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# Annual Progress Report to the FCPF for Panama

for the period 1 January –  
31 December 2016

United Nations Development  
Programme

Approved by:

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Date: 7/21/2017

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Date: 7/21/2017

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

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## 2016 Results

### 1. Achievements

#### a. Progress on how the project activities are being coordinated with other REDD+ related initiatives, included those funded by others.

##### a. Progreso en cómo se coordinan las actividades del proyecto con otras iniciativas relacionadas con REDD+, incluidas las financiadas por otros.

The Ministry of Environment of Panama (MiAMBIENTE), established in March 2015, is the governing body of the State for the protection, conservation, preservation and restoration of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure compliance with and enforcement of laws, regulations and the National Environmental Policy.

By Ministerial Resolution the Program of National Climate Change was established as a Coordinating Unit for the Issues related to Energy Resources and Climate Change. Since 2016, the Climate Change Unit has been responsible for the implementation of REDD+ carrying out activities using interagency coordination mechanisms with the participation of five different channels called key players<sup>1</sup> under the scheme of values of equality, transparency and respect.

The government of Panama considers the National REDD+ part of the National Climate Change Strategy<sup>2</sup>, establishing correlation with the “Alliance for the Million Hectares” that seeks to create synergy between with some state institutions, private sectors and civil society and thus achieve the goal of reforesting one million hectares in the period 2015-2035. The Alliance has a management group made up of: The National Association of Reforestation and Allied Products of Panama, The Association for the Conservation of Nature, Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture of Panama, and the Ministry of the Environment, in addition to the management group, fifteen private sector institutions have been added as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

In 2016 the project was launched, socializing the results framework and the operational plan of the corresponding year, 118 participants worked in three tables, addressing the four REDD+ components. As a result, specific recommendations were obtained for each component. It should be noted that eleven of Panama’s twelve indigenous people’s structures participated in their full and active representation, as did representatives of the other four key actors, accompanied by government authorities.

The stakeholders recommendations were prioritized as follows:

- Monitoring of collective territories.
- Implementation of knowledge-sharing and capacity building.

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant populations, local farmers communities, other owners and individual or collective forest users, women and men for gender equality and empowerment of women in the forest.

<sup>2</sup> The Government of the Republic of Panama, in accordance with the environmental protection commitments established in the Strategic Government Plan 2015-2019 (PEG), has developed the National Climate Change Strategy of Panama (ENCCP), which aims to increase the Adaptation of the most vulnerable populations and to promote the transition towards a low emission development model.  
[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)

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- Promote the use of the traditional agro-forestry and silvo-pastoral systems.
  - Carry on campaigns of reforestation with native species to revive rivers and degraded territories.
  - Elaborate plans of territorial organization and management for forest management.
  - Incorporation (12) twelve of the (19) nineteen points about the demands of the indigenous people are in the process of negotiation with the state of Panama in the strategy of REDD+.
  - Incorporation and mainstreaming of gender in REDD+ processes.
  - Addressing and solving matters within the framework of territorial and legal security.

During 2013-2015 the participatory process in Panama was supported by UN-REDD, and included a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Coordination of the Indigenous People of Panama (COONAPIP). Upon designing the FCPF project, indigenous peoples provided a political guideline to work directly with the (12) structures of the indigenous people represented in the mechanism agreed for the national dialogue between indigenous people, Congressmen General Councils<sup>3</sup> and Panamá government without intermediaries. In this space, indigenous peoples define, prioritize and validate their demands and needs within the framework of cosmovision, traditional uses of natural resources, restoration, conservation, sustainable management, afforestation and reforestation of degraded lands, linked to REDD+, through the results derived from the methodology called Balu-Wala “Good Living”.

For the effect the mechanisms for advocacy, incidence, and representation of indigenous people have been incorporated into the intersectoral table of the “National Dialogue for the Development of Indigenous Communities of Panama”, led by the Vice Ministry of Indigenous Affairs of the Panamanian Government, the tables purpose was to ensure that the development of indigenous people, this is oriented towards their management of good living.

The Ministry of the Environment through the forest governance project in alliance with World Wildlife Foundation ( WWF) developed the "East and Darien Dialogue Table" with the purpose of "Strengthening mechanisms of governance and governance as political frameworks" that value all goods and services from natural forests, Benefiting local communities and reducing trends of illegality and forest degradation in the Darién region of Panama. This mechanism is a new way of dealing with forest issues and seek consensus, for reforestation in the area of greater coverage of forests that the country has.

