

		Back to Office Report Submitted by: Marco CHIU and Arturo SANTOS Title: Climate and Forests RTA Date submitted: August 2018
<p>Empowered lives. Resilient nations.</p>		
<p>1. Practice area: BPPS / REDD+</p>		
<p>2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: July 15th to 21st, 2018</p>		
<p>3. Type of mission: Support the delivery of the “Forests for Sustainable Growth” Project (FCPF REDD+ readiness grant), including task 1 of the funding proposal of the National Strategy on Forests for Sustainable Growth.</p>		<p>4. Clients Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</p>
<p>5. Purpose of mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the process towards endorsement of Paraguay’s National Strategy on Forests for Sustainable Growth (ENBCS) • Discuss elements of the safeguards process (SIS, SESA/MGAS, ESA/MGAS) • Support the development process of the funding proposal for ENBCS implementation • Assess progress on the delivery of the Forests for Sustainable Growth Project 		<p>6. Documents, materials, resources</p> <p>1. Agenda of the mission</p>
<p>7. Mission members Veronique GERARD, Arturo SANTOS, and Marco CHIU (UNDP)</p>		<p>8. Costs Paraguay’s CO</p>
<p>9. Brief summary of the mission</p> <p>Implementation of the “Forests for Sustainable Growth” Project (BCS) started following the inception workshop (November 21st 2017). As the recruitment of all PMU positions continued, several actions took place with the aim of completing relevant REDD+ readiness milestones by the end of 2018, namely, endorsement of the REDD+ NS, development of the REDD+ Technical Annex, safeguards summary of information (SOI), and funding proposal for REDD+ NS implementation.</p> <p>The mission consisted on: i) technical sessions with the full PMU and national counterpart delegates; ii) meetings with key stakeholders; and iii) a field visit to study cattle ranching sustainable practices in the Chaco Region, in the context of the financial proposal for ENBCS implementation. Participants included members of the Project’s PMU; members of other UNDP’s forests, climate change, and commodities related projects; representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MDS) – former Secretary of Environment; delegates from the Sustainable Finance Roundtable; local authorities of Chaco’s municipalities and cattle</p>		

farmers.

9.a Findings

General findings

1. The new government authorities will take office on August 15th. There is uncertainty regarding any change of the authorities at the Ministry of Environment, including the REDD+ focal point.
2. There is a transition team set up by the new Government, which have started to interact with different stakeholders, including UNDP, to ease the transition period following the change in the Government cabinet.
3. CO continue working on delineating a programmatic approach, taking advantage of the various related projects that started implementation simultaneously (BCS, IAP Chaco, Asuncion Sustentable), and in an effort to connect and coordinate with the relevant on-going initiatives i.e. Green Productive Landscapes Project.
4. A recently enacted Law converted the “Secretary of Environment” into the “Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development”. The process to define functions and mandate has already started.

Endorsement of Paraguay’s National Strategy on Forests for Sustainable Growth (ENBCS) – Product 1

5. UN-REDD supported until 2016 the development of a first draft of the REDD+ National Strategy. The BCS Project continues to support Paraguay on this process by revising the content of that first draft and initiating a final consultation process.
6. The last couple of months have been intense on developing consultation events at the national and local levels, and engaging a variety of stakeholders, from congressmen to farmers and producers, and from government agencies to local peasants and indigenous representatives. Already existing platforms have been used when available, i.e. the National Climate Change Commission or the commodities platforms. See [Paraguay’s 2018 FCPF Progress Report](#) for additional information on this process.
7. As a result, a new version of the REDD+ National Strategy has been drafted. The Strategy has been named as “National Strategy on Forests for Sustainable Growth” (ENBCS).
8. Technical discussions took place in the mission to agree on the structure and the main content to highlight on the Strategy. The aim is to get a Ministerial Decree that approves the ENBCS by mid-August, and then to publish it on the REDD+ Info Hub, among other sites.
9. Discussions have initiated to then bring the Strategy to the Congress and seek an additional PLR instrument for further endorsement.
10. The development of the Strategy’s implementation framework will be prioritized during the rest of 2018 and part of 2019. An in-dept SESA/ESMF will be conducted in conjunction with the implementation framework development, to complement a general risk assessment conducted through the ENBCS’s consultation process. Gender elements will be introduced too, both on the ENBCS and as part of the Project implementation strategy.

