

REQUEST FOR TARGETED SUPPORT¹

Support for the Implementation of a National Strategy and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in Ecuador

I. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (complete cells in white)	
Main objective	Contribute to completing and start the implementation - while strengthening institutional capacities - of Ecuador's National Strategy for REDD+ and pending elements for the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (including the system for providing information on how safeguards have been addressed and respected), to support the scaling up of efforts towards REDD+ results based activities implementation at national level in the context of results based payments, in accordance to relevant decisions for REDD+ under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change.
Main results expected	<p>The main results expected from the implementation of the technical and financial support (targeted support) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecuador implements its national REDD+ strategy - and action plan - and relevant processes under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR+) in the context of results based payments and in consistency with national objectives and priorities, as well as with national legal and policy framework. <p>The definition of Ecuador's national strategy for REDD+ has already started, however complementary activities are still needed for its design and implementation as detailed in section VI, and in the annex for this document.</p> <p>A Safeguard Information System completed -and technical and institutional capacities strengthened for its implementation- towards providing information on how</p>

¹ It is voluntary to use this form in the application process for UN-REDD Programme targeted support. If the country prefers using its own document, this form can be used as guidance on the content that is needed. See also guidance in the [Procedures for Accessing UN-REDD Programme Targeted Support](#).

The requests for targeted support should be presented in coordination with the teams of the participating UN organizations (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and the Resident Coordinator.

It is recommended that the UN-REDD Country Focal Point submits the request. The request should be sent to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat (E-mail: un-redd@un-redd.org). The Resident Coordinator to be copied on the request.

	safeguards have been addressed and respected in accordance to relevant decisions under the UNFCCC, through summaries of information, are also considered in this proposal, as key elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ still required in order to enable Ecuador to access and obtain results-based payments for REDD+ results-based activities.
Total amount requested (US\$)	498,200.00
Related Work Area/s ² as defined in the UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015	Governance, stakeholder engagement, transparency and accountability
Planned period of implementation ³	12/2014 – 12/2015 (12 months)
Please select below type of funding as appropriate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD + activities implemented in support of existing UN-REDD National Programmes. <input type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD+ activities complementary to other nationally-defined REDD+ activities (national strategies, RPP and/or bilaterally funded REDD+ activities) or for initiation of REDD+ activities. (The country has no UN-REDD National Programme.	

II. BACKGROUND⁴

Please describe the background to the request. Examples of relevant content:

- Brief description of status of REDD+ readiness in the country and the national REDD+ efforts.
- Rationale for the needed support (it should represent additional and specific contribution to national REDD+ efforts with a view to fill gaps or to leverage other activities).
- Clearly provide linkages to National REDD+ strategies.
- If the country has a UN-REDD National Programme or is the pipeline for a National Programme, review how the needed support fits into the National Programme/R-PP.
- If the request is addressing results of a country needs assessment, please contextualize within overall results of the needs assessment.

² The work areas are: Monitoring Reporting Verification (MRV), Governance, Stakeholder Engagement, Multiple Benefits, Transparency & Accountability, Green Economy.

³ Period: from month/year to month/year.

⁴ Depending on the phase of the country in its REDD+ efforts, some of these details are relevant. Others may be too detailed and can be further elaborated if the request is approved.

Ecuador is at an advanced stage of its *REDD+ readiness* phase and aims to implement REDD+ activities in the context of results based payments (RBPs) by the end of 2014 - early 2015 through bilateral RBPs. So far, Ecuador has been able to collect and analyze data as well as implement wall-to-wall processes for forest coverage and loss monitoring. Based on this information the country is establishing its National Forest Reference Emission Level for deforestation, to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of 2014 for its technical assessment as per the WFR+. The country has also done important progress on defining its national approach towards safeguards and started the design of its Safeguard Information System on that basis.

The MAE together with the NJP has implemented processes related to awareness raising, information and capacity building at national and local level aiming for a full and effective participation of key stakeholders, which needs to have continuity according to the country's REDD+ strategy. Legal analysis and legal/policy instruments to enable REDD+ implementation have been developed however those analysis should be completed/revised towards the implementation of the country's strategy.

Based on the country's main drivers of deforestation, and on studies and analysis on REDD+ costs, Ecuador has been able to identify potential policy measures and local actions that may be co-funded by REDD+ results-based finance to contribute to national efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation, while contributing to broader national policies for sustainable development. With this information Ecuador has started to structure its National REDD+ strategy; a first draft will be developed by December 2014.

