**Dominican Republic Livestock Protocol**

**Workgroup Meeting 2 Notes and Takeaways**

Work Group Meeting #3 Notes – 04/13/2023 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm (DR time)

**Reserve Attendees:** Amy Kessler, Rachel Mooney, Claudia Jurado, Miguel Delgado

[**Link to review recording**](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/ErCBK6_5bqFFk28wxoXKUEZtJE_MSygJrqJxDV2LLB85jBWvCXjLWpOFKLnTDahkVexn7hTDzTOJsGt2.PBZt1cjtJiDcd3y6?canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&startTime=1681408818000&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FwcvDNRl4a8x_th34X_UEAf07vqY4ct-pQW-GuGOiF-rAaDPlFpOZ_1G0SjsVo4qT.uys9O-1udGvmiIqn%3FstartTime%3D1681408818000)

**Workgroup Members in attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization (alphabetically)** | **Name** | **Present (P) or Absent (A)** |
| AB Energía EE.UU., LLC | Jesus Solano | A |
| ATOA Consulting Pty Ltd | Sami Osman | A |
| Independent Consultant | Tomás Grammig | P |
| Independent Consultant | Nelly Cuello | P |
| Independent Consultant | Josefina Fernandez McEnvoy | A |
| Independent Consultant | José del Carmen Valenzuela | P |
| MéxiCO2 | David Colin | A |
| Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, República Dominicana | Kenia Feliz | P |
| Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, República Dominicana | Cesar Abrill | P |
| Nestlé Dominicana | Juan Crousset | A |
| Ruby Canyon Environmental | Miguel Angel Freyermuth Corona | A |
| Terralimpia Biogas Solutions | Carolina Porrello | A |

**Agenda:**

* Introductions
* Process Overview
* Protocol Considerations and Workgroup Comments
  + - Project Definition – Eligible livestock categories
    - Social and Environmental Safeguards
    - Site-specific B0 value
    - Other
    - Open Discussion
* Next Steps

**Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:**

1. **Swine Flu**

* The Reserve responded to a comment submitted by a workgroup member to clarify that livestock operations that were impacted by the H1N1 virus may be eligible if able to provide the following documentation :
  + In such cases, the start date will be associated with the date at which the system begun producing and destroying methane gas prior to going offline.
  + The impact swine flu had on the herd’s population (e.g., tests indicating positive testing for the swine flu or a mandate from the government to slaughter the swine population).
  + No destruction has occurred between the time of going offline and listing with the Reserve (e.g., biogas flow data and/or operational status of the destruction device(s) from monitoring equipment).
  + A significant investment was required to bring the project back online (e.g., receipts or invoices pertaining to the construction, maintenance, and/or ongoing costs associated with project activities).
* There were no further comments from the workgroup.

1. **Legal Requirements Test. Law No 225-20 Article 125: Treatment of Organic Waste**

* In response to the clarification on the legal requirements for the installation of biodigesters in the Dominican Republic, the Reserve suggested including the following language:

Law No 225-20 Article 125: Treatment of Organic Waste states that the treatment of waste of animal origin may be carried out using biodigesters where the biogas is then burned. To date, it’s purpose has not been to mandate the installation of a biodigester nor the destruction of biogas, but instead, has been to encourage the use biodigesters and biogas destruction in order to protect the environment, public health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  The Reserve will continue to monitor the impact Law No 225-20 Article 125 has on project eligibility.

* No further comments were received.

1. **Social safeguards**

* The Reserve updated the social safeguards section in response to the Workgroup's comment regarding ongoing dispute resolution processes as follows:
  + The Reserve holds public comment on all listed projects prior to registration and has an ongoing dispute resolution process. See the Reserve Offset Program Manual and website for further information on programmatic and project-specific public consultation and dispute resolution processes. Projects that receive material complaints will not be registered until a satisfactory dispute resolution plan has been approved.
* No further comments were received.

1. **Site Specific Determination of B0Value (Maximum Methane Potential)**

* As there are currently no labs in the DR that have the required experience for BMP testing, the Reserve's clarified that projects may use laboratories outside of the jurisdiction.
* In response to workgroup comments arguing that sampling may be costly, the Reserve noted that sampling is voluntary and default values ​​are available.
* As the Reserve has not received a dataset with monthly milk production for the DR, the Reserve will consider allowing project-specific data to demonstrate samples are from a below-average production month. Workgroup members were informed that future versions of the protocol could continue to evaluate it if the required data is obtained at the national level.
* The Reserve reviewed the B0 and VS default values from the IPCC 2006 and 2019 reports and requested confirmation that the low productivity system value would be the appropriate values to use for the DR per the IPCC definitions of low productivity and high productivity systems. The Reserve further clarified that the IPCC 2019 VS value for low productivity systems was the same as the previous value taken from the 2006 report: 0.29 M3 CH4/KG VS. .
  + A Workgroup member suggested including values from both the low and high productivity systems and allowing the project developer to select the appropriate system per project specific information to be verified.
  + A separate workgroup member advised it would be best to use the low productivity system value as it is likely to be the most appropriate for the DR and to be conservative.
  + The Reserve is reviewing which value is most appropriate.
* The Reserve reviewed the potential default values ​​for chicken and/or beef cattle per the IPCC reports, noting that only the 2006 report appeared to include the necessary values for B0, VS, and TAM,
  + It was highlighted that the B0 or ​​TAM value is not available for pullets.
  + The Reserve requested review from the Workgroup of the proposed default values; no comments were provided during the meeting.
  + It was further noted that the calculation tool may be updated in future versions of the Protocol when specific values ​​for the DR are available.

1. **Project Monitoring**

* The Reserve provided more information on project monitoring in response to the workgroup's suggestion to use the CDM AMS-III.R methodology, arguing that biogas flow monitoring can be costly for smaller operations.
  + A table of biogas flow monitoring requirements and methane concentration was presented comparing information from the CDM and the Reserve Protocol.
* The Reserve clarified that the direct monitoring requirements included in the Reserve draft protocol are more rigorous and ensure all creditsare real and conservative.
  + The Reserve will not make a change to the methane concentration as there is an alternative option for quarterly measurements instead of continuous monitoring.
* The Reserve highlighted areas within the Protocol that allows for flexibility and considerations to project design to reduce costs
* No further comments were received.

1. **Other comments**

* Consideration of reduced electricity or fossil fuel usage. The Reserve requested clarification as to the significance of these considerations for the DR, noting that they would require a significal lift to develop the quantification methodology and baseline for electric power and fossil fuels currently in use.
  + There were no further comments from the workgroup.
  + The Reserve suggested to exclude in the current protocol and consider for a future update.
* Suggestion to review Law 345-22 (August 2022) that requires the National Statistics Office (ONE, by its Spanish acronym) to produce environmental statistics according to the regionalization scheme. Reserve updated the appendix to correct to the 10 agricultural regions.
  + No further comments were received.

**Next Steps for the Workgroup:**

* The Reserve will incorporate the comments from the discussion into the draft Protocol.
* The draft Protocol will be shared with the Workgroup on May 1. Workgroup Protocol Draft Review is proposed to be held during May 1-12, 2023.