The Ministry of the Environment, through its 14 regional offices, had regional work-plans for the REDD+ preparation process, training 56 regional personnel with the purpose of involving approximately 500 representatives of key stakeholders in regional forums .

Part of the coordination mechanisms of REDD+ are the national working groups, established by MiAMBIENTE to study and present to the sectors the tasks that prepare Panama for a national strategy. Four national panels have been developed and two more are planned for the period

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<sup>3</sup> Currently, of the 12 Congresses and General Councils representing the twelve indigenous territories of Panama, only one does not participate in REDD, the General Congress of the Guna Yala Region.

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2017, with the purpose of pre-validating the draft National RED++ Strategy (ENREDD+) document.

The REDD+ process has been socialized with the National Climate Change Committee made up of twenty – seven (27) public institutions, part of the objectives being to ensure that the ENREDD+ is considered in sectoral plans and has the support of the committee in its implementation phase, the committee mandate is to evaluate and advise the State on the issue of climate change from their respective competencies.

The twenty-seven (27) government institutions represented do not have technical specialists in some REDD+ technical issues as the Forest Reference Level or Forest Monitoring System issues, and it is a challenge for the country to develop capacities in this area. UNDP has recommended to create an Inter-Agency Coordination Commission with a mandate from the highest levels of the most relevant government entities To REDD+, with the participation of public entities that have direct interference in the sustainable management of forest with the Ministry of environment, the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), the National Land Authority (ANATI), the authority of the Panamá Canal(ACP), the authority of the public services(ASEP), among others.

During 2016 at the national and regional level, approximately four hundred and fifty-nine (459) participants participated in REDD+ events, with the purpose of reviewing and incorporating their views and needs into the draft document of ENREDD+. In addition, progress was made on safeguards by developing a conceptual framework and roadmap, an analysis of information systems, the national interpretation, and an analysis of the relevant legal framework.

The climate change Direction of the Ministry of Environment implemented participatory methodologies for the development of capacities of the differentiated channels, in close collaboration with DIGICH<sup>4</sup> and DFCA<sup>5</sup>, at the national level through three (3) workshops in the provinces of David, Santiago, and City of Panama. Fifty-six (56) technicians were introduced to the draft ENREDD+, with the purpose of being part of the development of forums for consultation and preliminary validation of the strategy, and to strengthen the active collaboration and integration of technical links in the regional directions of “MiAmbiente”.

As part of the actions under the REDD+ Communication Strategy, MiAMBIENTE, in partnership with the Albratos Media Foundation, launched the "Living Forests" campaign with the purpose of "facilitating the strengthening of the level of awareness and awareness of society of Panama", forest conservation and REDD+ role through the design of communication, dissemination and dissemination tools.

The campaign was directed at the entire Panamanian population through mass media, television, radio and print media, as well as through state institutions and the productive sector. It is estimated that approximately 300,000 people converged on the exhibition sites, with more than 5,000 visits recorded on the Albatros website and more than 3,000 on the page of the composer of the musical capsule.

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<sup>4</sup> Directorate of integrated management of Watersheds of Panama.

<sup>5</sup> Direction of Promotion to the Environmental Culture.

The services of a company have been contracted to measure, through a focused survey, the levels of sensitization on REDD+, forests, sustainable management and, in this way, to better manage communication and advocacy efforts.

As part of state strengthening processes, the Government of Panama through MiAMBIENTE established the International REDD+ Implementation Center (ICIREDD) for strengthening national and international capacities for the operation of the REDD+ mechanism. The objective of ICIREDD is to effectively, fairly and transparently promote international cooperation, collaboration and trade in order to implement REDD+ activities within the context of the UNFCCC, taking into account the most advanced scientific basis of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

On the other hand, in 2016 progress was made in developing the basis of the national grievance mechanism, which will be driven by the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment. Mechanisms for articulation and harmonization for the methodological design of the platform "Mechanisms of complaints" and a set of recommendations<sup>6</sup> were identified.

The REDD+ process is promoting the integration with other initiatives including "Bosques de Vida" (SGP and UN-REDD funded) that is implementing pilot projects in communities and community-based organizations. In Panama, this program is carried out in 15 different localities at the national level and each of them includes within its activities of the protection of diversity, forests and care and respect for their traditions. "Bosques de Vida" and REDD+ activities as defined by the UNFCCC have achieved the synergies as the community-initiatives are directly contributing to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests.