In this context, Ecuador is currently under bilateral negotiations for obtaining and receiving RBPs from Germany and Norway through the German Programme REDD Early Movers (REM). As part of this bilateral process, Ecuador is currently designing a Emission Reductions' Accounting Tool, which will enable the country to effectively account and report emission reductions achieved at the national level and track emission reductions paid by REM and other future donors/finance entities (considering the role of the REDD+ Info Hub under the UNFCCC). However, it is important to underline that Ecuador aims to implement REDD+ results-based activities and obtaining RBPs under methodological and institutional guidance agreed under the UNFCCC, therefore completing elements and requirements under the Cancun Agreement and the WFR+ are a priority for the country.

Ecuador has been implementing since 2012 its National Joint UNREDD Programme, which has significantly supported the MAE with its REDD+ readiness process. Ecuador's National Joint Programme was to be implemented in the period 2012-2013, however a non-cost extension was approved and the programme will end by December 2014. The NJP, approved in early 2011, in its programme document had specific outcomes related to 'Consultation and stakeholder engagement', 'Development of policies and instruments', 'Development of operational framework', 'Multiple environmental and social benefits guaranteed'⁵, and 'Benefit sharing mechanism developed'. In this regards, it is important to mention that even though Ecuador has achieved important accomplishments under the NJP, national efforts still require additional support to ensure their continuity under the MAE.

Ecuador is now in the position to develop and implement its national REDD+ strategy -and its action plan-, however this was not considered previously in the NJP programme document. The definition of a country-led national REDD+ strategy and its action plan will imply the revision and adjustments of both operational and legal frameworks establish so far.

Outcomes expected with the implementation of this targeted support will contribute to complement activities started with the NJP in order to **support Ecuador to effectively complete its readiness phase while implement its national strategy -and safeguards information system - in the context of results based finance**⁶.

⁵ 'Safeguards Information System developed' as per Steering Committee approval.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Please describe the main objectives and activities of the request.

- Provide details on type of support requested and include any needs for in-kind support such as knowledge, capacity building or technical information.
- If the country has a UN-REDD National Programme, describe how the requested support will fill gaps / be complementary to the already received funding for the National Programme.

The main objectives, and activities, of this request are:

1. National REDD+ Strategy, and its action plan completed and implemented.
 - a. To complete the design and validate the national strategy 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ '
 - b. To design and validate implementation mechanisms for 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+' Action Plan
 - c. To design and support the implementation 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ ' Action Plan
2. Institutional, policy, legal and financial framework established and/or strengthened.
 - a. To strengthen -or establish, as appropriate - the policy, legal, institutional and operational framework required
 - b. To establish and support the implementation of a proposal for financial architecture for the implementation of 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+'
 - c. To support the implementation of the REDD+ working group, and/or a inter-institutional coordination platform
 - d. To support the implementation of other participation and capacity building processes at national and local level with key stakeholders
3. System for providing information on how safeguards have been addressed and respected completed and implemented for the development of summaries of information on safeguards.
 - a. To complete safeguards' criteria and requirements to be included in implementation mechanisms and institutional, legal, policy and finance frameworks
 - b. To support follow-up processes to promote the respect of safeguards in REDD+ implementation, and provide recommendations for changes and improvements when required
 - c. To complete the development of -and operate- the safeguards information system, including institutional arrangements needed for the provision of information on safeguards at both national and local levels
 - d. To develop summaries of information on safeguards in accordance with the WFR+.

The request for the targeted support has considered financial and technical support from the UNREDD Programme through UNDP, as the most appropriate Implementation Agency for activities proposed.

The financial support considered in this request will enable the MAE to hire full time technical team to implement specific processes and activities to deliver the expected outcome and outputs (detailed in section I and above). Consultancies will be required for analysis, inputs and design of activities.

The results already achieved through the NJPs have been mentioned in the previous section, which will continue with - or that will be the basis of- the expected outcome of this TS. The outcome and outputs expected from this targeted support will help the country to fill the current gap in terms of a national REDD+ strategy and a SIS *in place* in the context of REDD+ RBPs, complement and follow-up activities already supported by the NJP to effectively complete readiness phase⁷ and scale up to the implementation of a national strategy, policies and measures (Decision 1/CP.16, para. 73).

⁶ NFMS, FREL and MRV processes are to be supported by a targeted support already approved and in implementation with FAO, with which Ecuador would complete REDD+ readiness elements and effectively implement the WFR+.

⁷ For emission reductions from deforestation only.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Please describe the implementing arrangements for the activities planned.

- Include the main implementing institutions and partner institutions.
- Explain what measures were taken to engage indigenous peoples and civil society, as applicable

The targeted support will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, through the Undersecretariat of Climate Change, as national REDD+ focal point in close coordination with UNDP, as Implementation Agency chosen for this TS. This requested institutional arrangement, with regards to the Implementation Agency, responds to the nature of activities described above but also to Ecuador's previous experience in the implementation of its NJP where different financial and administrative processes (specific per Agency) represent a challenge in terms of timing and effective implementation. Also it should be noted that currently the country has another TS approved with FAO as partner Implementation Agency.

