SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS REPORT

OF THE RELEVANT
INTERESTED
PARTIES (Relevant
Stakeholders')
REGARDING THE
REDD+ STRATEGIC
COSTA RICA
READINESS PHASE

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SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS

The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica took up the challenge to develop the REDD+ Strategy (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, sustainable forest management and increase in carbon stocks) in 2008. The country is currently preparing the Readiness Package, which includes: a summary of the readiness process, a self-assessment of multiple stakeholders' process reports, the results of the national self-assessment of multiple stakeholders, and references to specific products of the readiness process.

In May 2015, the self-assessment process of Relevant Stakeholders (Relevant Stakeholders) began on the REDD+ Strategy readiness phase. As the process is new, and due to the characteristics of each of the sectors involved, it took a period of three months. It started with the design of the methodology, and from this the readiness and logistics of the technical workshops.

The "Guide to the Assessment Framework for Preparing the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)", published in June 2013, was considered as reference material for developing the self-assessment process. As suggested in the Guide to the Assessment Framework, Conservation International, representing the REDD+ Focal Point of the Costa Rican government, reviewed the Framework for Assessment and Forest Management Tracking of the Forests Programme, Social and Environmental Standards on REDD+ of CCBA/CARE International, Assessments of Participatory Management of UN-REDD, and other assessment frameworks such as those mentioned in Annex I of the note by the Fund Management Team 2012-10, to increase the concept about the process.

The self-assessment and assessment of the readiness offer a common framework for measuring the country's relative progress in the basic preparatory activities. The self-assessment of the REDD+ Strategy is based on the proposed elements of the nine subcomponents set out below, which are based on the Framework for Assessment document:

- 1. Organisation and consultation for the readiness:
 - 1a. National management mechanisms for the REDD+ programme
 - 1b. Consultation, participation and social dissemination
- 2. Readiness of the REDD+ Strategy:
 - 2a. Assessment on the use of land, factors causing changes in land use, forestry law, policy and management
 - 2b. Strategic options for REDD+
 - 2c. Implementation Framework
 - 2d. Environmental and social impacts





- 3. National Forest Monitoring System:
 - Made up of the RL (reference level), ERL (emissions reference level) and the MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification)
- 4. Forest tracking systems and information about safeguards:
 - 4a. National Forest Tracking System
 - 4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, management and safeguards

Based on the national workshop for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) dated 4 and May 5 2011, and in accordance with the Participation and Consultation Plan, identified five strategic sectors that represent the Relevant Stakeholders. The following have been identified: a. academia; b. indigenous territories; c. small and medium-sized agroforestry producers; d. forest and industrial timber producers and the government sector. These sectors have interacted throughout the process of preparing the REDD+ Strategy, structuring efforts through the various institutional mechanisms and through the strengthening of national capacity for REDD+ activities, so the self-assessment workshops should be regarded as the culmination of an ongoing process of involvement of Relevant Stakeholders.

The Relevant Stakeholders are groups that have a legitimate interest or right to the forests, forestry systems and/or agroforestry systems or policies and investments along the sector's production chain. In this sense, governmental and autonomous institutions (ICE, SINAC, MIDEPLAN) have been incorporated; as have indigenous organisations such as Integral Development Associations of indigenous territories, the Bribri and Cabécar Indigenous Network (RIBCA), cultural mediators, academia (teachers and instigators); the private agroforestry sector (industrialists, traders, producers) including Novelteak Costa Rica S.A. and the National Agroforestry Union (UNAFOR); and organisations such as the National Forestry Office, the Costa Rican Forestry Chamber and institutions such as the College of Agricultural Engineers, among others. These agencies will be potentially affected, either negatively or positively, by the activities to be developed as a result of the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy and any actions and activities resulting therefrom. They are partners in the country's efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

These sectors constitute one of the main engines of development in the country, particularly for rural territories. Furthermore, they are part of the national management mechanisms for REDD+ and are involved in the context of planning and implementing REDD+ activities. They help to ensure that the REDD+ programmes respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in particular and comply with applicable national and international obligations. The overall objective of the self-assessments is to encourage a dialogue from the participatory and methodical analysis with the different Relevant Stakeholders, on responsibilities, level of involvement and the contribution each makes to the readiness phase of the Costa Rica





REDD+ Strategy. This process enabled participants to assess the state of progress of the core activities until the completion of the preparatory phase of the Costa Rica REDD+ Strategy. At the same time, weaknesses and other opportunities for further improvement were observed from the perspective of each Relevant Stakeholders. The self-assessment process also offered an opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of the Relevant Stakeholders to the REDD+ activities.

The REDD+ Technical Secretariat requested Conservation International, specifically for the project "Widening Informed Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+" (WISE REDD+ Costa Rica), to take on the task of organising, facilitating and promoting the Relevant Stakeholders' self-assessment process, with a view to ensuring the transparency of the process by it being conducted by an agency not directly involved.

This report considers elements of the analysis and organisation of the outcome of the opinions of each of the representatives of the sectors that participated in the self-assessment process. The results of the self-assessments will be a tool for assessing the readiness of the REDD+ Strategy, which will include: the country's progress, lessons learned; any remaining deficiencies will be assessed and activities identified to move forward in the transition to implementing activities based on performance.

The main results of the self-assessment process revealed the undeniable fatigue felt by the various Relevant Stakeholders in relation to this type of summons, whose potential results are very dubious. They are overloaded with activities and are asked to get involved in different processes without consultation on their agendas. In addition, the need was determined to establish effective channels of communication, accountability and auditing, between the REDD+ Secretariat and the various Relevant Stakeholders on the actions carried out in the framework of the REDD+ Strategy. The reason for this is that there are many activities and projects which directly involve the various Relevant Stakeholders, but where there is little or no evidence of results from the many actions and projects. In addition, one element that stands out is deconcentration, the management of common agendas and the need to strengthen multisectoral dialogue as efficient audit mechanisms.

Action by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as the governing body, is necessary and urgent to change the organisational culture, in relation to managing internal and external resources. A change that takes into account the different needs of each of the Relevant Stakeholders and provides solutions to the various needs arising from the diversity as a central aspect to achieve the policies, actions and activities that arise from the REDD+ Strategy.

As a significant achievement, the role and leadership of the FONAFIFO and the REDD+ Secretariat is recognised in international negotiations on the subject of REDD+. At the national





level, recognising the effort made to develop the National REDD+ Strategy, arranging institutional agendas, fostering a relationship of cordiality with each sector of interest.

A measure taken to address the major areas that require further attention is the design of a "Tracking Plan". At the request of the Technical Secretariat, the WISE REDD+ Costa Rica project undertook the design in a participatory way, considering the realities of each Relevant Stakeholders. This plan will work in coordination with the REDD+ Technical Secretariat and must have its endorsement. The Tracking Plan will consider geographical, ethnic and cultural aspects and socioeconomic level, among other factors, which leads to the timely and immediate resolution of each reality exposed during the self-assessment with each Relevant Stakeholders.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a documented picture of the perspective with which the various relevant stakeholders (Relevant Stakeholders) assess the path throughout the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. The self-assessments were understood as a participatory exercise of deep reflection that led to a self-critical analysis of the level of involvement of the various Relevant Stakeholders and the role and responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat in the initial REDD+ phase.

The self-assessments were carried out by Conservation International, at the request of the Costa Rican government, in a structured way, but independent of the government's criterion, by identifying their strengths and weaknesses by means of performance indicators for each subcomponent. This process, which was carried out using the "FCPF Guide to the Assessment Framework" as a reference, aims to combine the level of analysis done on the basis of nine subcomponents of the strategy. To this end, a classification of the nature of the problems that could affect the quality of the processes and institutional performance has been provided. All of this has a particular purpose: to establish appropriate solutions to achieve the improved participation of the groups involved. The criterion of the representativeness of institutional diversity and the technical and operational capacity of the various sectors involved was taken into account.





As a result of self-assessment and debate, new ideas emerged with the aim of implementing mechanisms that tend to make better use of the institutional assessment processes of REDD+. They can be summarised as follows:

- 1. Rank (prioritise interests) the time of the dialogue by introducing elements of agreement with the various Relevant Stakeholders.
- 2. Define the basic information and essential performance indicators for the self-assessment according to relevance for each Relevant Stakeholders.
- 3. Introduce consensus within each Relevant Stakeholders to achieve the assessment of the topics/guiding questions within each component of the REDD+ Strategy which will be addressed in the assessment.
- 4. Draw up a "Tracking Plan" to address the main areas that require further attention for the full and effective participation of each Relevant Stakeholders in future REDD+ actions.

