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Annual Progress Report to the FCPF for Panama

for the period 1 January –
31 December 2016

United Nations Development
Programme

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Date: 7/21/2017

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Participants Committee (PC) at its ninth meeting in June 2011 approved UNDP to serve as Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund. The Transfer Agreement was signed between the World Bank, acting as the Trustee of the FCPF, and the UNDP on August 9, 2012.

To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was also approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach is designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process which is substantially equivalent to the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures on environmental and social safeguards, disclosure of information, and grievance and accountability mechanisms.

The report has been prepared by UNDP and solely reflects the perspectives of UNDP as a Delivery Partner.

Summary

Country:	Panama
Project Title:	“Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for the Reduction of Emissions Due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama”
Implementing Partners:	Ministry of Environment
Responsible Parties:	Ministry of Environment
Implementation Modality:	National Implementation Modality (NIM)

Project Timeline			
FCPF PC Resolution Approving R-PP	PC/14/2014/10	Transfer of Funds to Country Office	\$ 4,104,000 February 2016
Preparatory Grant		Inception Phase	Launch: April 12, 2016 PMU Staffed: April, 2016 First Board Meeting: 26 February 2016
Project Appraisal Committee	August 17, 2015	Mid-term Review	
Project Signature	November 11, 2015	No-Cost Extension:	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Duration of Project	2 years	New End Date:	July 2018

2016 Results

1. Achievements

a. Progress on the coordination of project activities with other REDD+ related initiatives, including those funded by others.

Since its creation in March 2015, the Ministry of Environment of Panama (MiAMBIENTE) is Panama's national governing body for the protection, conservation, preservation, and restoration of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure the enforcement of, and compliance with, current laws, regulations, and the National Environmental Policy.

The National Climate Change Program, created by ministerial resolution, is the Coordinating Unit for issues relating to energy resources and climate change. Since 2016, the Climate Change Unit has been charged with the implementation of the national REDD+ and has carried out activities through interagency coordination mechanisms and with the participation of five stakeholders, or key players¹, in accordance with the principles of equality, transparency, and respect.

For the government of Panama, the national REDD+ is part of the National Climate Change Strategy² and its "One Million Hectares Initiative", which seeks to create synergy among state institutions, the private sector, and civil society to achieve the goal of foresting and reforesting one million hectares throughout the period 2015-2035. The Alliance created in support of the Initiative has a steering group comprised of the Asociación Nacional de Reforestación y Afines de Panamá-ANARAP (*National Association for Reforestation and Related Activities of Panama*, in English), Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza – ANCÓN (*Association for Nature Conservation*, in English), Cámara de Comercio, Industrias y Agricultura de Panamá (*Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture*, in English), Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario-MIDA (*Ministry for Agricultural and Cattle-raising Development*, in English), and the Ministry of Environment. An additional group comprised of fifteen nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) has been incorporated to represent civil society and the private sector.

The current project "Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for the Reduction of Emissions Due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama" was launched in 2016 to help prepare the draft framework for the national strategy and the 2016 operations plan. A total of 118 participants, divided into three groups, discussed the four REDD+ components and developed specific recommendations for each one. It should be noted that indigenous peoples were fully and actively represented by eleven of Panama's twelve indigenous peoples, as were the other four key players. Panamanian Government authorities accompanied the process throughout.

¹ The stakeholders are: indigenous peoples; afro-descendent populations; local farmers' communities; other landowners and individual or collective forest users; and women and men for gender equality and the empowerment of women living in the forest.

² Pursuant to the environmental protection commitments established under the Strategic Government Plan 2015-2019 (PEG), the Government of the Republic of Panama has developed the National Climate Change Strategy of Panama (ENCCP) aimed at enhancing the adaptation of the most vulnerable populations and promoting the transition towards a low emission development model. See [http://www.miambiente.gob.pa/images/stories/documentos CC/Esp Info V.1 ENCCP 15.12.2015.pdf](http://www.miambiente.gob.pa/images/stories/documentos_CC/Esp_Info_V.1_ENCCP_15.12.2015.pdf)

The stakeholders' recommendations were prioritized as follows:

- Monitor collective territories.
- Implement knowledge-sharing and capacity building.
- Promote the use of traditional agro-forestry and silvopastoral systems.
- Implement reforestation campaigns using native species to revive rivers and degraded territories.
- Develop territorial organization and management plans for forest management.
- Incorporate the nineteen (19)-point demands made by the indigenous people as part of the REDD+ strategy. Twelve (12) of these points are currently being negotiated with the government.
- Incorporate and mainstream gender in REDD+ processes.
- Address and solve issues within the framework of territorial and legal security.

