



Opportunities for International Cooperation to strengthen Forest Monitoring in Mesoamerica and REDD+ Readiness



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
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Lugar y Fecha

To be held on July 29th and 30th 2013, in the Hilton Reforma Hotel, room Don Diego 3. Ave. Juarez 70, Centro, Delegacion Cuauhtemoc, Zip Code 06010, México City. Telephone: +52 (55) 5130-5300.

Background

The Project “Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico and enabling South-South cooperation”, which is being executed within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Norwegian and Mexican Governments, is developing an exercise to generate the core elements of a South-South Cooperation Strategy in order to strengthen the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification technical capacities for REDD+.

As an input to such strategy we must define the cooperation modes that are more suitable to cover the needs of Mesoamerican region countries in terms of the design and implementation of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems.

On the other hand, on May 20, 2013, during the 2nd meeting of the Council of Ministers for the Mesoamerican Environmental Sustainability Strategy (EMSA Acronym in Spanish), the Action Plan was produced, it will be presented for its formal approval within the framework of 15th Presidential Summit to be held during the second semester of 2013.

This Action Plan considers the performance of early measures, amongst them the organization of a workshop to identify needs and priorities in matters of natural resources monitoring in the region.

The countries in the region have been working hard on their own REDD+ readiness processes, in which one of the key elements has been the design and development of MRV systems. These processes have produced a series of lessons learned, and caused the strengthening of institutional capacities; in such a way that now it allows us to exchange these experiences to obtain a better design and implementation of the monitoring systems.

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General objective

To identify the collaboration needs and priorities in matters of forest monitoring in the region, in order to generate the elements of a South-South Cooperation Strategy to enable the technical capacities for REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

Purpose

1. To validate and prioritize collaboration needs and capacities in matters of monitoring in the region.
2. To Link the needs, identified per country, with the regional initiatives' cooperation offers, and with the participant countries' potential cooperation offers.
3. To identify cooperation modes that are suitable for each country.
4. To identify the elements of a forest monitoring cooperation strategy.

Participants

The South-South Cooperation Strategy is aimed to EMSA country members: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Two representatives of each country will attend: REDD+ focal point and a monitoring system expert.

Also, we have invited delegates from initiatives that perform MRV relevant activities in the region, amongst which we can cite: GIZ, Regional REDD+ program, The Forest Carbon Tracking Task (GEO FCT), UN-REDD program, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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Agenda

Time	Activity
Day 1	
9:00	Welcome and opening addresses.
9:30	Introduction.
10:00	Workshop background.
10:45	Presentation on the strengths and weaknesses in the
12:00	Break.
12:15	Presentation on the strengths and weaknesses in the countries.
13:30	Lunch.
15:00	Presentation on the region initiative's main work areas.
16:00	Work Session: Identification of cooperation capacities.
17:00	Break.
17:15	Work Session: Link the needs and cooperation capacities among countries and initiatives.
18:30	Concludes first day activities.
20:00	Welcome dinner.
Day 2	
8:00	Day 1 wrap-up.
8:30	Identification of the elements for a shared cooperation strategy.
11:00	Break.
11:15	Critical route towards the consolidation of a work- plan.
13:45	Lunch.
15:00	Conclusions and next steps.
16:00	Evaluation of the workshop.
16:30	Closing.