These points are based on the need to integrate and take advantage of the self-assessment process of the Relevant Stakeholders, with the purpose of avoiding a duplication of efforts, which is why the Relevant Stakeholders, by means of organising information, through self-analysis and by drafting plans for improvement necessary for the assessment report, supported by participatory and reflective self-assessments, are able to generate innovations and institutional programming and therefore have a more active participation in Costa Rica in the operations, policies and actions of REDD+.

Finally, it has been seen that this process can provide general guidelines for implementing the self-assessment process in other countries that are planning this process and can draw from the lessons learned from the process Costa Rica recently went through.

METHODOLOGICAL PROCESS

The REDD+ Technical Secretariat, taking as a starting point the "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework", requests the participation of an independent body to facilitate the self-assessment process. In addition, it considered that the development of the process requires an adequate level of management autonomy. The support and commitment of a facilitator should be ensured prior to starting the process and be linked not only to the legitimacy of possible conclusions but also to actions to improve that will need to be developed as a result. In this way, Conservation International has been involved by means of the Widening Informed Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ (WISE REDD+) Costa Rica Project. This project is carried out by the Centre for Peace and the Environment of Conservation International. Coordination between the REDD+ Technical Secretariat and CI began in March 2015 to develop the self-assessment process of the Relevant Stakeholders.





The WISE REDD+ project is intended to help governments in five priority countries (Costa Rica, Kenya, Peru, Suriname and Vanuatu), to promote and strengthen the full and informed participation of groups of stakeholders considered to be key. For this reason, it considered the feasibility of supporting the self-assessment process of the Relevant Stakeholders, given its importance as a fundamental step for the participation of key stakeholders. This process includes the government, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and other local communities, with special attention paid to the participation of populations considered to be vulnerable.

The facilitation of the self-assessment process was carried out by two consultants from Conservation International. Those directly responsible were the forestry and agro-ecological engineer, Ginnette Cruz, who coordinates the daily work in the framework of WISE REDD+Costa Rica, and the agronomy engineer with a PhD in anthropology, Ruth Martínez, of the Ecosystem Services Programme, in the Science division. Both have extensive experience, knowledge and prior involvement with the Costa Rican forestry sector.

Conservation International proved to have the skills necessary to conduct an efficient and participatory process of self-assessment with the Relevant Stakeholders. For this reason, the assessment of the experience in the sector and the level of knowledge of the specific topics that make up the self-assessment. This organisation has a proven track record and has credibility among relevant stakeholders, granted also by its neutrality in the REDD+ process, so an impartial approach was adopted that ensured transparency. Conservation International is mainly involved in the methodological aspects, in a way that facilitated the active participation of the representatives of the Relevant Stakeholders involved, but without affecting the results.

The development of the self-assessment process with the various relevant stakeholders (Relevant Stakeholders) involved a series of steps. Firstly, relevant information was analysed, as in the case of the "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework", as a reference to understand the general guidelines. Since the Guide to the Assessment Framework suggests considering other assessment frameworks such as those mentioned in Annex I of the note by the Fund Management Team 2012-10. CI, in representation of the Focal Point of REDD+ of the Costa Rican government, consulted: a. the Framework for the Assessment and Forest Management Tracking of the Forestry Programme; b. the Social and Environmental Standards on REDD+ of CCBA/CARE International; c. Assessments of Participatory Management of UN-REDD, to increase the concept of the process.

A meeting was held to assign tasks and responsibilities to organise the self-assessment process. The REDD+ Technical Secretariat was in charge of the invitations and promoting the event for each Relevant Stakeholders, as well as designing the methodology. It was also in charge of making the documentation generated during the readiness phase available to the public at the address http://reddcr.go.cr/sites/default/files/centro-de-documentacion.





It drafted the presentation (Microsoft PowerPoint) on the readiness phase of the REDD+ National Strategy, which served as a reference for participants with regard to the most significant advances of the activities in which each Relevant Stakeholders participated during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, at http://reddcr.go.cr/es/centro-de-documentacion/paquete-de-preparacion-2015.

The call for each Relevant Stakeholders was examined by the Secretariat, made on the basis of a representative selection of people who, due to their specific interest in the sector, have been involved during the readiness phase of the Strategy. An invitation was sent to the Focal Point of each of the Relevant Stakeholders, which mentioned participation to the people who have maintained a link throughout the readiness phase of the Strategy, some of them identified by the processes or mechanisms that were created or improved with SESA. However, on some occasions, people who were not very involved in the readiness phase of REDD+ participated; this is due to the democratic, open and participatory process of the call used, where the fundamental criterion is the legitimacy and autonomy of representation.

For its part, Conservation International took charge of the logistics for each of the events and the facilitation of the workshops, as well as the development of the agenda and the adaptation of the methodological tool from the methodology set out by the REDD+ Secretariat to perform each of the self-assessments of each Relevant Stakeholders. The agenda for each workshop was included along with the invitation sent to each Relevant Stakeholders, which generally explained the methodological approach of the workshop (formation of the working groups by sector (Relevant Stakeholders) and plenary discussion).

The self-assessment methodology included conducting a workshop lasting five hours; however, due to the characteristics of each Relevant Stakeholders, on some occasions two workshops over a total of ten hours had to be conducted. An initial commissioning workshop to find out the methodology and examine the instrument in depth with the components, subcomponents, criteria and diagnostic questions and to assess potential adjustments to the methodology. A second workshop where the results were analysed and agreement reached, to get the process indicators (rating by colours) by subcomponent. A performance indicator was assigned for each subcomponent.

In the workshops with indigenous sectors, small and medium-sized agroforestry producers and the private forestry sector worked in groups and started by reading the matrix with the 58 diagnostic questions, to prompt an analysis of each question and then to select the rating by colour based on them, depending on the level of progress. Green represents a significant step forward; yellow represents progressing well but more development is needed; orange indicates that more development is needed; and finally red represents that no progress has been made yet. This is to build an initial matrix of progress or diagnosis of the activities developed during





the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. The results of the matrix are presented as an annex to the self-assessment report. The matrix with 58 questions was sent to the government sector and academia via email as a tool to start the discussion in the workshop; however, the visual summary has not been achieved. Based on the discussion generated, an opinion was formed on the activities carried out during the readiness phase.

In each workshop the methodological tools and teaching guide developed for the self-assessment was used. A summary has been prepared for each component according to the information in the "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework" to be provided to participants as the basis for their group work. As a measure to facilitate the diagnosis by subcomponent, a matrix has been developed in Microsoft Excel, which included each of the guiding questions by subcomponent. In particular, in the case of indigenous territories, on 27 March 2015 a workshop was held to submit a draft of the methodology that was submitted for discussion. The inputs of this workshop were to adapt the fundamental methodological approach towards this sector in terms of the use of language and the interpretation of concepts and key words.

With all these items, each group was asked to dedicate itself to assessing each subcomponent depending on its perspective and degree of knowledge. For the second part of the group work, each group was provided with another matrix in Microsoft Excel, which outlined the components, subcomponents, criteria and aspects to consider for each subcomponent. In this way, a visual summary of the overall achievements by subcomponent was obtained in groups as a result (product), using progress indicators. This matrix had a subjective scale, as the rating for each subcomponent is represented with a colour, where:

- Green represents considerable progress in the subcomponent;
- Yellow represents progressing well but more development is needed;
- Orange indicates that the subcomponent needs more development; and finally
- Red represents that no progress has been made yet in the subcomponent.

As a result, a visual summary was obtained (results matrix) for each group organised by subcomponent together with the performance indicator (colour).

In the plenary, the results were agreed on in such a way that a single visual summary for each sector was achieved. Finally, in the plenary, the management, implementation and planning capacity of the REDD+ specific actions by the Technical Secretariat was discussed, as well as the involvement and participation of each Relevant Stakeholders during the REDD+ readiness phase. So, through brainstorming, information was obtained on the significant achievements and areas that require additional development relating to the 34 assessment criteria, and actions that address the areas in which it has been determined that work needs to continue. On the





areas in which it was determined that work is still needed, the REDD+ Technical Secretariat asked CI for support drawing up a Tracking Plan, which should be implemented in the coming months, as a measure to improve the involvement of Relevant Stakeholders in the subsequent actions of the REDD+ Strategy, which is meant to be a continuous process.

The results of this process will be sent to all the participants by email as part of the disclosure. In addition, as a mechanism to validate the results of the self-assessments. This will be done once the CI technical team has made all the corrections, clarifications and suggestions to the publicly process report. Thev will also be disclosed on the web http://reddcr.go.cr/sites/default/files/centro-de-documentacion. Cultural mediators representatives of small and medium-sized producers will coordinate to amend the report in a culturally appropriate way for indigenous territories and rural communities and for its subsequent publication.