In an earlier participatory process supported by UN-REDD (2013-2015), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Coordinadora Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de Panamá-CONAPIP (the *Coordination Entity of the Indigenous People of Panama*, in English). When designing the current FCPF project, indigenous peoples indicated that working with the 12 organizational structures of the indigenous people would be better done through the mechanism agreed upon for the national dialogue among indigenous people, the General Councils of Congressmen³, and the Panamanian Government, in which there are no intermediaries. Under this umbrella and using the methodology called 'Balu-Wala' (or 'Good Living'), indigenous peoples define, prioritize, and validate their demands and needs in accordance with their Cosmo vision, the traditional uses of natural resources, and the principles of restoration, conservation, sustainable management, forestation and reforestation of degraded lands linked to REDD+.

Mechanisms enabling the advocacy and representation of indigenous people have been incorporated as part of the intersectoral dialogue table of the "National Dialogue for the Development of Indigenous Communities of Panama", which is chaired by the Vice Ministry of Indigenous Affairs of the Panamanian Government. The modality of dialogue tables seeks to ensure that the development of indigenous people is done in such a way that it preserves good living.

Through the forest governance project being implemented in alliance with the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), the Ministry of Environment set up the "Dialogue Table for the East and Darien" to "strengthen the governance mechanisms and political frameworks" that value all the goods and services derived from natural forests. A key goal is to benefit local communities and decrease current trends in illegal activities and forest degradation in the Darién region of Panama. This project provides a new way of dealing with forest issues and seeking consensus for the reforestation of Panama's greatest forest coverage area.

In an effort to strengthen institutional capacity and foster active collaboration among the Ministry's fourteen (14) regional offices, the Directorate for Climate Change, together with DIGICH⁴ and DFCA⁵, carried out three (3) capacity-building workshops in the cities of David, Santiago, and Panama. Using

³ Of the total of 12 Congresses and General Councils representing the 12 indigenous territories of Panama, only the General Congress of the Guna Yala Region is not currently participating in REDD.

⁴ Directorate for Integrated Watershed Management.

⁵ Directorate for the Promotion of an Environmental Culture.

various participatory methodologies, fifty-six (56) technicians were introduced to the draft ENREDD+ in preparation for their participation in the REDD+ development process, which sought to involve approximately 500 representatives of key stakeholders in regional consultation workshops that would review and provide preliminary validation of the draft strategy.

Thereafter MiAMBIENTE organized four (4) workshops with 459 representatives of stakeholder groups at the national level to pre-validate and incorporate their views and needs to the draft National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+) document. Progress was also made in developing a conceptual framework and roadmap. Furthermore, information systems capabilities, the national outlook, and the relevant legal framework were analyzed. Two additional workshops are being planned for 2017.

The REDD+ process has been shared with the twenty-seven (27) public institutions comprising the National Climate Change Committee, whose mandate is to evaluate and advise the government on climate change issues from the perspective of each of the agencies' competencies. The goal is to make sure that ENREDD+ is taken into account in the various sectoral plans and that it has the Committee's support in its implementation phase.

These 27 government institutions lack specialists in some REDD+ technical aspects, such as Forest Reference Level or Forest Monitoring Systems, and it will be a challenge for the country to develop such capacities. UNDP has recommended the creation of a senior-level Inter-Agency Coordination Commission comprised of those government agencies most relevant to REDD+ in the area of sustainable forest management, including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry for Agricultural and Cattle-raising Development (MIDA), the National Land Authority (ANATI), the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), and the Public Services Authority (ASEP), amongst others.

MiAMBIENTE has designed specific communication and dissemination tools as part of the REDD+ Communication Strategy. In this connection, MiAMBIENTE partnered with the Albratos Media Foundation to launch the "Living Forests" campaign to "strengthen the level of awareness of Panamanian society" with respect to forest conservation and the role that REDD+ plays. The campaign was directed at the entire Panamanian population and had recourse to mass media (television, radio and print media), governmental institutions, and the productive sector. It is estimated that approximately 300,000 people visited the exhibition sites, while over 5,000 visits were registered on the Albatros website and over 3,000 visits were registered on the page of the composer of the musical capsule.

