

Independent Technical Review: [Honduras] R-PP document

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Reviewer: Tomás Schlichter

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General comments to R-PP Document of Honduras (maximum 200 words):

The document is comprehensive, and well written, although some redundancies remain, originated surely on the several versions submitted until its approval by the FCPF. The proposed institutional arrangement is sound, and the subcommittee that will lead REDD+ activities includes all national, and regional institutions as well as representatives of indigenous peoples, civil society and small farmers. The early information was very broad and consultation is on the right path. The Reference Level and the MRV system are explained with detail and include the participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. All these features ensure ownership of the programme. The budget is balanced but the authors should consider the possibility of allocating more funds to the development of strategic options (component 2b)

Assessing the draft R-PP against review criteria

(Please refer to the TORs and supporting documents)

1. Ownership of the Programme (maximum 150 words):

As mentioned in the “general comments”, the integration of the sub-committee REDD+ that includes more than 30 organizations, as well as the directive body of this sub – committee, is balanced and allows the participation of the most important stakeholders in the decision making processes of REDD+.

The document is consistent with the two main National Plans: Vision of the Country (2010-2038), which includes the Nations Plan 2010-2022. Both explicitly recognize the need to diminish deforestation rates and the related vulnerability of the country to extreme climatic events. The plans also recognize the need to improve forest management practices to ensure sustainability and improve income for the forest managers. The document is also consistent with the UNDAF 2012-2016, which recognizes the need of sustainable management of natural resources and the reduction of vulnerability caused by natural disasters.

The government will contribute with relevant funds in special for components 3 (Reference Level) and 4 (MRV). Also other agencies as the GIZ will continue with its cooperation programs during the readiness phase.

As a conclusion it seems that Honduras has a high degree of ownership of this programme.

2. Level of consultation, participation and engagement (maximum 150 words):

As mentioned in the previous section, early information was very inclusive and the consultation process which already began includes meetings and different kind of events at the National, regional and local level, including institutions, small farmers cooperatives, NGOs and Indigenous peoples. As a result of the consultation with the representatives of Indigenous Peoples, a special working group will be created (MIACC), to ensure the representation of IP in the sub-committee REDD+. The broad participation in the consultation process is a very good step to ensure the engagement of the main stakeholders in the REDD+ process.

3. Programme effectiveness and cost efficiency (maximum 100 words):

Effectiveness will depend to a large extent on the possibilities of the country to improve law enforcement. Activities toward improving this aspect are planned, and a very good beginning is that the country recognizes that this is an issue that must be faced. Strategic options are well formulated and directed toward diminishing the impacts of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation. It would be convenient to allocate more funds to the development of this component (2b). Cost efficiency seems adequate to the needs that Honduras has in order to make possible a future implementation phase of REDD+ initiatives.

4. Management of risks and likelihood of success (maximum 150 words):

The management of risks is described mainly in the component 2 d (SESA). It considers the need to identify and measure possible risks that may occur in indigenous territories and local communities. It also mentions that the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework will pay special attention to the management of social, cultural and environmental risks. The planned actions may be considered adequate to manage risks during the implementation of REDD+ activities.

5. Consistency with the UN-REDD Programme Strategy (maximum 150 words):

The document is consistent with Vision of the UN-REDD Programme as well as with its 6 work areas. In particular the participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as the consideration of multiple benefits matches very well the objectives of the UN- REDD work areas.

6. Compliance with UN-REDD Programme Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance (maximum 150 words):

It seems that there is compliance with the UN-REDD rules of procedures and operational guidelines, since the document was validated by the government, the representatives of Indigenous Peoples, UNDP representative and members of the civil society among many other organizations/programmes. Two letters with the signatures of the mentioned representatives are presented together with the readiness proposal.

Assessing the draft R-PP by component

(Please refer to the TORs and supporting documents)

1. Component 1: Organize and consult (maximum 300 words):

The sub-committee REDD+ will be on charge of all activities related to REDD. This sub - committee includes all the involved actors related with REDD+ and its directive body (Junta Directiva) will include representatives of the government, NGOs, Agroforestry cooperatives, International Cooperation Agencies, and Indigenous Peoples. Each organization will designate its representative. The Junta Directiva has developed an operational manual and plans to meet each two months. Consultation, in special with indigenous peoples has been carried out in a very comprehensive way, and the Confederation of Original Peoples of Honduras has validated the present document (CONPAH). The Mesa Indígena y Afrohondureña para el Cambio Climático (MIACC), will represent the CONPAH in the sub - committee REDD+.