RESULTS OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT

On 5 June and 17 July, self-assessment workshops were held by the small and medium-sized agroforestry producers sector. They were attended by representatives of various organisations; they took place at the Federation of Social Organisations (FOS) and in the offices of Conservation International (CI), in San José, respectively.

On 6 July, the self-assessment workshop was carried out by the Costa Rican indigenous sector, with the participation of representatives of 17 indigenous territories; it was held at the Central American Institute for Social Studies (ICAES), located in San Isidro de Coronado. It should be noted that prior to the self-assessment workshop, a workshop was held to present the methodology, and to put it to discussion, for adaptation by the indigenous sector on 27 March 2015. The goal was to familiarise the indigenous representatives with the instrument to be used in the self-assessment, and to take their suggestions with regard to the use of language and the interpretation of concepts and key words present in the instrument, upon which adjustments were made to adapt it.

On 8 July, the self-assessment workshop for the private forest production sector (the timber industry), was held with representation from the Costa Rican College of Agricultural Engineers (CIAgro), the Costa Rican Forestry Chamber (CCF) and the National Forestry Office (ONF); it took place at the Radisson Hotel in San José.

On 24 July, the self-assessment workshop was held for academia, which took place at the facilities of the National Fund for Forest Financing (FONAFIFO), Moravia.





On 18 August, there was a self-assessment workshop for the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy by the government sector. It was carried out at the Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Community Agroforestry in Central America (ACICAFOC).

The "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework" consists of an assessment framework, which is comprised of 4 components, 9 subcomponents, 34 assessment criteria and 58 diagnostic questions (guidance). A general summary of the main topics addressed by the Relevant Stakeholders is outlined below.

• In subcomponent 1a.) National management mechanisms of the REDD+ programme: The discussion in the various workshops by Relevant Stakeholders focussed on the analysis of both the management mechanisms created for the REDD+ programme, such as the REDD+ Technical Committee and the Technical Secretariat, RIBCA, cultural mediators, UNAFOR, an Inter-institutional Commission and the REDD+ Technical Board. In the management mechanisms that have been consolidated or strengthened such as: the ONF, the CCF, the CIAgro, Associations for Integral Indigenous Territories Development as a platform for REDD+. Its effectiveness at performing essential functions was considered. On how, within each Relevant Stakeholders they are involved and integrated to enhance and expand the country's capacity to manage the reduction of emissions in the framework of the implementation of the REDD+ programme in the future.

This subcomponent also addressed government institutions and the national legal-institutional framework for the management and support of the specific REDD+ Strategy such as: FONAFIFO, SINAC, MAG, INDER and municipalities (local governments). The need to ensure transparent participation and accountability towards all the different sectors was stated so that they take part in the decision making.

• In subcomponent 1b.) Consultation, participation and social dissemination: analysed how the consultation and participation has been developed from 2008 to date. In this sense, positive acceptance of the support and monitoring received was considered by the indigenous sector. Meanwhile the rest of the Relevant Stakeholders noted that more widespread and better links and involvement in their sectors was lacking. They regarded themselves as stakeholders in the development of the Strategy, but this is irrelevant because the institutional nature of REDD+, specifically from the Technical Secretariat, gave greater priority to the indigenous sector than to any other. All the Relevant Stakeholders agreed that social dissemination has been limited mainly because they have not been able to generate the necessary resources to mobilise all sectors with a view to addressing the challenges beyond the readiness phase, as there is still a long way to go to consolidate a sustainable institutional structure to ensure





meaningful participation in decision making in the REDD+ Strategy in its implementation phase.

For this subcomponent, the responsibilities at various levels of management and in the different government agencies and the industry itself were assessed in terms of the coordination, participation and intervention in the REDD+ activities. In addition, the participants discussed how the facilitation of the spaces for the sector's participation in the process of preparing for the Strategy has been. The means for exchanging information and access to information were also assessed, which, although mostly readily available, lacks mediation and adequacy in a popular context, according to the resources available for disclosure.

- In subcomponent 2a.) Assessment of land use, factors causing land-use changes, forestry law, policy and management: The academia sector said that while it is true that a step forward has been taken on the topics of land use, factors causing land-use changes, forestry law, policy and management of the main factors leading to deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities related to conservation, sustainable forest management and the increase of carbon stocks in forests, it is necessary to examine each of these areas in more depth. The self-assessment was carried out considering known results, such as traditional land use, tenure and ownership of land, livelihood and how this is part of the REDD+ Strategy, as well as how to integrate these issues into national or sectoral strategies.
- In subcomponent 2b.) <u>REDD+ strategic options:</u> It was indicated that the government does not seem to have a clearly defined policy on the REDD+ Strategy, since there is still no clarity on policies and programmes that the country will adopt to reduce emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation and improve the absorption of carbon from other activities of REDD+.
- In subcomponent 2c.) <u>Framework implementation</u>: Institutional, economic, legal and management mechanisms necessary to execute the REDD+ Strategy options were assessed. The Relevant Stakeholders felt that since the implementation of the REDD+ strategic options depends on land use and the legal and social circumstances of the country, partnerships with every sector must be improved and the role of government, landowners and other participants in the transactions of the REDD+ programme defined.
- In subcomponent 2d.) Environmental and social impacts: </148 The discussion focussed on the findings and results of the EESA and MGAS. The need to re-examine and consolidate a sustainable institutional structure at the level of each Relevant





Stakeholders was specified to ensure the effective management of environmental and social issues beyond the readiness phase. The institutionalism of REDD+ and the management mechanisms (governance) should ensure greater involvement and participation of the sectors that comprise the Relevant Stakeholders on technical topics of local or sectoral interest.

- In regard to component 3.) National Forest Monitoring System: The Relevant Stakeholders most involved have been from the government sector and academia, since this is essentially a technical topic and regulated in the context of the official information systems. The rest of the Relevant Stakeholders lacked elements to discuss the collection and analysis of relevant data on the subject. However, all the Relevant Stakeholders agreed on the need to consider the development of the capacity very seriously in the application of proven methods and techniques with fundamental national human and technical resources (for example, mapping and field sampling), and the assessment of different methodologies in the future.
- In subcomponent 4a.) National Forest Tracking System: </152 the development of a national forest tracking system that involves the Relevant Stakeholders, mainly with academia as a bridge for the generation of information for indigenous, private industrial forest and small and medium-sized agroforestry producer sectors and the government. This work will allow changes in the extension and carbon content of the forests to be compared (as well as associated GHG emissions) to baseline estimates used for the Reference Level. There is not even any evidence of the setting up of a robust and transparent system, with a participatory approach to forest monitoring that can contribute to the strengthening of forest management and to consider additional measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation.
- Finally, in subcomponent 4b.) <u>Information system for multiple benefits</u>, other impacts, management and safeguards: The priorities for the tracking system have not been noted, which represent the improvement of the livelihoods of the rural population, the conservation of biodiversity, the provision of ecosystem services, the key factors in management directly relevant to the implementation of REDD+ in the country and other impacts of the REDD+ Strategy in the forestry sector. Issues related to safeguards have been considered. The risks, feasibility and inter-sectoral inconsistencies of the REDD+ Strategy options were assessed, as well as how to integrate the strategy options into the country's development policies. The need to take advantage of the various institutional structures that exist to ensure effective management of the environmental and social issues beyond the readiness phase was discussed.





Summary of the results of the self-assessment workshop for the small and medium-sized agroforestry producers sector.

Characterisation of the Sector

The sector of small and medium-sized agroforestry producers is characterised by bringing together, by their own decision, people who perform activities on their farms related to different components such as small-scale livestock farming, agriculture, ecotourism, forests, among many others. Directing its production models towards good, environmentally friendly and healthy practices and looking to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt climate change systems.

This sector is a key stakeholder and very active in the framework of the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+). To achieve a greater impact on policy and the implementation of specific actions, this sector is based on a network that encompasses different models of national, regional, local organisation (cooperatives, associations, organisations, etc.) that exist throughout the country. These forms of organisation are efficient and constitute a united network to promote productive actions in the agroforestry field, in a sustainable way that permits the socio-economic and environmental well-being of its members and families.

