

Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PARAGUAY

Draft, April 2014

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The R-Pin of Paraguay was submitted and reviewed in July 2008.
- Paraguay became member of UN-REDD in September 2008. Its National Program (NP) was presented to the UN-REDD Policy Board in November 2010, and signed in July 2011.
- Paraguay invited UNDP to act as Delivery Partner in March 2012.
- A joint FCPF-UNDP mission took place in Asuncion in September 2013. During this mission, representatives of the government, indigenous people organizations and civil society have been briefed on the UNDP's experience on REDD in LAC and Paraguay, on the role, responsibility and requirements of UNDP as DP of the FCPF as described into the Common Approach to Social and Environmental Safeguards, and the FCPF, its governance structure and its role in Paraguay. The participants welcomed this information session, and invited SEAM to resume its work to access FCPF funds. A roadmap for the elaboration and validation of the RPP was agreed upon.
- Paraguay submitted its RPP on time to the FMT (April 7th 2014) after successful socialization and validation of this RPP with the key stakeholders. TAP comments should be received by the end of May, and this RPP should be presented officially during the next PC meeting, planned in July 2014.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The national REDD+ technical team is composed by representatives of the environmental secretary (SEAM), the forestry institute (INFONA) and the Federation for the Autonomy of Indigenous people of Paraguay (FAPI)
- The REDD+ national council (CONAREDD) has been constituted in 2013, and is composed by the main stakeholders involved in the REDD+ discussion at the country level. The role of this committee is to revise and take decisions based on the inputs prepared by the national REDD+ technical team.
- Efforts to involve and coordinate with a couple of initiatives and institutions have been taking place since the beginning of 2014. Amongst them, the national platform on biomass and energy (driven by the vice ministry of sustainable energy), the Cattle Ranchers Union, the National Reforestation Program, the Central Bank, the Secretariat of Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The management arrangements for the FCPF R-PP will build on the arrangements developed for the UN-REDD National Programme.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Stakeholder Consultations and Communication have been an essential pillar of the UN-REDD national Programme since its inception. A national validation meeting took place before the signature of the UN-REDD program document. A strategy of stakeholder engagement has been elaborated, with its component of communication. FAPI, as one of the representative of the Indigenous People of Paraguay, is actively involved in the implementation of the UN-REDD NP. And several workshops, consultations and training events took place during the last 3 years. More than 10 events of capacity building on climate change, forest and REDD+ were organized in 2013 only, for a total of 500 persons, in Spanish, Guaraní, Nivaclé and Ayoreo.
- The consultation and communication efforts will now enter into a new dimension, given the recent progresses on the national REDD+ strategy. The strategy of stakeholder engagement and communica-

Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PARAGUAY

Draft, April 2014

tion will be revised accordingly, and participative.

- FAPI produced one of the first protocols for free prior and informed consultation, back in 2011. This protocol has been shared with the Institute of Indigenous People of Paraguay (INDI), to be used as a proposal for the elaboration of a national regulation on free, prior and informed consultation.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Paraguay has progressed significantly on the elaboration of its REDD+ national strategy thanks to the inputs provided by the UN-REDD program since 2011. Costs of land use changes have been assessed; multiple benefits have been prioritized and mapped; drivers of deforestation have been analyzed; land tenure analysis completed; indigenous lands mapped; different scenarios of deforestation have been mapped.
- The recent efforts on updating the RPP allowed Paraguay to analyze in detail all these inputs and identify the list of REDD options.
- The challenges to reduce deforestation in Paraguay are particularly significant given that soy and cattle are the main drivers of deforestation and simultaneously they are the pillars of the national economy. In addition to these national drivers, international drivers must also be considered, given that the efforts of Uruguay and Brazil to reduce their own deforestation impact negatively the deforestation in Paraguay.
- A GEF-UNDP project focused on sustainable soy and cattle production in Paraguay will provide very important inputs for the future REDD+ national strategy, and will facilitate the dialogue and coordination with these
- A roadmap for the elaboration of the REDD+ strategy has been agreed upon during Q1 2014.

5. Implementation Framework

- The national climate change policy was approved in July 2012, with its mitigation and adaptation components. It includes REDD+ as one of the potential financial mechanism to finance the implementation of this policy.
- The recently elected government of Paraguay, through its Secretariat of Planning, is elaborating a National Development Plan 2030, based in the recently adopted climate change policy, and aiming at reducing poverty.
- The implementation framework of REDD in Paraguay will largely depend upon the REDD+ options which are going to be prioritized, the typology of REDD+ investments and the institutions to be involved. More details on this implementation framework should be available in 2015.

6. SESA Social Environmental Strategic assessment

- The Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment of the REDD+ options have not been officially initiated yet. It will start in the next couple of months.
- The highly transparent and participative process of the UN-REDD National Programme in Paraguay will serve as basis for the future SESA. It is planned to regularly seek consensus amongst stakeholders during the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy, starting with a consensus on the direct and in-

Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PARAGUAY

Draft, April 2014

direct drivers of deforestation. This participative and inclusive process will include the assessment of the different REDD+ options, from a social, environmental, economic and political perspective. The SESA is expected to be finalized in 2015 and the ESMF in 2016.

- A global workshop on social and environmental safeguards was held in Paraguay in 2013, and social and environmental safeguards to be used in Paraguay have been pre-identified. Paraguay participated to the regional Social Inclusion workshop held in Colombia in December 2013, where the SESA and ESMF were discussed.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Paraguay will follow a set-wise approach to define its REL, following the available international guidance, i.e. taking into account the historical deforestation, the information provided by the national forest inventory, and the national circumstances given the increase in deforestation during the last couple of years in Paraguay.
- Different REL will be defined for the two very different regions of the country: Chaco and Oriente, and then will be consolidated into a national REL.
- The development of the REL will start in the coming months, with the support of the UN-REDD programme.

8. MRV

- Paraguay started to work on its national forest monitoring system, included into the national environmental information system, since 2012 with the support of the UN-REDD programme.
- The methodology to adapt the national system of forestry to REDD+ purposes has been discussed; technical capacities of INFONA have been strengthened; satellite images have been purchased;
- INFONA is supported by FAO, in collaboration with INPE and using the free access Open Foris Toolkit.
- A webpage portal has been designed (<http://paraguay.smf.org>) that will serve as a critical tool of the National Forest Monitoring System.
- Maps and methodology for forest and land use have been elaborated and are being improved.
- The system of information, using OPEN FORIS COLLECT for the national forest inventory, is functioning and includes forestry data. Socio-economic and other data still have to be incorporated.

9. Other

- Paraguay hosted the 8th meeting of the UN-REDD PB in March 2012 as well as the FCPF meeting.
- The President of Paraguay was removed of duty on June 2012. A political trial took place in August 2012. A government of transition was set up and presidential elections took place in April 2013. The elected government took function in August 2013 and the last changes in the national REDD team took place during Q1 2014.
- The Japanese cooperation supports MRV related activities, through a usd7M project.
- A global workshop on grievance and redress mechanism and conflict resolution was held in Paraguay in 2013, facilitated by the UN-REDD programme. A roadmap for setting up such a mechanism for REDD+ related topics has been discussed and agreed upon.

Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PARAGUAY

Draft, April 2014

DRAFT