

**FY-2013 Executive Summary Report on the Regional Programme of
Latin America & the Caribbean (RPLAC)
Award 50457 - Strategic Ecosystems and Biodiversity protected through the implementation of economic
valuation methodologies, payment of environmental services and adoption of new technologies
as of December, 2013**

The Regional Programme of Latin America & the Caribbean (RPLAC) for 2008-2013 covers work on an ongoing set of projects funded by Spanish Funds, UNDP TRAC funds, Multi-donor Trust Fund and other funds. In the course of this project, the regional Environment and Energy Practice team will focus on assisting countries of the LAC region to build their capacities to understand and value the nature and linkages between ecosystem services and livelihoods, including biodiversity, on which much of their economic welfare depends. This project has already supported 18 countries of the region to analyze and plan for the financial sustainability of their protected area systems as key components of natural capital essential to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It has also produced major reports for input to regional and national policy processes aimed at ensuring long term production of ecosystem goods and services for benefits at national, regional and global levels. It served to mobilize more than usd10M from UN-REDD and FCPF funds to support REDD readiness activities in the region, and contributed to facilitate regional dialogue on sensitive issues, related to REDD+ readiness topics.

There is strong evidence of the effective results of the Regional Programme towards supporting national processes to facilitate stakeholder engagement while contributing to the development of national policies and country-level best practices. The technical staff dedicated to climate change, biodiversity and energy-related programming has been crucial to nurture long-term relationships with national partners and administering project activities. Our counterparts, such as Country Offices, government officials and other development agencies feel that the Regional Programme effectively has mobilized large amounts of financial resources for project activities, and has complemented a strong ground level presence for on-site project implementation and monitoring.

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the results achieved in 2012 on each of the outputs of Award 50457: Output- 00062371- Regional Report on the Economic Value of Biodiversity – Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): A Biodiversity Superpower; Output 00062372- Protected Areas Financing Strategies; and Output 00062375 - Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), the levels of disbursements and budgets by output during 2013.

**00062371 Regional Report on the Economic Value of Biodiversity - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC):
A Biodiversity Super Power**

Main objective:

To develop the methodology in order to carry out economic valuations at the national level to more effectively capture the economic value of ecosystems in policy making in the region.

The final version of UNDP's "Guidebook on Targeted Scenario Analysis: A new approach to capturing and presenting the value of ecosystem services in decision making" was completed and published in 2013. In this publication, a new approach is promoted for policy makers to make decisions based on comparing Business As Usual (BAU) and Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM) scenarios. The intended audience for this guidebook is prospective analysts from donor agencies, government technical staff, consultants, researchers in NGOs, universities or think tanks, who want to make a clear and compelling argument for alternative policy choices that take into account the value of ecosystem services. In 2014 UNDP will launch and disseminate the Guidebook, through workshops, webinars, webpages and social media. Three countries in Latin America have already

requested training in the methodology and are considering funding valuation studies based on the methodology. These are Suriname, Guyana and Cuba. This activity is not expected to require any funding from the RP. The pilot work will be funded by country projects. A launch of the guidebook in the region would require some budget and this will be considered if budget available. Dissemination will be mainly through the web and networks.

The commodities work proposed for 2014 will build on the innovations and country activities started in 2013. In 2013 agreements with national governments and funders were achieved to start National commodity platforms in Dominican Republic on cocoa, Honduras on beef, Paraguay on soy and beef, Ecuador and Costa Rica on fisheries and possibly Peru on palm oil. The initiation and development of these platforms will occur in 2014 and support to them is critical in these early stages. The pineapple platform in Costa Rica advanced well in 2013 and produced a national action plan. In 2014 support will be provided for the implementation of the national action plan. The support to the platforms will ensure credible and effective implementation and lessons feeding into the regional commodities platform to be established under the new RP.

Project 62371 - Disbursements in 2013:

Sources of Funds	Total Budget 2013	Total Expenditures as of Dec 2013	Total Delivery rate as of Dec 2013
UNDP TRAC Funds	\$40,000	\$39,870	99.7%
Spanish Funds	\$176,585	\$109,966	62%
Accum. Interest SF	\$13,736	\$11	0%
Total	\$230,321	\$149,847	65%

00062372 Protected Areas Financing Strategies

Main objective:

UNDP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have supported the governments of 18 countries in LAC to apply the "Financial Sustainability Scorecard for Protected Areas". As part of this process, the project developed a key technical report summarizing the finding and recommendations based on the lessons learned from efforts to ensure financial sustainability and efficiency at national level of UNDP Country Offices and TNC national teams. This report is intended to become the basis for the next 10 years of investments in protected areas in Latin America. Its main goal is to increase awareness, interest and support towards the financial sustainability of protected areas, by increasing national budgets allocated to them.

As of August 2013, the Phase II of implementation is focused on making final adjustments to the national road maps in Peru, Chile and Guatemala. All roadmaps have incorporated the recommendations of the 1st Regional meeting and have been endorsed by governments; and local consultants are being hired to carry out short term studies to support the budgeting process negotiations. In the three targeted countries, working groups with participation of the Ministry of Finance and Economy have been established and are supporting the project; and the national coordinators are facilitating day-to-day implementation in coordination with stakeholders and

reporting to the regional coordinator/project manager. Peru, Chile and Guatemala have made significant advances in their negotiations of the 2014 Budgets and beyond.