Participants in the self-assessment process of the sector

The first self-assessment workshop of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy was held by the sector of small and medium-sized agroforestry producers. It took place at the Federation of Social Organisations in San José on 5 June with the participation of a total of 20 people from 10 organisations and:

- 1. Chorotega National Agroforestry Union (UNAFOR CH)
- 2. Association for the Sustainable Development of the Atlantic Region (ASIREA)
- 3. Union of Independent Producers and Various Activities (UPIAV) for the Brunca Region
- 4. Hojancha Cantonal Agricultural Centre (CAC Hojancha)
- 5. Central Pacific Regional Agroforestry Association (ARAPAC)
- 6. Cartago National Union of Small and Medium-Sized Farmers (UPA Cartago)
- 7. Aqueducts Union North North
- 8. Horizon Cooperative
- 9. Northern Caribbean Nations
- 10. La Palma Peninsular, Osa Peninsula Civic Committee (SUPPOS)





In this first workshop, the self-assessment methodology was submitted (put something from the objective). In addition, on 17 July a second workshop was held, where participants discussed aspects to improve and achievements made during the readiness phase of the Strategy. In total, 7 people took part, representing almost all of the country's regions. On this occasion, the following organisations were represented:

- 1. Cartago National Union of Small and Medium-Sized Farmers (UPA Cartago)
- 2. National Agroforestry Union of the Huetar Norte Region (UNAFOR HN)
- 3. Central Pacific Regional Agroforestry Association (ARAPAC)
- 4. National Agroforestry Union of the Brunca Region (UNAFOR Brunca)
- 5. National Agroforestry Union of the Caribbean Region (UNAFOR Caribbean)

Description of the Process

The self-assessment methodology proposed by Costa Rica started from some assumptions. One of them was that the representatives of this sector have been constantly involved throughout the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. However, the same people were not always involved, which led to information gaps. In addition, the readiness phase started in 2008 and throughout this period the representation of the participants from organisations has been changing for various reasons.

This leads to a skewing of the quantity and quality of the information, processes and priorities of those who attended the events on behalf of the sector. Another assumption was that the participants handled all the content and terminology of the 34 assessment criteria. For this reason, some adaptations had to be made to end with a consensus on the self-assessment of the sector throughout the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy.

In the first workshop, conducted in working groups according to different associations, group one consisted of three representatives of the La Palma Peninsular, Osa Peninsula Civic Committee and the Horizon Cooperative, who expressed that it was the first introduction they had had to the subject of REDD+. Group two comprised a representative from the Aqueducts Union North North, three representatives of the Huetar Norte UNAFOR and a representative of the Cartago UPA. Group three consisted of members of the Central Pacific Regional Agroforestry Association (ARAPAC). The fourth group comprised representatives of the Union of Independent Producers and Various Activities (UPIAV) from the Brunca Region. Finally, the fifth group represented the Chorotega National Agroforestry Union.

The group work consisted of analysing each of the diagnostic questions. Subcomponents 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2d, 4a and 4b were addressed. Subcomponents 2c on the Implementation Framework and component 3 on the National Forest Monitoring System, RL (reference level),





ERL (emissions reference level) and the MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification), were only covered by three of the five working groups.

However, these two subcomponents were not covered within the indicators of progress for the outcome of the assessment by this subsector. It was stated that there was not enough information about the progress and results within these subcomponents in order to express a definitive position on the matter.

From the organisation of the information obtained in this workshop, referring to the 58 diagnostic questions, a representative group was called for in the second workshop, and the self-assessment for the subsector was obtained from this.

Indicators of progress by subcomponent

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of the subsector of small and medium-sized agroforestry producers has been throughout this process. To obtain the indicators of progress by subcomponent, the guidelines (Reasoning - Guidance Notes) were used, based on the guide for the self-assessment framework of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. On this basis, and based on the information obtained through the REDD+ processes where the sector is involved, each criterion was analysed and a consensus was reached on the performance indicator for each subcomponent by the subsector.

Summary of the results of the self-assessment workshop of the indigenous sector.

Characterisation of the Sector

In Costa Rica there are eight different indigenous groups, Cabécares, Bribris, Ngöbe, Térrabas, Borucas, Huetares, Malekus and Chorotegas; they live in 24 territories and speak 6 languages. Anyone who declares that they belong (by descent, miscegenation or self-assignment) to any of the groups originating from Costa Rica, even if they live outside of the indigenous territory, is recognised as indigenous. For the negotiations in the framework of REDD+, a structure has been consolidated that focusses on indigenous territories in the Caribbean area of the country, the Bribri and Cabécar Indigenous Network (RIBCA), Indigenous Territorial Organisations (OTI), the Regional Territorial Blocks (BTR) and the Gnöbe Regional Union.

The Costa Rican indigenous sector has been actively involved since the beginning of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. Indigenous territories have an organisational and operational framework that is both traditional and contemporary at the same time. For this reason, and due to financial resources they have been able to mobilise, they have participated in this process, and, through REDD+, the development of indigenous leaders into territorial





blocks has been strengthened, culturally appropriate materials have been developed, and the figure of cultural mediators has been implemented. The indigenous territories of Costa Rica have been able to create a national indigenous consultation plan. This national indigenous consultation plan has been endorsed and supported by FONAFIFO, and the territories will receive USD 1.1 million through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) for its implementation.

Cultural mediators have a broad knowledge of the indigenous culture of their own territories, but at the same time have been trained on technical issues such as climate change and have the ability to transmit information from an indigenous concept to a non-indigenous concept and vice versa.

This sector is promoting forest conservation and the maintenance of supplies of forest carbon, and at the same time addressing concerns through benefits beyond carbon, which include territorial management, community forestry, land titling and sustainable forest management.

Participants in the self-assessment process of the sector

The performance self-assessment workshop for the indigenous sector in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, which was conducted at the Central American Institute of Social Studies (ICAES) on 6 July, with the participation of representatives of 17 indigenous territories and a total of 40 people. Indigenous involvement in the self-assessment workshop was delivered by indigenous leaders knowledgeable of their culture and the topic of REDD+.

The self-assessment workshop was attended with representation from the following indigenous territories:

- 1. Indigenous Territory of Bajo Chirripó
- 2. Indigenous Territory of Alto Chirripó
- 3. Indigenous Territory of Nairi Awari
- 4. Indigenous Territory of Keköldi
- 5. Indigenous Territory of Matambú
- 6. Indigenous Territory of Talamanca Bribri
- 7. Indigenous Territory of Talamanca Cabécar
- 8. Indigenous Territory of Guatuso (Malekus)
- 9. Indigenous Territory of Osa
- 10. Indigenous Territory of Abrojo Montezuma
- 11. Indigenous Territory of Alto San Antonio
- 12. Indigenous Territory of Tayni
- 13. Indigenous Territory of Conte Burica
- 14. Indigenous Territory of Alto Laguna





- 15. Indigenous Territory of Zapatón
- 16. Indigenous Territory of Coto Brus
- 17. Indigenous Territory of Quitirrisí

The indigenous representatives have been working from the start on a regular basis during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and have taken many forms and levels of organisation; the OTIs are described, which are grouped into BTR by the following geographical areas: Caribbean, Central Pacific, South Pacific and Central Sector. Another structure comprises the representatives of the RIBCA, the Gnöbe Regional Union, who are responsible for maintaining national to territorial coordination and vice versa. The National Assembly comprises all members of the BTRs. The National Indigenous Technical Secretariat, with a technical profile. Finally, they have representation on the Executive Committee of REDD+.

With resources commensurate with the readiness funds, regular informative meetings were held to coordinate and strengthen capabilities in the indigenous territories in REDD+. This allows a space to be guaranteed so that indigenous leaders strengthen their organisational structure and plan their consultation processes at the territorial level independently. In turn, they have participated in other public decision-making processes, to ensure that their rights are fully respected throughout the REDD+ programme cycle.

Description of the Process

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of the indigenous sector has been in the process of preparing the REDD+ Strategy. Prior to this activity, in March 2015, the methodology was shared with this group and the language to use in the self-assessment was refined.

In this workshop, an introduction was given to the activity, starting with welcoming the participants, the register (registration), the presentation of the team facilitator and organiser, and the presentation of the methodology of the workshop. The workshop's objectives and activities were then presented. The REDD+ Executive Secretariat was in charge of presenting the relevant information on the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy.

The work was organised in groups, starting with the collective review (reading) of the self-assessment tool. A request was made to highlight the key elements identified during the readiness phase of the strategy, and then to assign progress indicators according to the subcomponent analysed. The working groups were heterogeneous in accordance with the different indigenous territories present. Each group was given a subcomponent and the attached diagnostic questions, so that the progress indicator was obtained for the subcomponent from the discussion. As a consequence, there was a plenary for each group to





present their work and discuss the visual rating established. Each of the 34 criteria were reviewed, and it closed with a self-assessment matrix of the sector. This matrix was created in a collective and participatory manner. The results were discussed to reach a consensus from the sector. Finally, the conclusion and closing (final summary) of the workshop took place.