Finally, to date MiAMBIENTE already is working its own road map to design its National Forest Reference Level. With the accompaniment of FAO and UNDP experts at the regional level, 15 officials participated in a workshop for the design of the Panamanian Forest Reference Level in which the roadmap, scope and timeline were agreed upon. A consultant was hired and is developing the document on the methodological approach.

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

### **1. In Focus**

#### **Indigenous Authorities choose their representatives**

##### **Before the FCPF REDD+ Project Board**

*Thanks to a dialogue process led by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the United Nations Development Program, an important step was taken in the construction of the National REDD+ Strategy.*

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<sup>6</sup> Consultancy report "Developing Mechanisms for Prevention and Conflict Management" October 2015.

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**Panamá, December 2, 2016-** In the presence of the authorities of the 12 indigenous peoples' structures, and thanks to the work done by the Indigenous Technical Commission, the My Environment Task Force with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), representatives of indigenous peoples were presented to the REDD+ Project Board. In order to integrate the REDD+ Project Board, the main instance for the execution of the project "**Consolidation of the Preparedness Phase for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Panama**" the men appointed were 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 following the request of the representatives of the indigenous people, it was agreed that these three representatives will participate in the Project Board, will dialogue among them, but will only have one vote. In addition, to continue the process of construction of the National REDD+ Strategy, it was agreed that the Indigenous Technical Commission will continue to work to follow up, monitor and evaluate until this process is completed.

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

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## Forum with Actors of the Small Grants Program (PPD) towards the construction of the National REDD+

**Panama, October 19, 2016.**-With the participation of the representatives of the 15 Projects of the "Bosques de Vida" Program, the Forum was held with actors from the Small Grants Program (PPD), whose lessons learned will contribute to the construction of the Strategy National Program for Reducing Carbon Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

The Forum was inaugurated by the Vice Minister of Environment, Emilio Sempris, who pointed out that the "Bosques de Vida" Project has provided opportunities for its participants to improve their relationship with the forest, which helps to mitigate carbon emissions. "Today we have gathered here to give their contributions to the MIAMBIENTE team, which elaborates the document of the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+, to enrich it with your knowledge, while We wish to urge you to continue to carry out these activities. "

Panama is advancing in the preparation phase for REDD+, as an integral part of its National Climate Change Strategy and the Forest Life Program, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Worked on projects that contribute to climate change mitigation, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The projects were executed 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.

The development of Projects for the Forest Life Program was carried out on the basis of themes that included sustainable community forest management; Agro forestry, agroecology and other forms of sustainable crops that improve livelihoods; Recovery and forest protection of forests with emphasis on riparian forests; Traditional medicine and wildlife management.



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Fernando Hiraldo, Deputy Representative of the United Nations Program, expressed that "the country is in the process of validating the draft of the REDD+ Strategy and these processes of dialogue and consultation where the key actors that contribute their inputs are very important in the Process of public policy formulation and contribute positively to the process of consolidating the National Strategy for Reducing Carbon Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). "

During the first part of the forum, the presentation of the REDD+ Program was done, the draft of the REDD+ Strategy and the strategic guidelines proposed in the draft were made. After explaining the methodology of the forum and the groups, the PPD key actors proceeded to carry out the group work where, from their projects, lessons learned and success stories, they met in working groups to analyze the strategies presented in the draft Of the National REDD+ Strategy to review the lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations of the implementation of its projects. The forum concluded with the plenary session where each group made the presentation of the work done.

## **2. Risks, issues and responses**

The main risks to the ENREDD+ definition process relate to aspects of governance that have made it difficult to advance in the past towards the completion, validation and final approval of the Strategy, particularly the lack of inter-governmental coordination and the response to demands from indigenous peoples, with whom it has been necessary to carry out a participatory process to ensure the inclusion of their priorities within the ENREDD+.

One of the central issues is that indigenous peoples request that they guarantee the legal security of their territories, associated with two main problems: the invasion of people who do not belong to indigenous communities or the awarding of individual titles within the county, or that have a collective title and, secondly, the titling of indigenous territories that have not been awarded the collective title, in areas that have apparent overlaps with legally created protected areas in Panamá. These demands are supported by national and international legislation that includes the recognition and protection of indigenous territories, and in turn should be associated with national and international legislation that guaranteed the human rights to a healthy environment.