The second regional meeting October 17-19 in Cuzco, Peru concluded that the project needed to be extended until March 2014 to allow the roadmaps to be completed, the sustainability and exit strategies to be developed and a regional lesson learned document to be produced.

Project 62372 - Disbursements in 2013:

Sources of Funds	Total Budget 2013	Total Expenditures as of Dec 2013	Total Delivery rate as of Dec 2013
UNDP TRAC Funds	\$40,000	\$39,909	99.8%
Spanish Funds	\$80,643	\$71,551	89%
Moore Foundation	\$406,295	\$215,657	53%
Accum. Interest SF	\$986	\$842	85%
Total	\$527,924	\$327,959	62%

00062375 Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)

Main objective:

The REDD Regional Program of UNDP has been instrumental in supporting REDD readiness at the regional level, through support to regional dialogues and workshops, and through supporting specific countries to participate to these dialogues by leveraging REDD+ readiness funds and by strengthening their capacity to participate to these regional dialogues.

At the national level:

- In Colombia: the REDD Regional programme contributed to mobilize usd4million out of the UN-REDD program to implement a UN-REDD national programme, by facilitating the update, socialization and validation of the Readiness Preparation Proposal, by 100+ representatives from government institutions, indigenous people, community councils, afro-descendants communities, NGOs and other donors. Thanks to the validation of this R-PP, Colombia was able to present its proposal to UN-REDD Policy Board during its 10th meeting (July 2013). This document was eventually approved. The Project Document is being finalized and should be signed before the end of 2013.
- In Honduras: the REDD Regional programme contributed to mobilize FCPF funds, by facilitating the elaboration, socialization and validation of the Readiness Preparation Proposal, presented and endorsed by the FCPF (March 2013). The total grant approved by FCPF for Honduras is US \$3.8 million.
- In Peru, the REDD Regional programme, in partnership with the UN-REDD Targeted Support, contributed to effectively engage indigenous people and key stakeholders in discussions related to REDD+: anticorruption, free, prior and informed consent, benefit distribution schemes, and capacity building for effective participation. This

support was originally requested by AIDSESP and CONAP, the principal national indigenous organizations. This support placed UNDP Peru in a very strategic position to mobilize significant budget out of the Forest Investment Program -FIP- of the WB to continue the work of REDD readiness with the indigenous groups in the country.

- In Costa Rica: the REDD Regional programme contributed to support the participation of key stakeholders during the design of a national system of information and monitoring of social and environmental safeguards for the REDD+. This support complements the Targeted Support provided by UN-REDD to Costa Rica. At the regional level, the REDD Regional programme contributed to organize 4 important regional workshops dealing with issues sometimes very sensitive which can be sometimes difficult to discuss in a national forum, such as anticorruption or rights of indigenous people.
- “Anticorruption and REDD+” and its contributions towards achieving REDD+ objectives for development and climate change, January 2013 in Peru. 8 countries, 50+ participants, representatives from government, CSO, NGO, indigenous peoples, academics and UNDP officials. As a result of this workshop, a roadmap has been elaborated by each participating country to start discussion this topic at the national level, identifying partners, roles and responsibilities, and gradually include it in REDD+ discussions. Another interesting result was the invitation by COICA to UNDP to present this specific issue during its general assembly, organized in Bolivia in April 2013.
- “Participation, consultation and Consent during the preparation of REDD+”, February 2013, Peru, 8 countries, 40+ participants, representatives from government, CSO, NGO, indigenous peoples, academics and UNDP officials. As a result of this workshop, a roadmap has been elaborated by each participating country to adapt to the national circumstances and norms the UNREDD guidelines on free, prior and informed consent. A follow-up workshop has been agreed, to check progress by country before the end of the year.
- “Free Prior and Informed Consent”, in collaboration with the UNREDD programme, ILO and Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Panama, Oct 2013. 6 countries, 40+ participants, representatives from government, indigenous leaders and UNDP officers. The focus of this second workshop on FPIC is to follow-up the agreements and roadmap from the 2nd workshop, present the legal and normative frameworks related to FPIC in the different countries of the region, showcase some of the most advanced proposals in the region and define agreed upon next steps
- “System of information on safeguards for REDD+”, Peru, Oct 2013, with the UNREDD programme, CARE, TNC, USAID. 7 countries, 40+ participants, representatives from government, institutions and experts in safeguards issues. This workshop aims at sharing experiences of countries from the region on the innovative topic of SIS to speed up the definition of national systems in each participating country.

Project 62375 - Disbursements in 2013:

Sources of Funds	Total Budget 2013	Total Expenditures as of Dec 2013	Total Delivery rate as of Dec 2013
Spanish Funds	\$274,152	\$105,054	38%
Accum. Interest SF	\$3,670	\$0	0%
Total	\$277,822	\$105,054	38%

Award 50457 – FY2012 Total Budget & Total Disbursements:

Sources of Funds	Total Budget 2013	Total Expenditures as of Dec 2013	Total Delivery rate as of Dec 2013
UNDP TRAC Funds	\$80,000	\$79,779	99.7%
Spanish Funds	\$531,380	\$286,571	54%
Moore Foundation	\$406,295	\$215,657	53%
Accum. Interest SF	\$18,392	\$853	5%
Total	\$1,036,067	\$582,860	56%