

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

Work Group Meeting #5 Notes – 05/04/2023 | 11:00 – 1:00 pm (Panama time)

Reserve Assistants: Amy Kessler, Claudia Jurado, Celeste Meléndez, Miguel Delgado, Abbey Garcia

External consultants: Alberto Ramirez

[Link to review recording #5](#)

Workgroup Members in attendance:

Organization (alphabetically)	Name	Present (P) or Absent (A)
Asociación Nacional de Técnicos Forestales de Panamá – ANTEFORP	Jose Angel Rojas Gamboa	A
Bosques Amazónicos -BAM	Juan Carlos Flores Del Castillo	A
Bioforestal Innovación Sustentable	Jesus Morales	P
BRET CONSULTORES	Teresa Tattersfield	A
CO2 Cero	Andrés Silva	P
Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé	César Bernal	P
Congreso General Guna	Jorge Andreve	P
Consultora de proyectos de Carbono Forestal	Adriana Abondano Pineda	P
Consultores Ecológicos Panameños SA CEPESA	Ramon Alvarado	P
Earthshot Labs	Andrew Coates	A
Ecotopia Teak	Carlos Maestre	A
Fac. Ciencias Agropecuarias - Universidad de Panamá	Dimas Arcía	A
Fundación Natura	Rosa Montañez	A
Futuro Forestal	María Gallegos	P
Geo Forestal, S.A	Jacobo Melamed	A
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias	Geronimo Quiñonez Barraza	P
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de Panama – MiAmbiente	Veronica González	P
Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Quebec	Philippe Gregoire	P
Panama Teak & Forestry Inc	Itzel Ivon Rodriguez	P
South Pole	Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo	P
Terra Global Capital	Gregory C. Ives	A
Universidad Tecnológica de Panama	Carlos Espinosa Peña	A
Wetlands International	Andrés Fraiz	A
World Resources Institute – WRI	René Ibarra	A

Agenda:

1. Presentations
2. Process Overview
3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
 1. Recap Environmental Safeguards
 2. Social Safeguards
 3. Additionality
4. Questions, comments, and next steps

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1. Recap of Environmental Safeguard (ES)

- The Reserve summarized the environmental safeguards that were presented in the prior workgroup meeting. The Reserve is continuing to review comments received from workgroup members.

2. Social Safeguards (SS)

- The workgroup agreed that SS should be applied to all types of land tenure.
- The Reserve presented the following SS:
 - Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
 1. SS1 Forest Carbon Project Concepts
 2. SS2 Anticipated Costs
 3. SS3 Anticipated Benefits
 4. SS4 Credit Sales and Use of Funds
 5. SS5 Project Approval
 6. SS6 Project Developer Approval
 7. SS7 Aggregate Approval
 - Notification, Documentation, and Participation
 8. SS8 Proper Notification
 9. SS9 Participation
 10. SS10 Assembly Documentation
 - Project Governance
 11. SS11 Identification of a Project Coordinator (PC)
 12. SS12 Role and Participation of the PC
 13. SS13 Term of a PC & SS14 Replacing a PC
- In relation to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), the workgroup explained the process for comarcas to make decisions through the General Congress, which must comply with Law 37 for FPIC and results in a Resolution that is signed by the authorities of the comarca and has legal force. This resolution is published on Comarca's general congress web page and is notarized.
- The Workgroup explained that there is no central registry for the Resolutions but that each Comarca has its own process for publishing the Resolutions.
- The Work Group expressed that the traditional authorities in Panama consist of 12 congresses, 6 Comarcas, and 7 indigenous communities; in addition, the collective territories were granted through Law 72 of Collective Lands, and there are currently others in the process.

- The Work Group expressed that each congress, each comarca, and each collective territory has its own regulations and internal agendas, which should be taken into consideration during project design.
- The Reserve emphasized that the project coordinator must be a member of the community or comarca; the workgroup suggested individuals from the Environmental Committees of the comarcas may be well suited to serve as project coordinators as they would adequately be able to transmit the information to the comarca.
- The work group agreed on the incorporation of the SS into the protocol.

1. **Additionality**

- The Reserved explained that all projects must pass a Legal Requirements Test and Performance Standard Test (PST) to demonstrate additionality. The PST is aligned with the specific activity type (i.e. Reforestation, Small and Big Urban Forest, agroforestry and silvopasture systems, and Restoration).
- The workgroup agreed with the presented PST for Reforestation, Agroforestry/Silvopastoral Systems, and Small Urban Forest activities, which each pass the PST automatically due to meeting the specific activity definition.
- The workgroup agreed with the presented PST for Large Urban Forest activities, which uses remote sensing imagery to assess the historic trendline of forest cover.
 - The Reserve demonstrated the Restoration PST tool, which in some cases utilizes remote sensing imagery to assess the historic trendline of forest cover. MiAMBIENTE communicated that available satellite images are limited in Panama. For mangrove Restoration activities, the work group communicated that there are no specific monitoring tools to measure the degradation of mangrove forests overtime in Panama, though there are reports on deforestation.

3. **Pending Questions for the Workgroup:**

- An example of a comarca Resolution and/or links to the comarca website where the Resolutions are published.
- Review of the Restoration PED tool and any related studies on risks of deforestation or degradation specific to Panama.
- Studies on deforestation in mangrove forests in Panama.
- Pending from prior workgroup meetings:
 - Meeting with the sub-committee to assess pending land tenure considerations.
 - Further information and/or examples employing deep ripping for reforestation efforts in degraded lands and agroforestry activities.
 - Information or examples of approved forest management plans in the Comarcas.
 - Registry or public source for accessing approved forest management plans.