To enhance the project's communication outreach and advocacy efforts, a specialized company has been retained to measure the level of public awareness of REDD+, forests, and sustainable management issues using a focused survey.

The Government of Panama, through MiAMBIENTE, has set up the International REDD+ Implementation Center (ICIREDD). The key objective of this initiative is to effectively, fairly, and transparently foster international cooperation, collaboration, and trade to implement REDD+ activities within the context of the UNFCCC and to encompass the most advanced scientific knowledge of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In 2016, progress was also made in developing the basis for the national grievance mechanism, to be spearheaded by the Office of the Secretary General of MiAMBIENTE. To date, the mechanisms for

articulating and harmonizing the methodological design of the platform "Mechanisms of complaints" and a set of recommendations⁶ have been identified.

The REDD+ process has been fostering the integration of its activities with other initiatives, including "Bosques de Vida" (SGP and UN-REDD funded), as program being implemented in 15 different communities that incorporates activities for the protection of diversity, forests, and care and respect for traditions. According to the UNFCCC, "Bosques de Vida" and REDD+ activities have achieved synergy with community initiatives and are contributing directly to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, and sustainable forest management.

Finally, MiAMBIENTE is working to prepare its National Forest Reference Level. With the accompaniment of FAO and UNDP experts at the regional level, fifteen (15) Panamanian officials participated in a workshop during which a suggested roadmap, scope, and timeline for the design of the Panamanian Forest Reference Level were agreed upon. At this point, a consultant has been hired and is developing the document on the methodological approach to be employed.

b. Important changes in the technical design or approach related to the project activities

1. In Focus

Indigenous Authorities appoint their representatives to the FCPF's REDD+ Project Board

Thanks to the dialogue spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, with the support of the United Nations Development Program, an important step was taken in the development of the National REDD+ Strategy.

Panamá, December 2, 2016. In the presence of the authorities of the 12 indigenous peoples' structures, and thanks to the work of the Indigenous Technical Commission and the MiAMBIENTE Task Force, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the representatives of Panama's indigenous peoples were presented to the REDD+ Project Board for the project "Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama". The appointees are Edilberto Dogirama, Félix Sánchez, and Antonio Núñez. The latter was proposed by the Commission, but must be ratified by the authorities of the Guna nation.

During this meeting, and at the request of the representatives of the indigenous people, it was agreed that the three representatives will participate in the Project Board but will have only one vote. In addition, it was agreed that the Indigenous Technical Commission will follow up, monitor, and evaluate the process for developing the National REDD+ Strategy until its completion.

Agreed to by Abigail Grajales, president of the Emberá Wounan Collective Lands Congress.

⁶ Consultancy report "Developing Mechanisms for Prevention and Conflict Management". October 2015.

Forum with Stakeholders of the Small Grants Program (PPD) towards the development of the National REDD+ Strategy

Panama, October 19, 2016.- The Forum was held with stakeholders of the Small Grants Program (PPD) and with the participation of representatives of the 15 projects contemplated under the “Bosques de Vida” Program, whose lessons learned will contribute to the development of Panama’s National REDD+ Strategy.

The Forum was opened by the Vice Minister of Environment, Emilio Sempris, who indicated that the “Bosques de Vida” Project has provided opportunities for its participants to improve their relationship with the forest, which in turn helps to mitigate carbon emissions. "Today we gather for you to provide the MiAMBIENTE team, which is in charge of developing the REDD+ strategy document, your contributions in order to enrich the document with your knowledge. We urge you to continue carrying out your activities."

Panama is currently working on the preparedness phase for REDD+ as part of its National Climate Change Strategy. The “Bosques de Vida” Program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and works on projects that contribute to climate change mitigation. It is coordinated with MiAMBIENTE and managed by UNDP.

The “Bosques de Vida” program projects were implemented in communities located near protected areas, watersheds of environmental and social importance, marine coastal areas with high biodiversity levels, biological corridors, and areas of ethnic cultural value.

They were developed on the basis of themes that included those of sustainable community forest management; agro-forestry, agro-ecology and other forms of sustainable crops that improve livelihoods; recovery and protection of forests with an emphasis on riparian forests; traditional medicine; and wildlife management.

