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| UNDP_Logo-Blue%20w%20Tagline-ENG | **Back to Office Report****Submitted by:** Bruno Guay**Title: BTOR mission to Costa Rica** **Date submitted: September 25th 2015** |
| 1. Practice area : BPPS |
| 2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: September 20 to: September 24th 2015  |
| 3. Type of mission: Official | 4. Clients Delegation of Madagascar encompassing: Ministry of Environment, Ecology, the Sea and Forests; Ministry of Research and Superior Education; and Civil Society* Mr. Harison RANDRIARIMANANA, Special Advisor to the President of Madagascar
* Mr. Haga Tsilavonarivo ANDRIANTSALAMAMASINA, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests
* Mr. Tovondriaka RAKOTOBE, Exectutive Director Tany Meva Foundation (civil society)
* Ms. Mavoarilala Claudine RAMIARISON, Director General Science and Research, Ministry of Higher Education.
* Mr. Andriamanjato MAMITIANA, National REDD+ Coordinador
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| 5. Purpose of mission Accompany a delegation of Madagascar to Costa Rica for a South-South Exchange on REDD+. Challenges and Opportunities", from September 20 to: September 24th 2015 with the following roles:-Provide country representatives from Costa Rica and Madagascar with basic background on each of the country’s context concerning REDD+ and Climate Change policy in general.-Provide Costa Rican authorities with a clear view of the expectations of the Madagascar delegation. - Ensure that the delegation be presented with key features of the national forest conservation and rural development policy which includes: payment for environmental services, protected areas, climate change mitigation programs such as REDD+ and the cattle ranching NAMA, and finally the role of scientific research in supporting these processes. -Provide interpretation of technical terms related to forestry, agriculture, remote sensing, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, the UNFCCC processes including REDD+, NAMAs and INDCs. | 6. Documents, materials, resources * Mission Agenda
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| 7. Mission members * Bruno Guay, (UNDP global UN-REDD advisor),
* Kifah Sasa (UNDP CO)
 | 8. Costs1233 USD |
| 9. Brief summary of the mission * All activities were carried out as planned (see agenda below in Annex)
* The exchange allowed for the Madagascar delegation to visit numerous government institutions and counted with the participation of the Minister of Environment and Energy, the Vice-Minister of Natural Heritage, the Vice Minister of Sea and Humid Areas, 2 advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), 7 representatives of the National Forest Finance Fund (FONAFIFO), 2 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), 10 representatives from the National Center for High Technology, as well as the ex-minister of finance which is currently in charge of the BIOFIN project.
* The exchange also allowed to visit and support 2 local rural organizations, 3 landowners participating in the PES scheme as well as the park rangers of the Carara National Park.

*9.a Findings*.* Overall the exchange was successful, providing a space for sharing lessons and knowledge amongst countries, with the facilitation, and provision of technical support from UNDP.

Key messages from Costa Rica to the Madagascar delegation included:“Create the social, economic and political conditions for sustainable development”* The Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica alluded to the fact that Costa Rica in the 1940’s was not all that different from where Madagascar is today. Since the 1940’s Costa Rica has experience political stability and a steady process of institutional strengthening which has included the creation of a social security net including access electricity, clean water, healthcare and education for all. Abolishing the army was key to freeing the political resources to do this.
* A high level of human development has led to important pressures on nature which spurred the emergence of the environmental movement in Costa Rica. However it also created the collective capacity to develop a coherent policy to conserve the country’s natural heritage which culminated with the 1995 forest law. This collective ability is based on strong institutions which have ensured consistency in policy despite numerous changes in power. There have been many attempts to weaken this institutionalization over time using the neoliberal ideology as pretext to push for the so-called “structural reforms”, however to this day, Costa Rican institutional have survived and remained though to the democratic ideals that created them.
* Consistency and continuity in policy is key. Conservation is a State Policy (Política de Estado) which supersedes the different governments’ agenda.
* Working with society and local stakeholders is the only to achieve democratic change on the long run. State institutions must nourish their relationship with society and operate according to democratic principles.