The opinion of each of the working groups (organisations) who participated in the process was organised. A presentation was held on the activities that have taken place during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy.

The merged work was made possible thanks to the constant involvement that this sector has maintained throughout the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. The workshop participants discussed and understand the concepts and content that the 34 assessment criteria address, thanks to the collaboration of cultural mediators; however, the need was expressed to encourage the use of simpler language in this type of instrument that all participants can understand.

The discussion focussed on the compliance of the five special themes raised as negotiation points in this sector, which are: 1. Schedule of Payments for Indigenous Environmental Services 2. Consolidation of the territories strategy 3. Strategy for the integration of primary forests, secondary forests and regeneration from an indigenous worldview 4. Relationship between protected areas and indigenous territories 5. Model of participatory monitoring and assessment

Indicators of progress by subcomponent

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of the indigenous sector has been throughout this process. To obtain the indicators of progress by subcomponent, the guidelines (Reasoning - Guidance Notes) were used, based on the guide for the self-assessment framework of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. On this basis, and based on the information obtained through the REDD+ processes which involve the sector, each criterion was analysed and discussed and a consensus was reached on the performance indicator for each subcomponent by the subsector. Subcomponents 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 4b were addressed. Component 3 on the National System of Forest Monitoring, RL (reference level), ERL (emissions reference level) and MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification), and subcomponent 4a, on the national forest monitoring system were not covered in the self-assessment as there was no updated and understandable information about the progress and results within these subcomponents, in order to express a definitive position on the matter.





Summary of the results of the academia self-assessment workshop

Characterisation of the Sector

Academia, which includes higher education institutions and research and extension institutes, is part of the management mechanisms of the REDD+ Strategy and has been identified as one of the Relevant Stakeholders. During the Strategy development phase it has included the participation of the five state universities: The National University (UNA), State University for Distance Learning (UNED), the University of Costa Rica (UCR), the Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR) and the National Technical University (UTN), the National Centre for High Technology (CENAT) and the National Commission for Forest Sustainability (CNSF) comprises representatives of scientific and economic promotion institutions, whose function is to recommend to the State Forestry Administration (AFE) the lines of sustainability for forest activity to ensure viable socio-economic usage of the forest resource, with minimal impact and within an appropriate governance institutional framework, in keeping with the current legislation.

As a result of this, the need to generate a strong link between the REDD+ Strategy, research, teaching, extension and training of professionals has been determined; but it is necessary to develop means of coordination within the academic units involved.

The idea that higher education institutions, the CENAT and CNSF maintain relations with the communities and society in general, acquires all its importance in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, since they have appropriate means to support the development of applied research and experimental measures and the development of social and educational processes that are required.

Within its aims, academia has proposed from this self-assessment projecting dynamism and coordinating the linking of all the Relevant Stakeholders involved in the Strategy, in such a way as to try to stimulate social development and to raise the spiritual, intellectual and technical level through the projection of knowledge, directed studies and research.

Participants in the self-assessment process of the sector

The performance self-assessment workshop for academia in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy was conducted at the facilities of the National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO), on 24 July, with the participation of representatives of four entities. There were two representatives of the UNA, a representative of CENAT and a representative of the National System of Conservation Areas; three of them are members of the CNSF.





These actors have regular informational and coordination meetings on some themes of REDD+. They have been working since the beginning on a regular basis during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, guaranteeing a space within the consultation process. At the same time, they have participated in other public processes for decision-making throughout the programme cycle of REDD+.

Description of the Process

The self-assessment process began with an introduction specifying what it is, what is expected and how it is developed, along with the workshop's objectives and activities. Participants from the facilitator team were welcomed to the presentation, and the methodology of the workshop was presented.

The group work was organised with the four representatives of the sector consulted, starting with the collective review (reading) of the self-assessment tool. A request was made to highlight the key elements identified during the readiness phase of the strategy, and then to assign progress indicators according to the subcomponent analysed. The results were discussed to achieve the consensus of the sector, with the understanding that this was a partial position as it was not the entire representation of the sector.

A presentation was held on the activities that have taken place during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. The group work was then organised. Each subcomponent was addressed, along with the attached diagnostic questions, so that the progress indicator was obtained for the subcomponent from the discussion. Finally, the conclusion and closing (final summary) of the workshop took place.

Indicators of progress by subcomponent

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of academia has been throughout this process. To obtain the indicators of progress by subcomponent, the guidelines (Reasoning - Guidance Notes) were used, based on the guide for the self-assessment framework of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. On this basis, and based on the information obtained through the REDD+ processes which involve the sector, each criterion was analysed and discussed and a consensus was reached on the performance indicator for each subcomponent by the subsector. Subcomponents 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3, 4a and 4b were addressed by this sector. Subcomponents 2c and 2d were not even contemplated as it was felt that academia was not competent on them and there was not enough information about the progress and results of these subcomponents.





Summary of the results of the private forestry sector self-assessment workshop

Characterisation of the Sector

The private forestry sector was defined as a diverse set of stakeholders involved in forestry work in Costa Rica based on private ownership, which includes owners of forests, plantations, isolated trees and/or land used for agriculture with an associated forest component. It also included timber manufacturers, traders of forest machinery and products (nurseries, furniture, pallets, timber for construction, etc.), certification organisations, etc.

The forestry sector has different consultation bodies. These include Non-Governmental Organisations, NGOs with forestry projects; non-state public entities such as the National Forestry Office (ONF) and the College of Agricultural Engineers (CIAgro); and others, such as the Costa Rican Forestry Chamber (CCF) and business consortia.

Participants in the self-assessment process of the sector

The performance self-assessment workshop for the private forestry sector in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, conducted on 8 July, took place at the Radisson Hotel, in San José, with representatives of the College of Agricultural Engineers of Costa Rica (CIAgro), the Costa Rican Forestry Chamber (CCF) and the National Forestry Office (ONF); seven people took part.

These actors have regular informational and coordination meetings on some themes of REDD+. They have been working since the beginning on a regular basis during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, guaranteeing a space for communication within the consultation process. At the same time, they have participated in other public processes for political dialogue throughout the REDD+ programme cycle.





Description of the Process

The self-assessment process with the private forestry sector began with a workshop where an introduction took place by specifying: what it is, what is expected, who is involved, how it will develop and the self-assessment process. The self-assessment workshop's objectives and activities were then explained. Participants from the facilitator team were welcomed to the presentation and a register was taken (registration); then the methodology of the workshop was presented.

They worked as a group, with the 7 people asked to read and analyse each diagnostic question and then choose the rating by selecting a colour depending on the level of progress, where: green represents a significant step forward; yellow represents progressing well but more development is needed; orange indicates that more development is needed; and finally red represents that no progress has been made yet. A colour was assigned according to the answers to the diagnostic questions. The results of the matrix were discussed.

As a second activity, a colour was assigned for each subcomponent, to obtain the self-assessment matrix for the sector. However, the progress indicators by subcomponent analysed were not assigned, mainly due to time and participation reasons. Participants also asked to be able to present and discuss within their organisations. Through the ONF, they agreed to send a single matrix by email with performance indicators by subcomponent of the sector, a decision that was respected.

Indicators of progress by subcomponent

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of the private forestry sector has been throughout this process. To obtain the progress indicators by subcomponent, sending the matrix via email was used as a mechanism based on the guide to the self-assessment framework of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, together with the guidelines (Reasoning - Guidance notes). Each representative of the government institutions, on this basis, and based on the information obtained through the REDD+ processes, analysed each criterion and generated a matrix with the performance indicator by subcomponent. The National Forestry Office was responsible for collecting the information and collected it in a single instrument, which was circulated by email to reach a consensus on the performance indicator for each subcomponent of the sector. Subcomponents 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3, 4a and 4b were addressed by this sector.





Summary of the results of the self-assessment workshop of the government sector

Characterisation of the Sector

The government sector corresponds to the set of administrative agencies through which the State meets or enforces the policy or will expressed in the laws of the land. They are the institutions and authorities of the executive branch. At a national level, it comprises all the centrally run institutions for the whole country, and at a territorial or regional level, those located in the province, state or department, municipality, city or town. The institutional framework of the State of Costa Rica is an active body which adapts to the needs of its citizens.

