

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

Work Group Meeting #6 Notes – 05/18/2023 | 11:00 – 1:00 pm (Panama time)

Reserve Attendees: Amy Kessler, Celeste Meléndez, Miguel Delgado

External consultants: Alberto Ramirez

[Link to review recording #6](#)

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	P
Bioforestal Innovación Sustentable	Jesus Morales	A
BRET CONSULTORES	Teresa Tattersfield	A
CO2 Cero	Andrés Silva	A
Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé	César Bernal	P
Congreso General Guna	Jorge Andreve	P
Consultora de proyectos de Carbono Forestal	Adriana Abondano Pineda	A
Consultores Ecológicos Panameños SA – CEPSA	Ramon Alvarado	A
Earthshot Labs	Andrew Coates	A
Ecotopia Teak	Carlos Maestre	A
Fac. Ciencias Agropecuarias - Universidad de Panamá	Dimas Arcía	P
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	A
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de Panama – MiAmbiente	Veronica González	P
Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Quebec	Philippe Gregoire	A
Panama Teak & Forestry Inc	Itzel Ivon Rodriguez	P
South Pole	Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo	A
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	P

Agenda:

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

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1. Recap of Social Safeguard (SS) and additionality

- The Reserve summarized the Social Safeguards (SS) and additionality that were presented in the previous workgroup meeting. The Reserve is continuing to review comments received from workgroup members.
- The Work Group expressed that each of the comarcas has different communication processes and mechanisms regarding the decisions made at the general congress, regional congress, and local congress, which are always approved by a general congress. The Reserve expressed that the protocol would respect these communication mechanisms and dissemination of the comarcas' information, while ensuring compliance with the principles of the social safeguards, including notification, participation, and documentation.
- The Reserve expressed that the verification process would include interviews with members of the communities or comarcas to ensure that the communication of the project implementation decision is known throughout the project area and that safeguards are complied with.
- Workgroup members expressed both support and concern regarding the project area being tied to the entire comarca. The Reserve clarified that the purpose of the project area is to monitor for leakage within the forest owner's property using remote sensing and to reduce costs associated with the protocol implementation and verification processes by including multiple activity areas within one project area. The forest carbon inventory and quantification are limited to the selected activity areas. The Reserve expressed that it would analyze whether the Comarca's total area should be considered a Project Area.
- The Work Group clarified that on collective lands, there are general congresses like the general congresses of the comarcas for decision making and compliance with the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- The Reserve requested further information on governmental environmental incentive programs.
- The Reserve requested other examples of resolutions in comarcas and collective lands.
- The Gunayala community shared the website where they publish General congress resolutions: <https://gunayala.org.pa/>

2. Additionality

- The Reserve presented the following concepts related to permanence: Project Implementation Agreement (PIA), Ton/year accounting, emissions of CRTs, Reversals, and Buffer pool (contributions, redistributions, and examples).

- The Work Group expressed that in Panama, the notary public service is provided by the State, and there is no central registry.

Next meeting: June 8, 2023

Pending Questions for the Workgroup:

- An example of a collective land and comarca Resolution and/or links to the website where the Resolutions are published, particularly for collective lands.
- MiAMBIENTE to schedule a meeting with CAR to discuss the notarization process with a notary public.
- Further information on government payment for ecosystem services programs.
- The Reserve requests the following clarifications regarding Forest Management Programs(FMP):
 - For commercial PMFs: Is harvesting allowed up to 100% of the annual growth? Could you indicate if there is a specific resolution or law detailing the allowed harvesting or if this is evaluated on a case-by-case basis? Are there harvesting plans for non-commercial species, or is there a law limiting the type of species that can be harvested?
 - For comarcas PMFs: Are there commercial FMPs in the comarcas?
 - For primary, mature, and secondary forests: are only two trees per hectare per year allowed to be harvested? How is it determined whether it is a primary, mature, or secondary forest?
 - In general, is it possible to update FMPs and harvest volumes if growth is higher than estimated?
- Pending from prior workgroup meetings:
 - Meeting with the sub-committee to assess pending land tenure considerations.
 - 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.