“Integrate your REDD+ strategy with your national policies and objectives”* Costa has inserted REDD+ in its national strategic vision called the “Programa de bosques y desarrollo rural” (Forest and Rural Development Program). This has helped them understand the role that REDD+ may play in support of national objectives.
* Policies and measures (PAMs) can be designed with a landscape approach, including diverse and complementary interventions thus contributing to various national policies and national objectives already defined. **REDD+ should be seen as one of the possible financial mechanisms that can help reach these national objectives.**
* In order to have a dialogue with other sectors it is necessary to have available information that allows parties with different interests to reach a common understanding of the issues. For example
	+ To discuss REDD+ with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning, the policies and measures designed for REDD+ must be explained in the language of the finance sector and use the processes and templates used by the national planning authorities. In the case of Costa Rica this means
		- Use the following planning structure: developing a Strategic Axes of Actions which are embedded in the national development plan. Based on these axes develop programs. From these programs develop portfolio of projects.
		- Develop concrete operational and financial plans for these projects. Based on the characteristics of these projects they can be financed by the state budget through taxes or financed through markets. Given the tight situation of the national budget, it becomes increasingly important to assess the potential to issue “green bonds” to leverage finance for projects gear to maintain and enhance the natural capital. A good example of such projects are those aiming to increase agricultural productivity through the scale-up of agro-environmental techniques.
	+ To discuss REDD+ with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) one must talk about opportunities for productivity gains through improved ranching practices. Indeed livestock production is usually very inefficient, both in the case of large and small producers. Many have only one cattle head per hectare, and cattle typically compact lands and overgraze seriously reduced pasture productivity (impeding the regeneration of fresh grass). Agro-environmental best practices exist and can be supported jointly by Environment and Agriculture Ministries. These included
		- Support to divide the farm into many (20, 30 or more) small lots and circulate the cattle daily (MAG). This required that more fences be installed and maintained. This way cattle will not overgraze and compact land and if left alone the grass will recuperate much faster.
		- Support to improve the quality of his grass with improved varieties and fertilization. Semi-shade can be good for grass growth and reduces heat stress on animals (and thereby lets them gain weight faster). Ranchers can sustain up to 4 or 5 heads per hectare with this system. Better grazing will lead to faster cattle weight gain and better quality milk with more milk solids.
		- Support for Silvopastoral Systems to transform unproductive cattle producers into much more productive timber producers, where cattle revenues provide farmers with a constant cash-flow while the trees grow. Providing shade to the cattle also reduces heat stress. Furthermore the trees maintain soil moisture and can also allow grass to grow faster in some instances. In summary, silvo-pasture systems provide the opportunity to simultaneously reduce encroachment by raising efficiency on existing farms, and also to reforest productive landscapes.
		- Both ranching best practices described above are valid. The choice between these depends on the farmer’s objectives. These practices can also be combined. The methods described above can support both beef and dairy producers.
		- Provided that the programs and project portfolios to deliver support to the producer are well structured, these programs can be financed through financial markets through the use of “green bonds”.

“Think about carbon rights and other Legal aspects”* The source of financing (market vs. non-market), has an impact on the legal aspects that must be addressed by the countries in their legal readiness for REDD+. Legal implications of buying and selling of emission reductions units will be different from those of receiving a results-based payment coming from an international fund.
* Significant Results-based funding for REDD+ can only come in exchange for emission reduction title (the so-called carbon credits). It is clear that a mechanism based on ODA contributions is not credible (as we can see with the very limited contribution to the GCF).