Safeguards process (Product 4)

11. During the consultation process towards finalizing the ENBCS, a general risk assessment has been conducted. It was agreed that a more profound assessment is necessary, in view of the safeguards process as well as the development of the financial proposal for the

ENBCS.

12. In this context, the need to set up a unified and consistent process to address the SIS, SESA/MGAS, and ESA/MGAS simultaneously, to the extent possible, was discussed.
13. Given that other countries in the LAC region are also working on their REDD+ safeguards processes, it was agreed to organize and invite Paraguay to a regional technical workshop to develop/adjust roadmaps towards fulfilling safeguards requirements.
14. It was confirmed, in the same line as on the previous mission, that the aim for 2018 is to advance significantly on the SIS design and develop a first SOI.

Funding proposal for ENBCS PAMs implementation (Product 6)

15. Following previous commitments and the agreed roadmap towards developing a funding proposal to support ENBCS' implementation, during this mission activities were carried out within task 1 of the roadmap (developing specific baseline information).
16. ToRs have been drafted and a team of consultants hired. During this mission a meeting took place with the consultants to cover questions and agree on the technical approach. Close follow up will be necessary in the next couple of months, including a new mission to work and support addressing issues/challenges.
17. A field visit took place to participate on: i) a consultation event on the ENBCS in El Chaco Region, ii) the launch of the Sustainable Beef Chaco Platform; and iii) to visit two cooperative farms that have developed sustainable cattle ranching practices. Although, many of the critical elements of these farms are too specific and hard to find elsewhere in Chaco, important lessons can be extracted from them, and assessed with a view to understand the key factors for replicability, which will be part of the assessments to develop the specific baseline for the ENBCS funding proposal.
18. One of the agreements following the field visit is to include soy, in addition to cattle, as part of the analysis to define viability to fund sustainable practices, in view that there are notions of a potential expansion of soy crops towards the Chaco Region (currently mainly developed outside Chaco). The CO will follow up on various actions regarding the last two points, though the relevant projects.
19. The meeting with the Sustainable Finance Roundtable, that groups several banks in Paraguay, confirmed that the financial sector has been faced to the need to create green financial products, and has already started discussions with producers. They welcomed the idea to develop a financial proposal that targets this sector.

Progress on the delivery of the Forests for Sustainable Growth Project

20. Financial delivery has already surpassed 50% of budget execution.
21. Project board nominations have been completed.
22. PMU staff recruitment has been completed. Key staff: Lilian Portillo (coordinator); Gabriela Viñales (technical expert); Sergio Leon and Laura Aguilera (administration); Daniel Coronel (responsible result 1); Gabriela Viñales (responsible result 2); Ofelia Valdez (responsible result 3); Pamela Gonzales (M&E); and Ingrid Villalba (communications).
23. Overall, there is good progress on the milestones set out for 2018. REDD+ NS is in final stages for endorsement; REDD+ TA first draft has been completed – pending a technical round of comments and solving consistency issues with the GHG-I; and a plan to develop a first safeguards SOI has been defined.
24. UNDP's CO website continues [publishing relevant information on the Project](#) as per FCPF common approach commitments. MAYDS website will also include a repository of

information on the Project. A draft GRM is being developed and will be publicly available at UNDP and a government's website, when the new administration defines the public entity that will take responsibility for it.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Confirmation of pertinence of roadmaps towards 2018 milestones.** As described above, the PMU and government counterparts have been working closely in line with the roadmaps previously agreed. As a result, it has been confirmed that the roadmaps are pertinent, and there is good progress on each milestone for 2018. Other roadmaps, like the one for the ENBCS endorsement, have been refreshed; others like the one for the safeguards process have identified the critical elements; and priorities/challenges for implementation on the second half of 2018 have been identified.
- Momentum confirmed among critical stakeholders on the REDD+ readiness process.** At different levels, critical stakeholders are working in close coordination. Government counterparts are committed to the process, different stakeholder platforms are being used to achieve common objectives, and related projects at the CO are working in alignment and in a good spirit for collaboration.

