

Guatemala Forest Protocol for Offset Credits V1.0 Workgroup Meeting Notes and Takeaways

Workgroup Meeting #2 Notes – 05/12/2023 | 09:00 – 11:00 am (Guatemala time)

Reserve Attendees: Amy Kessler, Miguel Delgado, Claudia Jurado, Celeste Melendez

External consultants: Alberto Ramirez

[Link to review the recording](#)

Workgroup Members in attendance:

Organization (alphabetically)	Name	Present (P) or Absent (A)
ACOFOP	Sergio Guzman	P
Agroproyectos S.A.	Silverio Espino	P
Asociación SOPLANETSH	Xiomara Villeda	P
BRET CONSULTORES	Teresa Tattersfield	P
Carbonof	Geronimo Quiñonez Barraza	P
Climate Impact Partners	Eddy Melendez	A
Consultor Independiente	Carlos Renaldo Bonilla Alarcón	P
Consultor Independiente	Aristides Lara	P
Consultor Independiente	Teodoro Si Cuc	P
Cool Effect	Rafael Mendoza	P
EARTHLAB	Juan Pablo Caamal Sosa	P
Fundación Solar	Hugo Romeo Arriaza Moralesa	A
Itsmo Verde	Ivan Barrientos	P
Karbone, Inc.	Ariela Farchi Behar	A
MÉXICO2	Alejandra Blanco	P
Munnings Advisory Group LLC	Alicia Robinson	P
Swisscontact	Andrea Mazariegos	P
The Nature Conservancy	Sara Ortiz	P
Universidad Rafael Landívar	Roberto Moya Fernández	P
WRI	Rene Ibarra	A
YAAX Carbon	Johny Romero Correa	P

Agenda:

1. Presentations
2. Process Overview
3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
 1. Land Tenure Summary
 2. Eligible activities
 3. Environmental safeguards

4. Questions, comments, and next steps

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1. Land Tenure Categories in Guatemala. Recap from the previous meeting

- The Workgroup agreed with the general categories of land tenure in Guatemala.
- The Reserve referenced articles 705-706 of the Civil Code to clarify usufruct contracts with third-parties have temporal limitations.
- The Workgroup explained that concessions have temporal limitations that may be renewed at the end of the term, i.e. every 25 or 30 years, as established by the concession.

2. Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems

- The Workgroup agreed to the definitions of Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems as eligible activities within the protocol.
- There were no further comments from the workgroup.

3. Improved Forest Management

- The Workgroup agreed that Improved Forest Management (IFM) may be an eligible activity within the protocol.
- The Workgroup clarified that the institutions that authorize forest management programs are CONAP for protected natural areas and INAB for all other forest areas. Forest management plans are generally established for harvest cycles of 30-50 years based on the productivity of the forest.
- The Workgroup clarified that the harvest permits allow up to 100% of the annual growth for non-protected forests, which may be updated annually based on the productivity of the forest. For protected forests, CONAP limits the harvest level to 80% of annual growth. It was further noted that there is often overexploitation such that forests are often harvested beyond their permitted volume. The Reserve requested studies or reports regarding forest harvest volumes and overexploitation/deforestation.
- The Workgroup shared information on the law on overexploitation, Article 64.- Access to Primary Transformation Forestry Industries, which refers to the limit of the permitted use.

4. Reforestation

- The Workgroup agreed that Reforestation may be an eligible activity within the protocol.
- The Workgroup discussed the possibility of payment for environmental services overlapping with reforestation activities. This issue will be further discussed in WG meetings concerning additionality.

5. Restoration

- The Workgroup agreed that Restoration may be an eligible activity within the protocol.
- There were no further comments from the workgroup.

6. Urban Forests

- The Workgroup agreed that small and large urban forests may be eligible activities within the protocol.
- The Workgroup clarified that the appropriate government agencies or data source for defining urban areas are the municipal forestry offices in coordination with the Forest Registry Institute, which is part of INAB.

7. Environmental Safeguards

- The Workgroup agreed on the environmental safeguards to be considered within the protocol.
- Comments were received from the Workgroup on the following safeguards:
 - **SA2 Native species and SA3 Composition of native species**
 - i. The Workgroup clarified that the two appropriate agencies to issue a letter allowing the use of a non-native species for climate change adaptation purposes are INAB and CONAP for protected natural areas.
 - **SA4 Maintenance or increase of tree canopy cover throughout the Project Area**
 - i. The Reserve commented on the use of the tools, i-Tree Canopy and Google Earth.
 - ii. The Workgroup noted that satellite images will possibly be difficult to obtain each year. The Reserve will take this into account.

Pending Questions for the Workgroup:

- The Reserve requests studies or reports on forest harvest levels and/or overexploitation/deforestation levels in Guatemala.