Deputy UNDP Representative Fernando Hiraldo indicated that "the country is in the process of validating the draft REDD+ Strategy and dialogue and consultation processes such as these, in which the key players can contribute with their inputs, are very important to the process of public policy formulation and contribute positively to the process of consolidating the REDD+."

During the first part of the forum, the REDD+ Program was introduced and the draft REDD+ Strategy and strategic guidelines proposed in the draft were explained. Afterwards, and following an explanation of the methodology of the forum and the groups, the key PPD players worked in groups to review the document from the perspective of the lessons learned and success stories of each of their projects, analyze the strategies contained in the draft National REDD+ Strategy, and prepare a set of conclusions and recommendations for presentation at the plenary session which closed the Forum.

2. Risks, issues and responses

The main risks to the ENREDD+ definition process relate to governance aspects that have previously thwarted progress towards the completion, validation, and final approval of the Strategy, particularly

those related to the response to demands from indigenous peoples, with whom it has been necessary to carry out a participatory process that ensures the inclusion of their priorities within the ENREDD+.

For the indigenous peoples, one of the main issues is to ensure the legal security of their territories by addressing two main issues: first, that there be no invasion of their lands by people not belonging to the indigenous communities nor the award of individual or collective titles within the county; and, second, the titling of indigenous territories that have not yet been awarded the collective title, in areas where there are apparent overlaps with legally created protected areas in Panama. Their demands are supported by national and international legislation concerning the recognition and protection of indigenous territories and which should, in turn, be linked to national and international legislation that guarantees the human right to a healthy environment.

With respect to national capacity, it is noted that despite the fact that the Government of Panama signed the Paris Agreement and has shown its commitment to Climate Change through the recent creation of the Ministry of Environment and the Climate Change Unit - now a Directorate -, the management capacities required to take on a highly complex intervention such as REDD+ have yet to be fully developed. Up to now, there has been no positive display of proactive coordination among the various government agencies that must assume the REDD+ challenge as a country initiative.

One of the strategic risks is that a national strategy for the sustainable management of forests cannot be designed or built solely by one directorate but requires the participation of other areas of the Ministry, such as, for example, the Directorate of Forestry and the Directorate of Protected Areas, at different stages. Another aspect of this challenge is to be able to continuously create opportunities for dialogue and exchange with other government agencies having decision-making authority with respect to direct or indirect impact on forests, as well as with the private sector.

Following is a description of the main risks that have been identified and strategies being proposed to deal with them:

Openness to enable stakeholders to define their own participation: Long-term integration and collaboration are best served when stakeholders are allowed to define their own framework for engagement and to handle their own processes. In this regard, the indigenous people have quite clearly defined their process and the conditions under which they prefer to participate in REDD+. MiAMBIENTE, on the other hand, has been incapable of specifying an agenda of bilateral agreements to be made despite the fact that the Indigenous Technical Commission provides an opportunity for discussion. This probably arises from the fact that the Ministry relies on analysis based on the current political agenda and jeopardizes its own autonomous ability to direct its processes and make its own decisions. Processes requiring the participation of the indigenous peoples must be built together with their representatives. As is evident in the work done with the indigenous peoples in recent months, it is possible to arrive at agreements and products that enrich ENREDD+ based on the acknowledgement of their participation and the joint development of the objectives and times of the participatory process.

It is worth noting that the claim of indigenous people relating to the security of their lands transcends the mandate of MiAMBIENTE, which can only act within the framework of its competencies. Thanks to the strategies developed by REDD+, over the past year progress has been made with respect to participation

in a technical discussion table and as part of an interinstitutional discussion table that seeks to initiate a constructive dialogue with the relevant authorities.

The second of the 19 points specified by the indigenous peoples refers to ownership of collective lands that overlap with protected areas, insofar as it relates to the human rights of indigenous peoples and the human right to a healthy environment for the entire population, both of which the State must guarantee.

Consultation and participation methodology to design the Indigenous Peoples' Work Plan: Successful consultations require the adoption of a detailed methodology that enables indigenous people to prepare their own consultation plan. At this stage, however, MiAMBIENTE lacks the legal framework for undertaking the strategic and methodological processes required to meet the demands of indigenous peoples. On the other hand, rather than simply demanding specific results from the consultation, the indigenous peoples could focus more on process and capacity building, acknowledging the importance of first creating capacities in support of the planning, monitoring, and self - evaluation processes.