This sector concentrates public institutions between ministries, autonomous institutions, semiautonomous institutions, public corporations, public entities and non-state entity administrators of public funds. In the framework of REDD+, it has formed an Interinstitutional Commission to facilitate coordination between different bodies and achieve a greater impact on policies and the implementation of actions. The government institutions that are involved in the Commission are:

- Ministry of Environment and Energy
- National System of Conservation Areas
- National Meteorological Institute
- National Forest Financing Fund
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements
- Ministry of Economic Planning
- Ministry of Finance
- National Budget Directorate
- National Institute of Rural Development
- Costa Rican Electricity Institute
- Institute for Municipal Development and Advisory Services
- Aqueducts and Sewers

Participants in the self-assessment process of the sector

A self-assessment workshop for the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy was held by the government sector. It was held at the Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Community Agroforestry in Central America (ACICAFOC), on 18 August. The institutions above were convened; however, for various reasons, only 3 institutions took part:

1. Ministry of Economic Planning, Álvaro Rojas Castillo





- 2. Costa Rican Electricity Institute, Omar Hernández Ávila
- 3. National System of Conservation Areas, Sonia Lobo Valverde

Due to the poor representation of the government sector at the REDD+ self-assessment workshop, the attendees decided to not proceed with the summary of results by progress indicators. As an alternative measure, CI was in charge of coordinating, via the Secretariat, sending the matrix with the diagnostic questions and the assessment matrix by subcomponent to the focal points of the Inter-institutional Commission.

Description of the Process

Participants from the facilitator team were welcomed to the presentation and a register was taken (registration); then the methodology of the workshop was presented. The self-assessment process began with an introduction specifying what self-assessment is, what is expected and how it is developed, along with the workshop's objectives and activities.

From this explanation, participants were asked to express what has been the level of involvement and participation of the government institutions in the REDD+ Inter-institutional Commission. Each made a presentation on the activities that have been carried out during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy by their organisations and how they have been incorporated and structured. There was a discussion of the role they played in the readiness phase of the Strategy and what contributions and responsibilities have been assumed by each of the institutions that make up the Commission.

Subsequently, they worked on several ideas considering the elements of the analysis of the self-assessment process developed by the participants, in order to, in the end, describe on the basis of the activities carried out the main difficulties that arose during the process, including any suggestions. With the three representatives of the institutions, aspects to improve were established and achievements made during the readiness phase of the Strategy were discussed.

The Secretariat sent the information via email to: Roberto Azofeifa Rodríguez of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Gladys Jiménez of the National Meteorological Institute (IMN), Gilbert Canet of the State Forestry Administration (AFE), Sonia Lobo Valverde of the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), Álvaro Rojas Castillo of the Ministry of Economic Planning, Omar Hernández Ávila of the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity, and Gilmar Navarrete of the National Forest Financing Fund. Each sent a matrix to the Secretariat with performance indicators by subcomponent. This was the basis for the weighting and construction of an assessment matrix for the sector.





Indicators of progress by subcomponent

The self-assessment was directed primarily at the analysis of the activities developed during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and what the contribution and level of involvement of the government sector has been throughout this process.

To obtain the progress indicators by subcomponent, it was extended into two invitation opportunities to the private forestry sector to proceed with the self-assessment; however, the participants' calendars were not free on any of the scheduled dates. For this reason, sending via email the matrix that was worked on in the sector's self-assessment workshop was used as a mechanism based on the guide to the self-assessment framework of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, together with the guidelines (Reasoning - Guidance notes). Mr. Alfonso Barrantes, Director of the ONF, was responsible for facilitating the process of constructing the matrix with the self-assessment by subcomponent from the element mentioned above (visual summary). From the information obtained throughout the processes, each criterion was analysed and a matrix generated with the performance indicator by subcomponent. Once completed, it was sent to the consultants and the Secretariat via email. Conservation International consultants were responsible for collecting the information, and they compiled the table. Subcomponents 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3, 4a and 4b were addressed by this sector. Each representative of the government institutions, from

SYNOPSIS OF THE SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The summary of the results matrix for each Relevant Stakeholders is presented below by component and subcomponent. The visual key to the matrix is as follows:

- Green represents considerable progress in the subcomponent;
- Yellow represents progressing well but more development is needed;
- Orange indicates that the subcomponent needs more development; and finally
- Red represents that no progress has been made yet in the subcomponent.
- White: indicates that the Relevant Stakeholders decided not to assess the subcomponent. There are two basic reasons: 1. Lack of knowledge of the information, or not sufficient criteria to answer the diagnostic questions, and 2. It is not considered to come under the Relevant Stakeholders's remit. See Annex 4.





COMPONENT 1. ORGANISATION AND CONSULTATIONS FOR THE READINESS								
Subcomponent	Performance indicator by sector							
	SMPS	IS	AS	PFS	GS			
1a. National management mechanisms for the								
REDD+ programme								
1b. Consultation, participation and social								
dissemination								
	CC CEPT	TE DED D	COTTO A COT	7077				
COMPONENT 2. READINESS OF THE REDD+ STRATEGY								
Subcomponent	Performance indicator by sector							
	SMPS	IS	AS	PFS	GS			
2a. Assessment of use and factors causing								
changes to land use, forestry law, policy and								
management 2b. Strategic options for REDD+								
25. Strategic options for REDD +								
2c. Implementation Framework								
1								
2d. Environmental and social impacts								
COMPONENT 3. EMISSION REFER	1							
Subcomponent	Performance indicator by sector							
_	SMPS	IS	AS	PFS	GS			
3. Emission reference levels/Reference levels								
COMPONENT A FOREST MONITORIN	C CVCTL	MC AND	INTEXADIA	ATIONA	DOLTT			
COMPONENT 4. FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION ABOUT SAFEGUARDS								
	Performance indicator by sector							
Subcomponent	SMPS	IS	AS	PFS	GS			
4a. National Forest Tracking System								
4b. Information system for multiple benefits,								
other impacts, management and safeguards								





Abbreviations:

SMPS: small and medium-sized agroforestry producers sector

IS: indigenous sector AS: academia sector

PFS: private forestry sector GS: government sector

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Component 1: Organisation and consultation for the readiness

The Relevant Stakeholders represented have viewed the REDD+ Strategy as an instrument that promotes a more converged management of legislation, planning, control and development of agro-forestry, with the aim of reducing deforestation and degradation of the forest resource and the agro-environment theme. In addition, it has enabled unresolved issues focussed on the reality of these stakeholders to be brought to the negotiating table.

In the readiness phase of REDD+ the formulation of an indigenous consultation plan, the design and implementation of a national programme of cultural mediators were made possible, which integrates the cultural component of the Indigenous Peoples with the technical and scientific component of climate change to manage to understand the implications of REDD+ in their territories and pass the information on to local communities.

Early dialogue and consultation processes have been carried out with the indigenous sector, in that the responsibility for disseminating information and the coordination of consultations at a territorial level is shared. The indigenous territories that participated in the readiness phase of REDD+ have seen in the Strategy a chance to bring the indigenous agenda to the government table on the basis of their own world-view and traditional and current systems of governance, especially referring to the 5 priority themes.

Despite the changing process during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, the interest of the Relevant Stakeholders in supporting the construction of REDD+ has been maintained. This ensures the inter-institutional and multidisciplinary processes that enable the permanent development of processes.

During the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, some national and regional organisations have been supported with financial capital to promote opportunities for meeting, dialogue and





decision-making that they have not previously had. These activities have been led by the Relevant Stakeholders and have enabled strengthening and training to ensure representative participation, consolidating spaces for dialogue and the influence of sectors.

Through the processes established during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, small and medium-sized agroforestry producers have been made much more aware of the contributions and efforts that have been made on this topic.

Component 2: Readiness of the REDD+ Strategy

Through the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, the importance of policies that protect the rights of forest land for small and medium-sized agroforestry producers and indigenous territories has been seen.

An example is the development of a differential form of PSA (payment for environmental services) for Indigenous Peoples and the peasant sector, specially designed to respond to the priorities and concerns of the indigenous and peasant sectors.

The participants expressed that REDD+ is an initiative that comes at an important time, and that it has created capacities, as well as strengthening organisations in sectors dependent on forest resources.

Component 3: National Forest Monitoring System

Arrangements have been made for institutional coordination and to meet the technical, administrative and legal requirements to assess performance in the implementation of REDD+ activities at a national level, which also includes the collection and analysis of relevant data. This component was discussed with the private forestry sector, academia and government.

Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and information about safeguards

Visibility of many leading or key stakeholders in the regions of Costa Rica are committed to the process. In the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy, interest in the regionalisation of the country has been recognised. Actions must be seen at the level of regions and smaller territorial units, with a view to implementing the actions derived from REDD+.

