Costa Rica preparing presentation for the PB | UN-REDD CR team | 05/11/2015 |
| Define dissemination strategy for the results of the TS  | Carla, Clea, Daniela and Patricia | February 2016 |
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| 12. Distribution list* UNDP CO: Kifah Sasa
* UNDP-UN-REDD team
* FAO, UNEP REDD+ focal point
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