“Build your own National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) and Forest Reference levels (FREL) and Technical Annex”* Building a system requires to have the human and financial capacity to conduct forest monitoring repeatedly over time using consistent methods.
* Important to build technical capacities installed in the country. Create/strengthen capacities in the institutions in charge of monitoring forests and for the reference level, allowing the country to answer technical revisions and improve the FREL by stages/phases (need of vision short, medium and long term). Costa Rica is learning this the hard way because it has entrusted too much MRV work to foreign consultants.
* Ensure consistency between FREL and the NFMS/GHGI (the data necessary for the construction of the FREL have to come from the NFMS) and more importantly FREL and the UNFCCC and in case they are different – for payment based on results initiatives.
* Use a top-down approach to ensure consistency. Working with projects to build from the bottom-up will be too complex requiring a lot of extra work in synchronizing of the several process of the national and international reports.. Establish a national approach to your system first and then see what can be salvaged from projects.
* Inter-institutional and intra-institutional coordination (between the units of the same institute/ministries) to improve the inter-operability of current systems (both data generation as well as dissemination/technological platforms) allowing the dialogue, exchange and use of data. 🡪 Need of a shared methodological/institutional matrix and adjust arrangements when necessary. Costa Rica does not have clear institutional arrangements which rests on a proper assessment of capacities and value added, this is an important problem for REDD+ and the role of forests in the INDC.

**Other relevant information:** * UNDP is well position to work on integrating the REDD+ strategy with national policies and objectives. Currently UNDP is supporting the INDC, the Cattle Ranching NAMA as well as the REDD+ process. Furthermore the UNDP CO enjoys the recognitions and trust of all stakeholders.
* UNDP CO its concern with the performance of the TS2 coordinator and requested support for corrective measures ASP.
* UNDP CO informed of important dysfunction within the National Protected Area System Administration (SINAC). In particular with regard the institutionalization of the NFMS. UNDP CO is keen on working with FAO UNREDD team on further supporting the Center for High Technology (CENAT) in a joint effort to consolidate national capacity for forest monitoring using remote sensing.

*9.b Results achieved (key outputs)*In depth discussions on lessons learned, challenges and opportunities related to REDD+, Payment for Environmental Services, Protected Areas, Ecotourism, Agricultural NAMAs, Managing Forest Fires and Applied Research on monitoring of forest and other plant resources.*9.c Expected outcomes and impacts**-* As a result of this exchange, UNDP and the UN-REDD Programme have consolidated their position as a neutral platform were countries can exchange knowledge, lessons and best practices concerning issues of sustainable rural development and climate change mitigation in the land-use sector. |
| 10. Key counterparts* CONAFOR, and UN-REDD’s LAC partner countries
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| 11. Follow up action matrix |
| Action to be taken | By whom | Expected completion date |
| Brief global team on the mission results  | Bruno Guay | 1rst of October  |
| Call with Madagascar to finalize a joint mission report and identify follow-up actions. | Bruno Guay amd Fabien Monteils | 10 of October |
| Feedback to Costa Rican authorities | Bruno Guay | 15th of October |
| Discussion with FAO UNREDD teams and UNDP CO on NFMS | Bruno Guay anf Kifah Sasa | 15th-16th of October |
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| 12. Distribution list* UN-REDD Team all members
* Kifah Sasa, UNDP CO
* Matilde Mordt
* Pablo Basz and Fernando Galindo (UNDP South-South Exchange)
* Daniela Carrion (UNEP) and Angel Parra (FAO)
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**Misión de Aprendizaje entre Madagascar and Costa Rica**