9.c Expected outcomes and impacts

As a result of this mission and related follow up, it is expected that the Project will continue to support the REDD+ readiness process in Paraguay.

10. Key counterparts

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable development.

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
1. Follow up towards ENBCS endorsement and Ministerial Decree	MAYDS, PMU, CO	Mid-August 2018
2. Organize and plan participation of Paraguay on workshop to develop a detailed safeguards roadmap.	PMU, RHPA	August 6 th 2018
3. Follow up task 1 of the funding proposal for ENBCS implementation (including mission)	PMU, RHPA	Aug – Oct 2018
4. Discuss delivery forecast towards the end of 2018	CO, RHPA	Oct 2018
5. Follow up finalization and implementation of safeguards roadmap	CO, RHPA	Aug 2018 onwards
6. Follow up on milestones and priorities for 2018, including close coordination and communication with the new government authorities	MAYDS, CO, PMU	Aug 2018 onwards

12. Distribution list

Tim, Josep, Arturo, Clea, Fernando, Veronique, Afonso, Linda, Dina, PY, Kim, Jen, Wahida, Beth, Bruno, Andrew, Matilde, Lyes, Leif, Carla, Pascale, Vanessa

Annex 1: Mission Agenda

Misión FCPF PNUD Paraguay Asunción 16 al 21 de julio de 2018

Objetivos de la misión

Impulsar el proceso hacia el endoso de la Estrategia Nacional de Bosques para el Crecimiento Sostenible (ENBCS)

1. Participar de la Socialización de la ENBCS con actores estratégicos de la Región Occidental del Paraguay (Chaco).
2. Acompañar el proceso de identificación de beneficios, riesgos y salvaguardas ambientales y sociales
3. Contar con elementos para el desarrollo de una hoja de ruta hacia el endoso formal de la ENBCS

Promover el desarrollo del trabajo sobre el Sistema de Información sobre Salvaguardas (SIS), SESA/ESMF y ESA/ESMF

1. Desarrollar una hoja de ruta para articular un proceso unificado que conduzca al desarrollo del SIS en el ámbito de la CMNUCC; SESA/ESMF, en el ámbito del Proyecto BCS con fondos del FCPF; y ESA/ESMF, en el ámbito de la propuesta de financiamiento para la ENBCS.
2. Analizar la información compilada en las sesiones de socialización de la ENBCS y definir su procesamiento en el contexto del proceso unificado SIS → SESA/ESMF → ESA/ESMF.

Apoyar el trabajo sobre la propuesta de financiamiento de la ENBCS

1. Revisar la hoja de ruta para la preparación de la propuesta de financiamiento de la ENBCS
2. Discusión con actores claves (SEAM, STP, Mesa de Finanzas Sostenibles) sobre el desarrollo de la propuesta de financiamiento
3. Taller de arranque con equipo consultor para el desarrollo de la línea de base en el marco de la propuesta de financiamiento de la ENBCS (contextualización y caracterización del sector ganadero en Paraguay y recolección de información sobre el rol de las entidades financieras del sector bancario)
4. Análisis de ruta potencial para el abordaje del sector soja
5. Visita a fincas modelo de prácticas sostenibles de ganadería (análisis y generación de historias de éxito) en la región occidental (Chaco).

Analizar los avances en la ejecución del proyecto Bosques para el Crecimiento Sostenible

1. Discutir con el equipo de proyecto BCS el avance durante el primer semestre y las previsiones para el segundo semestre incluyendo las medidas previstas ante el cambio de gobierno.

Productos de la misión

1. Elementos para el desarrollo de una hoja de ruta hacia el endoso formal de la ENBCS identificados.
2. Hoja de ruta para el desarrollo del proceso unificado SIS → SESA/ESMF → ESA/ESMF.
3. Hoja de ruta para la implementación de las actividades del proyecto BCS para el segundo semestre de 2018.
4. Taller de inicio para la Tarea 1 (línea de base) de la hoja de ruta para la preparación de la propuesta de financiamiento para la ENBCS, desarrollado.

Participantes

Aparte los participantes de las reuniones indicados en la agenda, la misión será asumida conjuntamente por los puntos focales nacionales del FCPF de Paraguay y por PNUD.