Proactive Involvement: The Indigenous Technical Commission (CTI) estimates that progress made thus far does not meet the commitment made by the 12 districts and territories and that it has failed to create effective coordination mechanisms. MiAMBIENTE can play a key role by generating opportunities for engagement that enable CTI representatives to make significant contributions through the various mechanisms for participation; work on improving their organizational structure; and put forth the issues that are part of a common agenda for the indigenous peoples.

Strengthening of an indigenous REDD+ strategy: Although the Panamanian government has indicated its intention for the REDD+ strategy to apply nationwide, the indigenous peoples remain interested in the creation of an Environmental Services Payments (PSA) program specifically for them. MiAMBIENTE has tried but failed to coordinate with other government institutions through the Office of its Secretary General and so there is still no clear roadmap for developing the REDD+ Strategy. Under these circumstances, it is possible for the indigenous peoples to decide to abandon the dialogue.

As the guarantor for REDD+, UNDP's Country office has encouraged national capacity building within the Framework of Rights and Accountability by sponsoring opportunities for dialogue and the coming together of all parties involved in developing and implementing environmental policy in Panama.

Some of the challenges to be faced include the following:

Integration of REDD+ processes: Substantial more work is needed to reinforce the coordination and monitoring of REDD+ processes in Panama since there are still no clear methodological guidelines in place for the requisite strategic and timely consultations with players.

Such lack of integration raises questions as to how the results of the various consultation processes will inform the consolidation and implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

In this regard, it is important that indigenous peoples insist on the establishment of clear and concise work plans that are integrated with the various processes for consolidating the REDD+ strategy.

The private sector is another key player vital to the REDD+ country initiative that needs to be appropriately consulted.

Finally, there is the Panamanian State itself, which is undertaking the largest construction projects that involve logging (Chan 2 hydroelectric generation station, Atlantic coast highway, fourth bridge over the Panama Canal, electrical interconnection with Colombia, and multi-purpose reservoirs, amongst others).

Indigenous governance: Eleven (11) of the country's 12 indigenous territories are currently participating in the participatory consultation process with the aim of having their demands and priorities included in the ENREDD+. This means that there is a need to work on facilitating their participation, in accordance with their preferences.

Security of indigenous lands: Given the extent of indigenous lands being threatened by people who invade their territories due to the overlapping of indigenous territories with protected areas (an estimated 14 protected areas overlap with indigenous territories, including county lands); and the lack of demarcation of the boundaries of county and collective lands, there is a high probability that conflicts arising from these problems could complicate the implementation of REDD+ in Panama. MiAMBIENTE and the indigenous peoples must continue to engage to help address the issues that threaten the security of indigenous territories. The indigenous peoples have indicated that one of their priorities is for the ENREDD+ to provide a platform to accompany them and the State in the search for solutions.

The complexity of REDD+: The complex nature of REDD+ implementation generates substantial barriers to participation.

Construction of Panama's human capital must be a constant and long-term commitment with clearly delineated responsibilities for indigenous peoples, the government, and other players. In order for there to be a critical mass of professionals in the forestry sciences and other specialties remaining after project execution (in the form of national installed capacity), there must be extensive state-sponsored training. Government institutions currently lack the technical capacity and the state-of-the-art technology needed to effectively monitor forests and changes in land use.

The issue of generational inclusion must be addressed. It is necessary to design projects for the young people of the communities from the perspective of their generation.

Organizational strengthening remains crucial to the successful execution of REDD+ activities. Effective organization not only ensures good project execution, but extends the possibilities of replication, participation, and equality that can convince more people, groups, or sectors to join.

Part of the experience derived from the Small Grants Program indicates that projects at community level cannot quantify the area of carbon forest reserves being protected or increased because further training in the area of community forest monitoring is required. Communities having the right skills and tools would be able to quantify the forest areas they protect and this, in turn, would have a positive impact on both community forest monitoring at the national level and on the transfer of technology to communities for the care and protection of their natural resources.

Panama is at the threshold of a politically active year, to be followed by a year of national elections in 2019. Consideration must be given to the likelihood that project implementation will be hampered by politics in all geographical areas.

Finally, there has been a persistent lack of clarity by the Government with respect to the sources of financing for phases 2 and 3 of REDD+. This clarification is critical in order to be able to prepare an adequate budget for the National REDD+ Strategy and to secure the funds for its implementation.