Standard Met

2. Component 2: Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy (maximum 300 words):

The document explains with detail the direct and indirect causes of deforestation. It also acknowledges that there is not enough information to quantify each of the drivers. The present version includes (October 2014) an attempt to describe degradation, and explain its main causes. It proposes to carry out studies to analyze more deeply this process, in special in coniferous forests. The strategy options are presented aligned with the drivers of deforestation (table 9). The inclusion of the institutions that will lead each of the proposed strategies would improve the quality of the document. Table 25 (page 156) presents the main actions related to the implementation framework, including indicators, means of verification and main institutions that will lead the actions. Table 27 (page 174), presents in a comprehensive way the SESA action plan, including objectives, involved activities, expected results, and observations.

Standard Met

3. Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level (maximum 200 words):

Honduras plans to develop its Reference Level at a national level, but beginning with regional estimates. The main plan is to establish the historical trends based on different types of remote images, estimate carbon content for each forest type, and project into the future deforestation rates using different methodologies, including the development of models. In table 32 the direct and indirect causes of deforestation are presented, aligned with the information needed to quantify each of them. Table 34 presents the main institutions/actors that will be involved in the development of the reference level, including the academia and Indigenous peoples, mentioning their roles. The ICF and MIambiente will lead this process. The document also presents the capacities of each of the actors involved in the RL and the need of institutional strengthening and capacity building that will be necessary.

Standard Met

4. Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards (maximum 300 words):

Honduras, lead by the ICF with cooperation of the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ), has finished recently (2014) its forest map for the whole country. For this purpose Landsat satellite of medium resolution were used with a comprehensive land validation. The reference year for the beginning of the MRV will be the map of the year 2000 with an actualization each 5 years. After the year 2000, it is planned to actualize the map each two years. Drivers of deforestation as well as the results of the strategy options are included among the processes to be monitored. The need of capacity development and strengthening are depicted in table 38. A very good schematic description of the design and implementation phases of the MRV system is presented in figure 18. Also a table (39) describing the planned monitoring of the strategic options is included along with indicators and needed information. The process will be leaded by the ICF together with University of Forestry Sciences (U- Esnacifor), in the framework of the Forestry Research System (SINFOR)

In general the design of the MRV system is comprehensive and the recent and important improvements in forest mapping capacities are well described. It is important to highlight the inclusion of the academia NGOs and Indigenous Peoples in the MRV process.

Monitoring of other benefits will include social and economic variables, related with the access to relevant services and improvements in the income in regions in which REDD+ activities take place. The document mentions that environmental attributes as biodiversity will be monitored by the Agricultural Panamerican School El Zamorano and other co- benefits as hydric regulation and soil erosion will be monitored at specific watershed with the participation of local institutions.

It would be very important to improve the description of the MRV of other multiple benefits (4b) by inserting a table including variables and processes to be monitored along with the institutions that will lead each of the measurements.

Standard Met

5. Component 5: Schedule and Budget (maximum 300 words):

The overall budget seems adequate. Despite this, it seems that a very low budget is assigned to the component 2b related to the development of strategic options. Also a very small amount of funds was allocated in the budget to the planned analysis of degradation patterns.

The table should include all the funds and clarify the funds that are requested to UN-REDD.

Standard Met

6. Component 6: Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (maximum 300 words):

The document presents a table (44) which includes yearly indicators/means of verification of progress for each component and sub-component.

No information is provided about the participation of an independent body to carry out this monitoring.

Standard Met

Suggestions for improving the technical design of the R-PP Document of HONDURAS (maximum 400 words):

It would be very important to eliminate the redundancies that are present along most of the document. These are probably the result of the several times that Honduras submitted its proposal. Each successive time the document was improved, presenting new information but without eliminating paragraphs of previous versions containing almost the same information. There are also a lot of paragraphs that have been crossed out. These should be also eliminated.

In component 2b (strategy options) proposed strategies and activities should be linked to the institutions that will lead each of them.

The component of MRV of multiple social, economic and environmental benefits, should include a work-Plan, presenting objectives, activities, institutions and a chronogram. This could be easily done inserting a table including these aspects.

As mentioned in previous sections the authors could consider the possibility of allocating more funds to the development of the Strategy Options (2b), since these include the activities that in turn will act directly in the reductions of deforestation.