Regarding technical capacity, it is noted that although the Government of Panama signed the Paris Agreement and demonstrated a commitment to Climate Change with the creation of the recent Ministry of Environment and the Climate Change Unit - now Directorate -, the management capacities have yet to be fully developed to take on a highly complex intervention such as REDD+. To date, there has been no effective demonstration of proactive coordination with the various government agencies that must take up the REDD+ challenge as a country initiative.

Part of the strategic risks is that a national strategy for the sustainable management of forests cannot be designed or constructed solely with the direction of a Ministry, but it is essential to add in the different phases the participation of the different areas of the Ministry itself, like the Directorate of Forestry and Protected Areas for example. Part of the challenges that must be further promoted is the generation of constant spaces for dialogue and exchange with other government entities that are decision makers that

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have a direct or indirect impact on forests, as does the private sector. Specifically, the main risks are developed below, as well as strategies proposed to deal with them:

**Openness to enable stakeholders to define their own participation:** Long-term integration and collaboration is best facilitated when stakeholders are allowed to define their engagement framework and direct their own processes. Indigenous people define their process and conditions very clearly with respect to the way in which they prefer to participate in REDD+, MiAMBIENTE, despite giving the spaces of dialogues through the Indigenous Technical Commission, not being able to specify an agenda of bilateral agreements, putting a Analysis based on a current political agenda and putting at risk the autonomy to direct their own processes and make their own decisions. The processes of participation that are to be carried out with indigenous people must be built together with representatives of indigenous people. The work with indigenous people developed in recent months has shown that, based on the recognition and joint elaboration of the objectives and rhythms of the participatory process, it has been possible to achieve agreements and products that enrich ENREDD+.

It should be noted that the claim of indigenous people over the security of their lands transcends the Ministry of the Environment, which can only act within the framework of their competencies and in the last year what has advanced is first to be able to sit at a technical table and in a Table with authorities to which the first inter-institutional meeting responds to initiate a constructive dialogue, thanks to the strategies developed by REDD+.

The second of the 19 points they claim, related to collective lands that overlap with protected areas since it deals with indigenous human rights and human rights to a healthy environment for the entire population and the State must ensure respect for both rights.

**The consultation and participation methodology for the design of the Indigenous Work Plan:** A successful consultation requires a detailed methodology, which indigenous people elaborate in their consultation plans, the Ministry of Environment does not yet have strategic or methodological processes to meet the demands of indigenous people based on the framework of the law. Rather than just demanding specific results from the consultation, indigenous people can focus more on process and capacity building. Recognize the importance of first creating capacities to support planning, monitoring and self - evaluation processes.

**Proactive Involvement:** The Indigenous Technical Commission (CTI) considers that the advances do not fully respond to the commitment that they represent of the twelve districts and territories and has not allowed with solid articulation mechanisms. MiAMBIENTE has an important role, facilitating spaces for discussion so that indigenous peoples representatives (CTIs) can contribute with important contributions in the different participation mechanisms, consolidate their organizational structure and articulate the issues that represent a common agenda between the territories Indigenous people.

**Strengthening of an indigenous REDD+ strategy:** One of the issues of interest to indigenous people in Panama is an Environmental Services Payments (PSA) program aimed at indigenous peoples and legal and territorial security. Despite having coordinated with the Ministry of Environment through the Secretary General, not establishing a clear road map of the different state institutions there is a possible risk that indigenous people can rise from the table of dialogue and coordination before a plan Working together

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with REDD+. However, the Central Government of Panama through the Ministry of Environment has defined that the REDD+ Strategy will be of national scope.

PNUP from the country office as guarantor for REDD+ has generated the building of national capacities in the Framework of Rights and Accountability, promoting spaces for dialogue and convergence between the parties in the different sectors responsible for promoting environmental policy In Panama.

Some challenges to face include:

**Integration of the REDD+ processes:** There is a need to strengthen the coordination and monitoring of REDD+ processes in Panama. There are still very clear methodological guidelines that guide the processes of consultation and participation in the best way.

The lack of integration raises questions about how the indigenous consultation process will inform the consolidation and implementation for REDD+. It is important that indigenous peoples insist on the establishment of work plans that are clear, concise, and integrated with the various processes of consolidation for REDD+, this situation responds to the different differentiated channels, key REDD+ actors. The private sector is one of the key players vital to the REDD+ country initiative, and the state itself, which has the largest works and involves logging (Chan 2 hydroelectric, Atlantic coast, 4th bridge over The Canal, electrical interconnection, multi-purpose reservoirs, among others). And there is no strategic and timely dialogue with these actors.