Progress in addressing key capacity issues of the Program Management unit (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this project.

The Ministry of Environment, through the Directorate of Climate Change, delegates the execution of REDD+ activities to a Project Coordinator with an Executing Unit that also reports to UNDP and the Ministry's Climate Change Directorate.

It is worth noting that all personnel selection, procurement, and reporting processes have been carried out in coordination with Unit staff, which has created in-house expertise in the management of (i) personnel selection processes based on (ii) the application of the "best value for money" principle through processes that evaluate quality and price, and (iii) the application of results-based management systems, including the construction and use of indicators for monitoring progress and goals, as well as the evaluation of results. In this reporting period, progress has been made in designing a training plan based on the REDD+ and climate change academy, to be implemented in 2017.

Although technical staff of the Climate Change Directorate and their regional liaisons and REDD+ liaisons have been trained on the monitoring and evaluation indicators of the REDD+ project, there is a dearth of technical and human resources to meet the demand of five (5) REDD+, plus climate change, activities.

Despite such efforts, it has not been possible to significantly increase the project's spending capacity, basically because the current level of delegation prevents the streamlining of the technical, administrative, and financial aspects the various REDD+ activities under a predefined strategic framework. Under a NIM modality, centralized decision-making at the level of the Directorate of the Climate Change Unit has become the main bottleneck preventing compliance with ProDOC requirements. This is further complicated by the lack of awareness of Ministry staff at all levels of the country's mission and vision relating to the sustainable management of forest and climate change.

3. Progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the project. Is the SESA being conducted in accordance with the Common Approach? Is the ESMF being prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

In 2016 the Government of Panama made strides in defining its vision and evaluating the extent to which REDD+ responds to national strategies. Earlier, between 2014 and 2015, it had undertaken an analysis to define the country's REDD+ conceptual framework for safeguards and the corresponding legal framework. In 2017, the government is set to define the roadmap for assembling the experiences and best practices in the application of SESA and ENMF from other national endeavors. With the support of international experts at the UNDP Regional Office, who will assist with systematization, it will also implement the next phases of SESA related to the REDD+ Strategy.

Progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, and disclosure of information and the FGRM, related to this project.

In the period from August 30 to November 17, 2016, a total of 10 Regional Consultation Forums were held with key stakeholders of the project "Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama". A total of 459 key stakeholders participated in this preliminary validation of the draft National REDD+ Strategy. Information relevant to regional participation in the construction processes of the ENREDD+ was collected, as it had not been contemplated in the draft.

Pursuant to the methodology, two conceptual presentations were made at the beginning of every participatory consultation forum in order to set the stage and enable participants to contribute to the achievement of the forum's objectives.

The key players had access to: a) a draft the National REDD+ Strategy and the proposed strategic guidelines in order to place the National REDD+ Strategy in context, highlighting progress made thus far and indicating how it affects the development of the ENREDD+; and b) the current status of the program with respect to the start of the second stage of REDD+, through the implementation of the project "Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama", to be implemented by MiAMBIENTE, UNDP, and FCPF.

Using the draft ENREDD+ document as the basis, participants developed the national strategy. Since the strategic guidelines originally used were broad and did not contemplate the regionalization of interventions, the new draft contains a strong regional component. Responsibility for incorporating this aspect and prioritizing the interventions to be incorporated to the process of constructing the REDD+ strategy was assigned to the key players attending the fora.

To set the stage for the work to be carried out later in the forum, a brief presentation of the environmental policy of the National Development Plan, MiAMBIENTE's action guidelines, and the strategic guidelines of the draft ENREDD+ was made at each regional and national forum. This provided context for the work to be carried out in the forum, as assigned to each group of key players.

4. In Numbers

	Year 1 (2016)	Year 2 (2017)	Year 3 (2018)
Number of institutions represented in steering committee	3 ⁷	n./a. ⁸	
Number of women represented in steering committee	1	n./a.	

⁷ Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas-MEF (Ministry of Finance and Economy, in English), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores-MIRE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in English), and Ministerio de Ambiente-MiAMBIENTE (Ministry of Environment, in English).

⁸The next Project Board will be held in the second half of 2017.