**20-24 Setiembre 2015, San José, Costa Rica**

**Agenda**

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| **Hora** | Actividad | Temas a discutir | Ubicación |
| **DOMINGO, 20 DE SETIEMBRE** |
| **22:42 horas (10:42 p.m)** | Llegada a Costa Rica  | Traslado al Hotel Park Inn | Hotel Park InnAve. 6, Calle 28. Barrio Don Bosco. Frente a Funeraria del Recuerdo.  |
| **Monday 21st September**  |
| **7:30 a.m.** | Recoger en Lobby del Hotel Park Inn y traslado al Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo  |  |  |
| **8.30am-10.30am** | Finca 1 (Naranjales): Example of reforestation and conservation farm receiving payments.  | Field trip guided by Oscar Sanchez, Director PES Schemes Fonafifo. He will explain a beneficiary farm for payment of ecosystem services applying to the reforestation and conservation PES.Contacto en FONAFIFO: Gilman Navarrete 89828096/25453532(secretaria: Kimberly) |  |
| **10.30am-11.00am** | Traslado a Finca 2 |  |  |
| **11.00am-12.00pm** | Finca 2 (Puerto Viejo Sarapiquí): Example of Agroforestry System receiving payments. | Field trip guided by Oscar Sanchez, Director PES Schemes Fonafifo. He will explain a beneficiary farm for payment of ecosystem services applying to the agroforestry PES.1. What is the role of the national mechanism PSA in architecture and in contributing to the objectives of REDD + in Costa Rica? What recommendations may be available for a similar initiative in Madagascar?
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| **12.00pm-12.30pm** | Traslado de finca 2 a La Estación Biológica La Selva  | What is the past and present role of different stakeholders in the process of reforestation country so successful? For example: social mobilization and collective organization is considered one of the strategies for reforestation? What are the conditions for success and lessons learned? |  |
| **12.30pm-1.00pm** | Almuerzo en La Estación Biológica La Selva  |  | **Dirección:**Kilometro 29.5 Ruta 4 camino a Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí desde intersección con la Autopista Braulio Carrillo (ruta 32), entrada a mano izq 250 m. Desde Puerto Viejo (Ruta 4, hacia Guápiles) 3 Km, entrada a mano der 250 m. |
| **1.00pm-4.00pm** | Traslado de La Selva a San Jose |  |  |
| **4.00pm** | Reunión con Edgar Gutierrez Ministro de Ambiente |  | Dirección:*Edificio Vista Palace, Calle 25. Avenida 8 y 10 San José Costa Rica*Teléfono: (506) 2233-4533 |
| **4.00pm-4.40pm** | Traslado al Hotel Park INN |  |  |
| **Tuesday 22nd September** |
| **7.30am** | Recoger en Hotel Park Inn y traslado a FONAFIFO  |  |  |
| **8.00am-10.00am** | Reunión de trabajo con el equipo de CR REDD+ (Ricardo Ulate, Tania Lopez) |  | FONAFIFOSan Vicente de Moravia. Antiguo Colegio Lincoln 200 oeste, 100  metros al sur y 200 metros al oeste. |
| **10.00am-12.30pm** | Working session with BIOFIN and NBSAP teams | Understanding Biodiversity Finance and REDD linkages in Costa Rica. | FONAFIFO |
| **12.30pm-1.30pm** | Almuerzo cerca de FONAFIFO | Almuerzo cerca de FONAFIFO | Nota:Se espera que los delegados caminen unos 300 mts. para almorzar cerca de las oficinas de FONAFIFO.  |
| **1.30pm-2.00pm** | Traslado al Ministerio de Agricultura (Viceministro de Agicultura)  |  | MAG Sabana Sur, Antiguo Edificio La Salle, Loma Linda, San José, Costa Rica,Teléfono: (506) 2231-23 44 |
| **2.00pm-****3.00pm** | Reunión con Ivannia Quesada Viceminister of Agriculture  | Saludo por parte de la señora Viceministra y reunión a cargo del Sr. Mauricio Chacón, Gerente del Programa Nacional de Agricultura Orgánica. |  |
| **3.00`m-3.30pm** | Traslado al CENAT |  |  |
