

Concept note

*Additional support from the **UN-REDD Global Programme** to **UN REDD National Joint Programme of Paraguay** (PNC UN REDD PY) on the set-up of a REDD+ National Forest Monitoring System in Paraguay*

Introduction

The decision 1/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreements requests developing country Parties aiming to undertake REDD+ activities, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (NFMS) for the monitoring and reporting of the five REDD+ activities (deforestation, degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and conservation). The monitoring needs should follow the REDD+ phased approach contained in the Cancun Agreements (para. 73 Dec. 1/CP.16). So, the first objective of the NFMS will be to allow Paraguay to enter in phase II of REDD+. In this phase, the system aims at validating that national and sub-national demonstration activities are results-based (i.e. result in measureable positive outcomes) and at providing basic national-level coverage data, e.g. forest cover changes to ensure that there is no emission displacement. In Phase III of REDD+, the NFMS will also address the MRV function and it will moreover validate that the implementation of national policies and measures on the whole national territory are results-based (i.e. determines how much of each REDD+ activity is taking place over the national territory and how these are changing). The monitoring system as a reporting tool will also be the key element to support and operationalise any national positive incentive distribution scheme.

National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) represent the need of a country (i) to nationally monitor the implementation of its REDD+ policies and measures and results-based demonstration activities and adjust them if necessary and (ii) to demonstrate internationally and in a transparent way that it is effectively implementing REDD+ activities and thus able to receive funding for REDD+ under the UNFCCC.

The building of national capacities and implementation of NFMS are part of the outcomes from which FAO and UNEP are the lead agencies, but these NFMS are anyway strongly linked with other work areas of the UN-REDD programme, like multiple-benefit and Transparent, equitable and accountable management, leaded by UNEP and UNDP, so the development of the NFMS has to be done in coordination/cooperation with all UN-Agencies and all national relevant stakeholders.

Objective

This proposal recognizes the relevant provisions of the decisions of the Cancun Agreements and aims at implementing these in Paraguay. The objective of this proposal for extra effort is to start as fast as possible the development and implementation of a first version of the NFMS of Paraguay.

The results obtained in this version of the system will be presented at the next meeting of the Policy Board of the UN-REDD in Asuncion (25 to 26 March 2012).

Concept

This proposal is based on FAO experiences from similar exercises ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam in collaboration with the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE). The TerraAmazon platform developed by INPE for their national satellite forest monitoring have been used and adapted for each country needs and circumstances. The INPE system is free-of-charge for the country (open source based) and supported by analysis and programming teams in Brazil. It provides tools and algorithms that have been used to manage, process and analyse satellite imagery and produce maps of deforestation. In parallel, forest information web-portals are being developed at FAO-HQ. These web-interfaces allow any user to visualize maps that have been produced, to compute deforestation statistics and to provide feedbacks on these. Depending on country needs and requirements, it also allows the communication of any other forest-related information.

These two components (Satellite monitoring system and information web portal) are the first products to be obtained in the short term, steps towards operational and autonomous national forest monitoring systems in these countries, and then will be complemented and deepened with other similar activities that will be being carried out under the PNC UN REDD PY in the medium and long term.

Activities

A first Informative workshop should be held in Paraguay as soon as possible to present proposal and concepts and to assess the national expertises and needs in monitoring forest cover and forest cover change using satellite imagery and in managing and publishing forest related data and information. The mission will include coordination meeting with **SEAM**, as authority for the application of the Climate Change Law and as focal point for UN REDD initiative in Paraguay, meeting with other national institutions (INFONA, FAPI, UNA, etc.), UNEP and UNDP and other relevant organizations involved in these activities (JICA, WWF, Guyra Paraguay, etc.). A work plan should be then elaborated for the next month based on national requirements, existing synergies, capacities and data.

Expected Outcomes

Development and capacities to develop satellite forest monitoring systems, preliminary maps of forest canopy changes, REDD+ demonstration activities, and a beta version of the national web-portal on forest monitoring.

Budget

100,000 \$ from targeted support fund

Tentative Schedule

Date	Activity
February (in country)	Presentation of possible activities, assessment of national expertise and identification of needs
February (FAO HQ)	Development of the satellite image processing methods and developments of web-portal
March (in country)	Training on satellite forest monitoring, production of preliminary maps and statistics, presentation of the web-portal
March (in country)	Presentation of the preliminary results and of the beta version of the WEB-portal at the 8 th UN-REDD Policy Board to be carried out in Asunción (Paraguay).

Signed and endorsed by:

Rodrigo Mussi Buzarquis
UN REDD Focal Point of Paraguay
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
ASUNCION – PARAGUAY

rodrigo.mussi@seam.gov.py
guaira2@gmail.com

15-02-2012