It has been analysed how the REDD+ Strategy fits in within the context of the framework and the process of development of the country and the way in which it is considering the Relevant Stakeholders in the contribution to mitigation in the forestry sector.





There is interest from some State institutions to undertake REDD+ activities, in particular those which relate to indirect deforestation and forest degradation factors, as well as issues of land tenure, forest management and safeguards.

Areas that require additional development relating to the assessment criteria

Below, based on the views of the Relevant Stakeholders during the self-assessment process, those areas that require additional development are described according to each component:

Component 1: Organisation and consultation for the readiness

Given the participatory nature of the REDD+ Strategy, it is necessary to continue working on improving the themes of gender, power, rights and markets and to complement legal and organisational frameworks.

There is a lack of clarity in the roles and responsibilities of each Relevant Stakeholders in order to respond to each of the criteria outlined by subcomponent in such a way as to seek sustainability within the next implementation phase of the REDD+ Strategy. Participation needs and responsibilities have not been defined. Who are the Relevant Stakeholders and why? What should they do? The operational outline of each Relevant Stakeholders has not been defined, and there is confusion over participation.

The Relevant Stakeholders sense that not enough effort is being made by the REDD+ Technical Secretariat to understand each sector's specific needs. Also, they highlight a lack of knowledge of the stock of resources of each Relevant Stakeholders, in terms of which it could be contributing to the Strategy. From the government sector, there is a clear need to establish institutional arrangements for the design, monitoring and control of the REDD+ activities.

Academia is a neutral point between the institutional governmental sector and the productive sectors and you could add within the Strategy. The mechanisms to attract attention and report on the responsibilities of academia and its participation are unclear. There are lots of information gaps, due to a lack of continuity of processes and linkages of all the activities carried out by means of the sector and that cannot be viewed over time.

It is worth mentioning that the workload and demand to deal with priority tasks and international commitments, as well as the national context, has negatively affected the reaction ability of the Secretariat's technical team.





Component 2: Readiness of the REDD+ Strategy

The Relevant Stakeholders stated that they have received information on REDD+, but there are considerable gaps. The sectors (academia, private forestry, small and medium-sized agroforestry producers and government) have not felt involved in the whole process, because they feel that they are invited to participate according to the interests of the Secretariat or even when it is deemed necessary. This has caused some of the various Relevant Stakeholders to be partial in the design and readiness of the REDD+ Strategy and in the discussion on it.

The REDD+ Technical Secretariat, as the institution that leads the process, identifies the need and obligation to involve and harmonise all sectors represented by the Relevant Stakeholders.

The full and effective participation and inclusion of relevant stakeholders are crucial for development of the REDD+ Strategy. It is not enough to convene information activities on REDD+, but adequate spaces for dialogue and influence of the Relevant Stakeholders must be managed, and the importance of their role in the success of the strategy must be conveyed to the parties concerned.

According to the results of the self-assessment, progress in the readiness phase of REDD+ has been extremely slow, and it is believed that which is outstanding exceeds the achievements, mainly on the topics of interest of the indigenous territories and rural communities.

Each Relevant Stakeholders without exception must be guaranteed the appropriate financial resources to effectively and specifically support the consultation, participation and social dissemination of the REDD+ Strategy process.

The idea that higher education institutions, the CENAT and CNSF maintain relations with the communities and society in general is extremely important in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. These institutions have the necessary means to support the development of applied research and experimental measures and the development of the social and educational processes that are required.

There must be transparency and clarity on the distribution of future benefits generated from the REDD+ Strategy to decrease the risk to rights, livelihoods, culture, biodiversity, etc.





Component 3: National Forest Monitoring System

The method of taking stock of forest carbon should allow transparent, consistent and accurate estimates as far as possible, and reduce uncertainties, but take account of national resources and capacities.

It is necessary to use an effective design for the REDD+ MRV system, to achieve and gain additional emission reductions, which can track leaks.

The need to develop the local technical capacity for the application of fundamental methods and techniques became apparent (for example, mapping and field sampling), as did the need for to assess different methodologies at the national or subnational level and to develop the ERLs/RLs, in order to prepare the country for the implementation phase of REDD+.

Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and information about safeguards

The relevant performance indicators on social and environmental safeguards need to be regularly measured and assessed with clarity.

Readjusting and/or resizing the expected results of the REDD+ Strategy, so that they are reachable, robust and sustainable considering: the new timeframe, the remaining budget, the national economy and that they are promoted through the Relevant Stakeholders.

Work must be done to achieve a strong and transparent national forest monitoring system. There is no clarity about what the functions are nor clarification of processes, to understand where the process is headed and whether the decision-makers have clear goals. It needs to be defined who is going to lead, so that there are no duplications of functions.

The REDD+ Strategy must provide tangible benefits and an equitable distribution to local rural communities and Indigenous Peoples, who are involved in reducing emissions by means of managing alternative forest livelihoods and forestry development.

The teaching, research and extension that academia performs could guide the processes that are performed in the framework of the readiness phase of the Strategy, to extend the action of the universities beyond their academic boundaries and respond to a long-held concern.





Actions that address areas in which opportunities to improve the processes have been identified

The consultation process must be a continuous instrument in a manner that integrates the social and environmental considerations of each Relevant Stakeholders. This is especially true in the indigenous territories (Convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation) and small and medium-sized agroforestry producers (peasants) so they contribute to constructing these considerations.

The REDD+ Strategy must work in more depth on the topics of forest policy and governance in order to identify the main factors leading to deforestation and/or the degradation of forests, as well as activities related to the conservation, sustainable management of forests and increasing carbon stocks in forests.

We should work on defining the roles and responsibilities at the various management levels, as well as the role of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat and Relevant Sectors (Relevant Stakeholders), in the coordination of REDD+ activities.

The manner in which the Technical Secretariat manages and conducts the planning of the specific actions of REDD+ needs to be improved, in a way that increases the performance, comanagement, empowerment, interest and active involvement of the Relevant Stakeholders.

In addition, the communication channels need to be improved to overcome the deficiencies found during the development of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy.

The Relevant Stakeholders emphasise that it is necessary to seek the appropriate mechanisms to ensure the promotion of production and the consumption of sustainable timber from natural forests (primary and secondary) and reforestation, among others. This is aimed at enabling development focussed on increasing production, employment generation and rising above the poverty line.

The Relevant Stakeholders have stable and legally constituted structures on which to base the dialogue on REDD+ and which ensure social dissemination, but more financing is needed to consolidate the capital to generate more resources of different types: human, cultural, social, political, natural, physical and financial. Consolidating the Relevant Stakeholders' capital structures will strengthen dialogue and participation in succeeding stages.

Part of the indigenous population agrees that the REDD+ Strategy has the potential to provide several benefits to Indigenous Peoples and other communities whose livelihoods depend on





the forests; however, if it is not undertaken appropriately, it also represents risks to rights, livelihoods, culture, biodiversity, etc.

For its part, academia has its reasons when it comes to choosing its enclaves, but the Strategy could support guiding objectives based on research contracts. One of the aims that academia has proposed from this self-assessment is projecting dynamism and coordinating the linking of all the Relevant Stakeholders involved in the Strategy in such a way as to try to stimulate social development, raise the spiritual, intellectual and technical level through the projection of knowledge, directed studies and research within each of the 34 assessment criteria.

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT BY SUBCOMPONENT DERIVED FROM THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

To formulate the readiness assessment regarding progress in the basic preparatory activities, as requested in the Readiness Package, the results of the review of the self-assessments of the Relevant Stakeholders (Relevant Stakeholders) were analysed. Based on the results of the self-assessments and according to the weighting table prepared by the Conservation International consultants (see Annex 5), the visual summary of the overall achievements was constructed by subcomponent using progress indicators. The following table was obtained, which was presented to the Executive Committee of REDD+ at the meeting of 10 September 2015 to receive comments and perspectives on the results of the process.





Component 1. Organisation and consultation for the readiness	<i>s</i>
Subcomponent	Performance indicator
1a. National management mechanisms for the REDD+ programme	
1b. Consultation, participation and social dissemination	
Component 2. Readiness of the REDD+ Strategy	
Subcomponent	Performance indicator
2a. Assessment on the use of land, factors causing changes in land use,	
forestry law, policy and management	
2b. Strategic options for REDD+	
2c. Implementation Framework	
2d. Environmental and social impacts	
Component 3. Emission reference levels/Reference levels	
Subcomponent	Performance indicator
3. Emission reference levels/Reference levels	
Component 4. Forest monitoring systems and information about safe	eguards
Subcomponent	Performance indicator
4a. National Forest Tracking System	
4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, management and safeguards	





FINAL THOUGHTS

The participation of people who have been actively involved during the development of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy. In addition to participation, having mastery of the information regarding the processes that have developed over the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy and situations arising during that period of time, so that they have appropriate skills to contribute to policy dialogues and criteria for rating their involvement.