| **3.30pm-****5.00pm** | Reunión en el CENAT | Presentation by Cornelia Miller and Cristian Vargas from the Aero-transported research unit about: Land Use Change Monitoring System tied to tenancy. [**http://www.cenat.ac.cr/gestion-ambiental/programas/prias**](http://www.cenat.ac.cr/gestion-ambiental/programas/prias)How to create favorable conditions for the active participation of the private sector and civil society in the conservation and development of forests? Cornelia Miller & Christian Vargas from Prias attend FONAFIFO | Centro Nacional de Alta TecnologíaEdificio Dr. Franklin Chang Diaz, 1.3 km. Norte de la Embajada de EE.UU. Pavas, San José. |
| **5.00pm** | Traslado al Hotel Park Inn |  |  |
| **Wednesday 23rd September** |
| **7:00 a.m.** | Recoger en Hotel Park Inn y traslado al Parque Nacional Carara |  | Parque Nacional Carara * Del Puente sobre el Río Grande de Tárcoles, 2 km en la ruta hacia Jaco, entrada a mano izquierda
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| **9.30am-11.00am** | Tour guiado con represetantes del SINAC | Lecture and Q&A with Director of Protected Area 1. What are the key elements in terms of policies and measures to ensure the prosperity of forests in the country?
2. How to create favorable conditions for the active participation of the private sector and civil society in the conservation and development of forests?
3. What is the approach in terms of centralization / decentralization of governance for sustainable forest management? How have made arrangements and implementation in Costa Rica?
4. What is the state of forests in Costa Rica's economy and society? What is the role of forests in national development vision?
 | Parque Nacional CararaGerardo Varela 83092779Guided Tour Guide: Maurice 88896061 |
| **11.00am-11.30am** | Traslado a Hotel Villa Caletas  |  | Hotel Villa Caletas, 2 kms. Después de Punta Leona, Jacó |
| **11.30-12.30pm** | Presentación por parte de la Estrategia Nacional contra Incendios Forestales) | Luis Diego Román, head of National Forest Fire strategy.88408504 | Hotel Villa Caletas |
| **12.30pm-1.30pm** | Lunch at Vila Caletas | Almuerzo | Hotel Villa Caletas, 2 kms. Después de Punta Leona, Jacó. |
| **1.30-4.00pm** | Visita a la comunidad de Bijagual  | Discuss community level action to combat forest fires and protect water sources.1.30 Biological Corridor Presentation Paso de las Lapas2:30 Presentation of the Group and Brigade COVIRENAS San Antonio de Garabito3:30 Coffee4:00 Departure from San Antonio de GarabitoNote: An exhibition of equipment and materials of the Brigadiers and COVIRENAS and CB Paso de las Lapas During will take during the activity. Souvenir shopping is encouraged here. | Comunidad de BijagualEntrada a Villa Lapas (frente a entrada de lastre a Tárcoles) 10 kms. hacia Bijagual. Luego tomar entrada a San Antonio de Garabito (1km antes de Bijagual). Salón Comunal de San Antonio de Garabito.A cargo de Eduardo Mata: Coordinador de PPD: 89968844 |
| **4.00pm-6.00pm** | Traslado al Hotel Park Inn |  |  |
| **6:30 p.m.** | Cena en el Hotel |  |  |
| **Thursday 24th September** |
| **7:00 a.m.** | Recoger en Hotel Park Inn y traslado a CODECE |  |  |
| **8:00 a.m. 12:00md** |  | Contacto: Mayleen Chamorro, Presidenta de CODECE. Teléfono 88652928 / 22280183Programa propuesto:* Punto de encuentro con el guía de CODECE en la Iglesia de San Antonio de Escazú.
* Luego se dirigen a CODECE
* Visita huerta orgánica
* Visita a un trapiche
* Taller de Mascaradas
* Almuerzo típico
 | CODECESan Antonio de Escazú, Barrio El Carmen, 200m antes de la iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen carretera a Bebedero, hay varios rótulos de CODECE en el camino. Teléfono 2228-0183 |
| **12:00** | Traslado al Aeropuerto | Salida en COPA CM 145 a las 3:39 p.m. |  |