<p>Contraparte: Puntos focales FCPF (SEAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - María José Mendoza, Directora de Planificación Estratégica - Stephanie Petta, Jefa de Dpto. – Dirección de Servicios Ambientales. - Equipo Técnico SEAM que sea designado.
<p>PNUD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veronique Gerard, Oficial de Programa Desarrollo Sostenible, Paraguay - Caterine Galeano, Asociada de Programa - Lilian Portillo, Coordinadora Técnica del Proyecto, PNUD Paraguay - Marco Chiu, Asesor Técnico Regional PNUD - José Arturo Santos, Especialista Regional en Involucramiento de Actores PNUD - Equipo Técnico del Proyecto BCS - FCPF

Agenda de la Misión

Hora	Lunes 16/07	Martes 17/07	Miércoles 18/07	Jueves 19/07	Viernes 20/07
08:00		Partida al Chaco	Jornada de Socialización de la ENBCS	Visita a Fincas Modelo de la Cooperativa Ferheim	Partida a Asunción
09:00	<p>Inicio de Misión Objetivo: Inicio de Misión en PNUD: revisión de cronograma de la Misión y Actividades propuestas para la semana. Participantes: Linda M. Alfonso Marco Chiu José Arturo Santos Veronique Gerard Local: UNDP Sala de Reuniones 7mo. Piso</p>	<p>Objetivo: Socialización de la ENBCS, reunión con actores locales y visita a Fincas Modelo en la región occidental</p> <p>Participantes: MCH JAS LP DC SL EG MP</p>	<p>Objetivo: Socialización de la Estrategia Nacional Bosque para el Crecimiento Sostenible ENBCS y la Identificación de beneficios, riesgos y salvaguardas ambientales y sociales</p> <p>Participantes: VG JAS MCh LP DC EG MP SL Local: Gobernación de Boquerón</p>	<p>Objetivo: Participantes: MCh JAS LP DC SL EG MP VG</p>	<p>Participantes: MCh JAS LP DC SL EG MP</p>
11:00	<p>Sesión 01: con Equipo de Proyecto encargado de propuesta de financiamiento para la ENBCS Objetivo: avanzar la tarea 1: línea de base en el trabajo de preparación de la propuesta de financiamiento de la ENBCS Participantes: JAS DC EG OV</p> <p>Sesión 02: Presentación del Primer Borrador del documento del Anexo Técnico REDD+</p>				

	Participantes: LP MCh NG				
13:00 a 14:00	Pausa	Pausa	Pausa	Pausa	Pausa
14:00	<p>Taller de arranque con equipo consultor: Objetivo: contextualización, caracterización y análisis de sector ganadero en Paraguay para avanzar en el trabajo de preparación de la propuesta de financiamiento para la ENBCS Participantes: Consultores EG DC LP MCh JAS y consultores Sala de reuniones del 6to piso</p>	<p>Entrevista 01 actores locales y/o técnicos de cooperativas Menonitas sobre modelos productivos ganaderos exitosos Participan: JAS DC EG</p> <p>Entrevista 02 actores locales y socios estratégicos para la implementación de la ENBCS Participan: LP MCh VG</p>	<p>Visita Finca Modelo de la Cooperativa Neuland</p>	<p>Visita al Centro Experimental de Cruce Pioneros Participantes: MCh JAS LP DC SL EG MP VG</p>	
16:00	<p>Reunión con Actores Estratégicos Propuesta de Financiamiento de la ENBCS: STP SEAM Objetivo: Socializar la propuesta de financiamiento con actores estratégicos. Participantes: LP MJM MCh VG Puntos Focales STP Local: a definir</p>				<p>Reunión con Actores Estratégicos Propuesta de Financiamiento de la ENBCS: Mesa de Finanzas Sostenibles Objetivo: Socializar la propuesta de financiamiento de la ENBCS con actores estratégicos. Participantes: MCh JAS LP EG DC Local: a definir</p>
17:00				Cierre de Misión en el Chaco	



Al servicio
de las personas
y las naciones

				Participantes: MCh JAS LP DC SL EG MP VG	
--	--	--	--	--	--