The development of the self-assessment process requires methodological thoroughness in the collection, generation, processing and analysis of information. For this reason, it is appropriate that each Relevant Stakeholder approves the methodology in advance and expresses the appropriateness of incorporating the particular aspects of each sector. In this way, it can conform to national, regional or local circumstances.

It was fitting to base the self-assessment process of the readiness phase of REDD+ on existing structures that were established by the strategic environmental assessment and social or national procedures that express consensus on the process.

The self-assessment tool should be convenient and coordinated with each Relevant Stakeholders in such a way that is adequately tailored to national circumstances and the characteristics of the sectors, using the institutions and participation processes. Moreover, the assessment tool (34 criteria) is complex. The terms must be in a more understandable language for those who perform the self-assessment.

The self-assessments enabled regulatory, institutional and capacity shortcomings to be identified to manage priorities, areas for improvement, achievements and recommendations during the readiness phase of REDD+.

CONCLUSIONS

From the facilitation of a reasoned dialogue process for self-assessment, and understanding of the participatory and non-managerial nature by Conservation International, a difference was mostly highlighted between the views shown in the self-assessment carried out by the indigenous sector and the rest of the self-assessments of the Relevant Stakeholders. This can be attributed to the indigenous groups having received financial resources from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to support the implementation of the "National Indigenous Consultation Plan", of USD 1.1 million (http://www.bankinformationcenter.org/es/feature/red d-en-costa-rica/). Thanks to this support, indigenous groups have been able to take advantage of the REDD+ process to influence the establishment of an organisational structure that has





served to strengthen and increase social capital and to improve governance (by promoting the representation of Indigenous People in the decision-making processes of REDD+); in addition, their participation has placed special topics of interest to the indigenous sector in the discussion on REDD+. Another aspect that has been demonstrated to be a result of the self-assessment process is that the indigenous sector has received greater support from the REDD+ Secretariat than other Relevant Stakeholders have. This existence of resources and greater support has had an impact in that the participation of the indigenous Relevant Stakeholders is greater than the involvement of other sectors, which is why their views of the process may differ.

From the self-assessment process of the Relevant Stakeholders, the challenges and weaknesses of the Technical Secretariat were identified, as a figure in charge of leading the REDD+ Strategy, according to the comments and expressions of the participants in the workshops held, such as: low effectiveness in the transfer of the information with Relevant Stakeholders, institutional planning limitations, lack of clarity in the roles of the Relevant Stakeholders in the REDD+ process, and the formalisation of the processes by the Secretariat to facilitate decision-making in each Relevant Stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended, in order to maintain consistency, that this report discusses and validates the results of the self-assessments and of the national assessment, by means of the Executive Committee of REDD+, to be representative of each Relevant Stakeholders prior to the implementation of the Monitoring Plan derived from the self-assessment process.

It is suggested that the identification of critical areas, to which the process will be able to devote more attention, are identified prior to the workshops and are the basis of the discussion. This is especially important in cases in which the self-assessment is carried out for the first time, since it has overly broad objectives.

For greater success in the next phase of the REDD+ Strategy, it is suggested that each Relevant Stakeholders receives support and follow-up in the same way as has been done with the indigenous sector, as far as possible.

Finally, it is especially important to be able to develop a monitoring plan with the Relevant Stakeholders to systematically address the weaknesses that have been identified, so that they can be resolved during the following phases in the implementation of the strategy.

ANNEXES





Annex 1. Teaching Guide and Agenda

Tutorial for the methodological approach and agenda for group work in the workshops on "Self-assessment of participation of Relevant Stakeholders (Relevant Stakeholders) in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy"

The self-assessment process will be a participatory process, coordinated by the REDD+ Executive Secretariat, facilitated by Conservation International with support from the WISE-REDD+ Project, as an independent stakeholder. The results of this process will be subject to consideration/validation of the REDD+ Executive Committee.

This assessment is part of a participatory and inclusive report which should reflect the perspectives and experiences of the participants in the readiness process.

General Objective:

Facilitate a dialogue process with stakeholders in the forest sector for the self-assessment of their participation, influence and involvement in the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica.

Specific objectives:

- 1. Analyse the activities implemented during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica.
- 2. Assess the progress of the core activities toward the completion of the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica.
- **3.** Detect unresolved deficiencies and other needs from the multi-stakeholder dialogue on the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica.





Expected results

The results of the self-assessment of each stakeholder will form part of the Assessment of the readiness of the REDD+ Strategy, and a readiness package will be compiled which will document the country's progress and lessons learned, assess any remaining deficiencies, and identify activities to move forward in the transition to applying activities based on performance.

Results of the self-assessment

- 1. Visual summary of the overall achievements by subcomponent using progress indicators:
 - **a.** green = significant progress;
 - **b.** yellow = progressing well but more development is needed;
 - **c.** orange = more development needed;
 - **d.** red = still no progress shown;
- 2. Description of major achievements and areas that require further development in relation to the corresponding 34 assessment criteria;
- **3.** Measures that address the areas that most need support.

Activities:

- 1. Share the self-assessment tool (online form).
- **2.** Complete matrix using progress indicators of the overall achievements by subcomponent (visual summary).
- **3.** Identify, with the participation of the government, various issues related to each subcomponent: Current situation, Progress or achievements, Challenges and Outlook in the medium term during the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy.





Self-assessment Workshop Agenda

Time	Proposed activities
8:00 - 8:15	 Welcome Registration of participants Presentation by the team facilitator
8:15 - 8:30	Presentation of the workshop's objectives and activities
8:30 - 8:45	Break (refreshments)
8:45 - 9:45	Presentation of relevant information on the readiness phase of the REDD+ Strategy
9:45 - 11:30	 Group work Organisation of the working tables Collective review of the matrix Assignment of progress indicators Analyse for each subcomponent: Current situation, Progress or achievements, Challenges and Outlook in the medium term.
11:30 - 12:00	 Dynamic Plenary Results of the analysis of the general process for preparing the REDD+ Strategy Discussion to obtain the consensual assessment
12:00 - 12:15	 Conclusion and closing (final summary) Explain what happens next within the strategy process based on the information provided during the self-assessment phase
12:15 - 1:00	• Lunch





Annex 2. List of Participants

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País: COSTA RICA

Fecha: 5 de junio del 2015

Nombre del Evento: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del sector campesino

Lugar: Federación de Organizaciones Sociales

Actividad del Proyecto PMP: Aplicación de la autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del sector campesino

Tema: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica

del período de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica, en las cuales ha participado, consultado, informado e incluido al sector Breve Descripción: Se realizará con representantes del sector campesino la autoevaluación de las actividades comprendidas dentro campesino.

Tipo de Evento:

■ Capacitación/Taller

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País: COSTA RICA

Fecha: 24 de julio del 2015

Nombre del Evento: Proceso de autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte de la academia.

Lugar: Sala de reuniones, FONAFIFO-IFAM.

Actividad del Proyecto PMP: Aplicación de la autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte de la academia.

Tema: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica

Breve Descripción: Se realizará la el proceso de autoevaluación con este sector.

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Page 1 of 3









Pais: COSTA RICA

Fecha: 8 de julio del 2015

Nombre del Evento: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del sector industrial forestal

Lugar: Hotel Radisson

Actividad del Proyecto PMP: Aplicación de la autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del sector industrial forestal

Tema: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica

del período de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica, en las cuales ha participado, consultado, informado e incluido al sector Breve Descripción: Se realizara con representantes del sector indígena. La autoevaluación de las actividades comprendidas dentro industrial.

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País: COSTA RICA

Fecha: 19 de agosto del 2015

Nombre del Evento: Proceso de autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del Gobierno.

Lugar: Sala de reuniones, restaurante Tartine, Centro Comercial Los Colegios, Moravia.

Actividad del Proyecto PMP: <u>Aplicación de la autoevaluación de la</u> fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica por parte del sector gubernamental.

Tema: Autoevaluación de la fase de preparación de la estrategia REDD+ Costa Rica

Breve Descripción: Se realizará la el proceso de autoevaluación con este sector Gobierno.

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Annex 3. Photos of the events

Annex 4. Results of the diagnosis of the self-assessment workshops

Annex 5. Table of weightings of the self-assessments of the Relevant Stakeholders