**Indigenous governance:** 11 of the country's 12 indigenous territories are currently participating in the consultation and participation process with the aim of incorporating their demands and priorities within the ENREDD+.

It is necessary to continue to inform and achieve the integration of their demands in the framework of REDD+, to facilitate their participation according to their preference.

**The security of their lands:** Given the percentage of indigenous lands threatened by people outside indigenous 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) Or the lack of delimitation of the boundaries of county and collective lands, dispute over collective lands that are allegedly overlapping with protected areas, there is a high probability that the conflicts generated by these problems could complicate the implementation of REDD+ In Panama. MIAmbiente and Indigenous People must continue to promote processes that help address issues that threaten the security of their territories. Indigenous people have identified as one of their main priorities that the ENREDD+ will become a platform for accompanying indigenous people and the State in the search for solutions to find legal security of the territories for indigenous people and communities.

**The complexity of REDD+.** The complex nature of REDD+ generates substantial barriers to participation; The obstacle to be overcome through capacity building that is constant and long-term throughout the process, with clearly delineated responsibilities for indigenous peoples, government, and other rural actors. In the national context, training is required and a critical mass of professionals in the forestry

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sciences and other specialties are required to leave national capacity installed. Currently there is no technical capacity in government institutions to monitor forests and changes in land use in a coordinated, articulated and state-of-the-art technology; Equal to reference levels, for example, there is not enough human resources prepared in forestry, climate change, among others.

It is necessary to address the issue of generational inclusion. To elaborate inclusive projects for the young people of the communities. Several projects have the participation of young people, but projects are not yet designed from their generational perspectives. Organizational strengthening remains critical to maintaining REDD+ actions. A good organization not only ensures good execution, but extends the possibilities of replication, participation and equity to convince more people, groups or sectors.

Part of the experience with the Small Grants Program identifies projects that go down to community levels, it is not possible to quantify the area of carbon forest reserves that have been protected or augmented, as the following priority action is needed Capacity building in community forest monitoring. Clusters with the right tools and instruments could account for and delimit the forest areas they protect. This action would have an impact at the national level on community forest monitoring and technology transfer to communities for the care and protection of their natural resources.

Panamá is at the door of a political year, followed by the national election, where all the state gear change. The project doesn't escape the political conjuncture that also put at risk the effective and efficient implementation of the project in both indigenous and non-indigenous areas, nationally and locally.

Finally, there has been persistent lack of clarify the vision that the Government has in relation to sources of financing phases 2 and 3 of REDD+, this is critical to adjust and target adequately the financial plan of the National REDD+ Strategy, and secure the funds for implementation.

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

The Ministry of the Environment through the Directorate of Climate Change delegates the execution of REDD+ through a Project Coordinator, which has an Executing Unit, the same that reports jointly to UNDP and the Ministry's Climate Change Directorate. However, all personnel selection processes, as well as procurement and reporting processes have been carried out in coordination with staff of the Unit, which has created 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, during this period progress is made in designing a training plan based on the REDD+ academy and climate change and to be implemented by 2017.

In particular, the training of technical personnel in the area of the Climate Change Directorate, as well as its regional links and REDD+ links, can be mentioned for the detailed definition of the monitoring and evaluation indicators of the REDD+ project, although they are lacking a technical team and human resource that can meet the demand demanded by (5) five REDD+ activities, and climate change.

Despite all this effort, however, it has not been possible to significantly increase the project's spending capacity, basically since the levels of delegation would seem to be insufficient in order to streamline, in a predefined strategic framework, the technical, administrative and financial aspects of the various REDD+

activities. The centralization of REDD+ decisions in the Directorate of the Climate Change Unit, being this one of national implementation (NIM), is the main source for progress and compliance with results established in the project document (PRODOC). Combined with clear and understood strategic weakness of all levels of the Ministry of environment on the mission – vision country on the sustainable management of forest and climate change.