Activities in this targeted support (detailed above and further explained in the annex) will require full time technical team for its implementation, as well as hiring consultants for specific activities, under the direct coordination of the Undersecretariat of Climate Change.

Implementation of activities detailed in the annex, in particular those related to the implementation of the SIS, will require close coordination with the Undersecretariat of Natural Heritage (Natural Heritage Monitoring System) and the Unified System of Environmental Information (SUIA, in spanish), as main partners within the Ministry of Environment.

Implementation of activities detailed in the annex, might also require the technical engagement of UNDP, UNEP and FAO national, regional and global offices to ensure a multidisciplinary approach based on specific expertise of each IA, however this does not imply implementation arrangements for this TS.

V. FUNDING SOURCE

Please indicate any co-funding for the planned activities.

The Undersecretariat of Climate Change has a full time technical team in charge of REDD+ processes, however this technical team is short in number in spite of the support received so far by the NJP UNREDD Programme, Conservation International Ecuador (for the SIS in partnership with the REDD+SES Initiative) and, in the future, by the REM Programme through RBPs.

The Undersecretariat of Natural Heritage is going through a formal process to establish is Natural Heritage Monitoring System, which aims to institutionalize processes of data collection and analysis and wall-to-wall forest monitoring. This processes of what would be the country's National Forest Monitoring System - NFMS will be implemented mostly with public funds from the Ministry of Environment and will be the basis for providing information on safeguards e, f and g to be processed and reported by the SIS.

The SUIA will support the implementation of the SIS in the development and implementation of a software-like tool for the collection and analysis of information, required for the development of summaries of information on how safeguards have been addressed and respected in the context of results based payments, as agreed in COP19.

As already mentioned, the MAE together with FAO-UNDP-UNEP is currently implementing its National Joint UNREDD Programme, until June 2015⁸. Activities proposed for this targeted support will be developed on the basis of -and complement- current activities implemented with the technical and financial support of the NJP (Outcomes 2-6).

VI. SUMMARIZED WORKPLAN WITH BUDGET AND TIMELINE

(Please expand space as needed. Alternatively, add Annex with workplan, budget and timeline)

Description of planned outputs and activities	Amount (US\$)	Implementation period (from month /year to month/year)
1. National REDD+ Strategy, and its action plan completed and implemented.	188,500.00	
a. To complete the design and validate the national strategy 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ '		December 2014 - June 2015
b. To design and validate implementation mechanisms for 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ ' Action Plan		December 2014 - June 2015
c. To design and support the implementation 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ ' Action Plan		December 2014 - December 2015
2. Institutional, policy, legal and financial framework established and/or strengthened.	214,600.00	
a. To strengthen -or establish, as appropriate - the policy, legal, institutional and operational framework required		December 2014 - June 2015
b. To establish and support the implementation of a proposal for financial architecture for the implementation of 'Ecuador's vision for REDD+ '		December 2014 - December 2015
c. To support the implementation of the REDD+ working group, and/or a inter-institutional coordination platform		December 2014 - December 2015

⁸ Operational closure by December 2014 and financial closure by June 2015.

d. To establish and implement other participation and capacity building processes at national and local level with key stakeholders		December 2014 - December 2015
3. System for providing information on how safeguards have been addressed and respected completed and implemented for the development of summaries of information on safeguards.	98,100.00	
a. To complete safeguards' criteria and requirements to be included in implementation mechanisms and institutional, legal, policy and finance frameworks		December 2014 - March 2015
b. To support follow-up processes to promote the respect of safeguards in REDD+ implementation and provide recommendations for changes and improvements when required		December 2014 - December 2015
c. To complete the development of -and operate- the safeguards information system, including institutional arrangements needed for its operation		December 2014 - December 2015
d. To develop summaries of information on safeguards		December 2014 and last trimester of 2015
Total amount requested (US\$)		498,200.00

VII. MONITORING OF PROGRESS AND REPORTING Please describe how the progress of planned activities and outputs will be monitored and reported by time.
<p>The outcome, outputs and activities identified for this targeted support are detailed with a proposed budget in the annex. A workplan and/or an Annual Operational Plan (AOP), including timeline and means of implementation, will be further developed as a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the progress and achievement of expected outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>The implementation of activities considered in this targeted support will be monitored by a designated focal point in the Undersecretariat of Climate Change (SCC), in charge of the National REDD+ strategy and action plan. This focal point will look forward the correct implementation of activities according to the workplan/AOP as well as to ensure consistency and coordination with other processes under the SCC related to the design and implementation of National REDD+ strategy.</p>

IV. UN-REDD COUNTY FOCAL POINT (name and title) ⁹	Angel Valverde, National Climate Change Mitigation Director María del Carmen García, REDD+ Focal Point (Alternate)
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(Signature)

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