Number of civil society organizations engaged in different aspects of the project (please indicate when possible Men/women ratio)	10 ⁹	n./a.	
Number of people trained on REDD+, climate change, and related topics (please indicate when possible Men/women ratio)	0	0	
Number of people trained on the four WF elements (please indicate when possible men/women ratio)	0		
Number of national consultation workshops held	13 ¹⁰	3	
Number of CSOs trained on REDD+ and climate change	0	0	
Number of information notes produced	6	0	
Number of people actively engaged in advising on the development of the national strategy	470 185 Women 285 Men	87 36 Women 51Men	

5. Financial Delivery

The table below provides an up-to-date cumulative financial progress report of R-PP implementation on planned, committed, and disbursed funds, as at the end of the reporting period and including all cumulative yearly disbursements.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS				
OUTPUTS	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2016		
		Commitments	Disbursements	Total Expenditures
				(D) = B + C

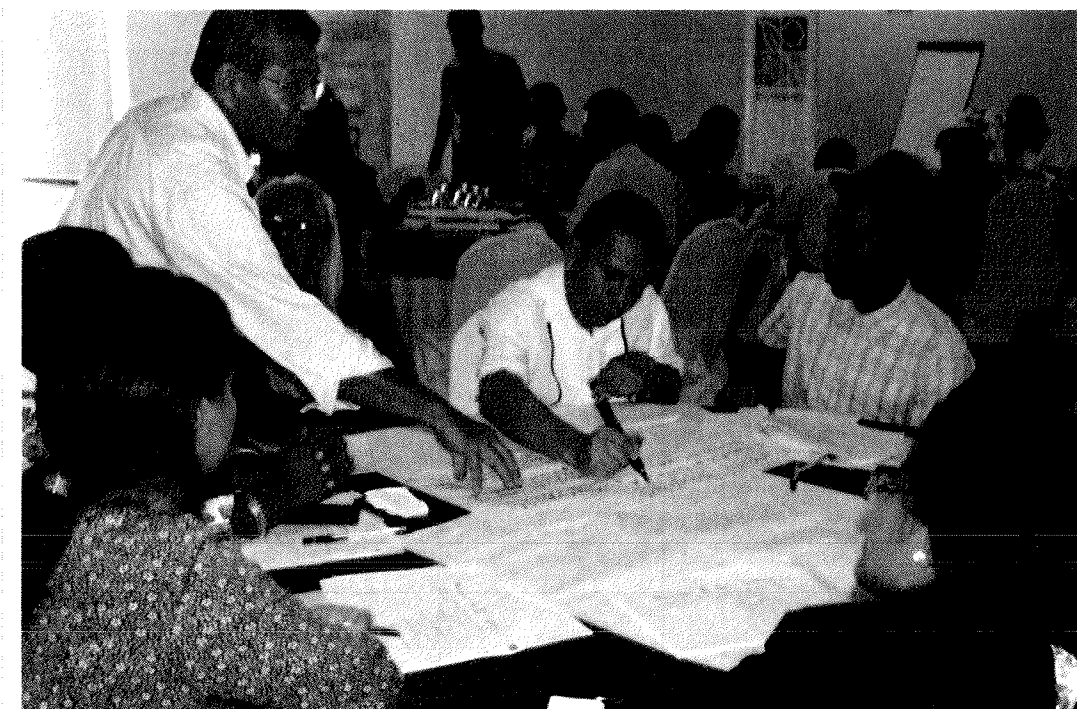
⁹ Natura Foundation, ANCON, WWF, Smithsonian Institute, School of Forest Engineers of the School of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Panama, Dean of the School of Civil Engineering of the Technological University of Panama, Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE).

¹⁰ Three (3) regional technical liaison workshops and 10 workshops for consultation and participation at the national level.

UNDP 2016 Annual Progress Report to the FCPF
as a Delivery Partner – Panama

Component 1: Organization and Consultation	883,800.00	91,500.00	259,073.00	350,573.00
Component 2: Preparation of the National Strategy REDD+	518,641.00		79,516.00	79,516.00
Component 3: Development of a national reference level for forest emissions or a national forest reference level	433,350.00		80,176.00	80,176.00
Component 4: Design of the national forest monitoring system and information system on safeguards	1,260,420.00		238,934.00	238,934.00
Component 5: Design of a program monitoring and evaluation framework	703,789.00	187,121.00	169,244.00	356,365.00
Total	3,800,000	278,621	826,943	1,105,564

Picture and caption – REDD+ 2016.



Forum for Stakeholders, Darien, 2016.