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

In line with the Common Approach, UNDP, as an implementing partner, complies with its Social and Environmental Standards in project implementation. These standards provide detailed guidance on social and environmental assessment and project management, as well as the evaluation of project-specific types and impacts. In addition, UNDP guides the actions of REDD+ readiness in Honduras, so they may comply with UNDP's institutional implementation standards; through specific review meetings and close joint work. A full SESA will be conducted once the policies and measures of Panama's National REDD+ Strategy are defined by September 2017.

Progress on the SESA has included the following steps:

- Comprehensive stakeholder analysis and mapping of key sectors and stakeholders to be engaged in REDD+, including a review of their stakes and perspectives about REDD+ (completed with UN-REDD support, through the "Escucha Activa" process)
- Held numerous national, regional and sector workshops, focusing on consultation, training and capacity building on REDD+ and its status in Panama
- Analyses have been undertaken to identify the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Conceptual approach to safeguards defined, legal framework analyzed

The Government of Panama during the year 2016 progresses in defining its vision and the scope that REDD+ responds to the national strategies, in that framework between 2014 and 2015 an analysis was made to define the conceptual framework of REDD+ safeguards for the country, and the analysis of the corresponding legal framework was completed. In 2017, the following SESA stages will be applied in relation to the REDD+ Strategy.

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

During 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 preparation phase for the reduction of emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in Panama ", with the approximate participation of 459 key stakeholders, for the preliminary validation of the draft of the National REDD+ Strategy. Likewise, the relevant information for the regional participation in the construction processes of the ENREDD+ was raised, which had not been considered in the elaborated draft.

During the participation and consultation forums, two conceptual interventions are presented that actively allow us to establish the bases for knowing and strengthening the participants' capacities towards the achievement of the objectives of the forum.

The key actors have access to: a) Draft the National REDD+ Strategy, proposed strategic guidelines, with the purpose of putting the National REDD+ Strategy in context, the progress achieved is presented and as they affect the construction of the ENREDD+ Which has an initial draft, b) The current status of the program related to the start of the second stage of REDD+ through the implementation of the project "Consolidation of the preparation phase for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation of The forests (REDD+) in Panama," which is carried out by MAMBIENTE, UNDP and FCPF.

From the draft of the ENREDD+, the national strategy was developed, in which the regional component has a very important participation, since the strategic guidelines presented are broad and do not contemplate the regionalization of the interventions, so That it was the responsibility of the key actors present in the forums to incorporate this vision and to prioritize the interventions that are necessary to be part of the process of construction of the REDD+ strategy.

Each forum at a regional and national level is briefly described in the context of the environmental policy of the National Development Plan, MiAMBIENTE's action guidelines and the strategic guidelines presented in the draft ENREDD+ Which allows us to create the necessary context for the work carried out in the forums and the achievement of the objectives of the forum, as established in the responsibilities of the groups formed by the key actors.

While the GRM is being established, the response to complaints from multiple stakeholders has taken place through training workshops with CONASAH, REDD+ activities, and planning workshops led by the REDD+ MIAmbiente project, and through letters sent to the Minister of the Environment, which have been speedily addressed.

The delivery partner is equipped to handle grievances through is Social and Environmental Standards and procedures.

## 6. In Numbers

	Year 1 (2016)	Year 2 (2017)	Year 3 (2018)
Number of institutions represented in steering committee	3 <sup>7</sup>	n./a. <sup>8</sup>	
Number of women represented in steering committee	1	n./a.	
Number of civil society organizations engaged in different aspects of the project	10 <sup>9</sup>	n./a.	

<sup>7</sup> Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas (MEF), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Ambiente.

<sup>8</sup>The next Project Board will be held in the second half of 2017

<sup>9</sup> Natura Foundation, ANCON, WWF, Smithsonian Institute, College of Forest Engineers, University of Panama - Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Technological University - Dean of Civil Engineering, Chamber of Commerce, Association of Business Executives (APEDE).

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(please indicate when possible Men/women ratio)			
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 <sup>10</sup>	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	

## 7. Financial Delivery

The table below provides up-to-date cumulative financial progress of the R-PP implementation on planned, committed and disbursed funds, 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
Component 1: Organization and Consultation	883,800.00	91,500.00	259,073.00	350,573.00

<sup>10</sup> 3 regional technical liaison workshops, and 10 workshops for consultation and participation at the national level.

UNDP 2016 Annual Progress Report to the FCPF  
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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
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>278,621</b>	<b>826,943</b>	<b>1,105,564</b>



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**Picture and caption – REDD+ 2016.**

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**Darien Forum Key Actors 2016.**