

## Guatemala Forest Protocol for Offset Credits V1.0 Workgroup Meeting 4 Notes and Takeaways

Workgroup Meeting #4 Notes – 06/13/2023 | 09:00 – 11:00 am (Guatemala time)

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

**External consultants:** Alberto Ramirez, John Nickerson

[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	P
Consultor Independiente	Carlos Renaldo Bonilla Alarcón	P
Consultor Independiente	Aristides Lara	P
Consultor Independiente	Teodoro Si Cuc	P
Cool Effect	Rafael Mendoza	A
EARTHLAB	Juan Pablo Caamal Sosa	P
Fundación Solar	Hugo Romeo Arriaza Moralesa	A
Itsmo Verde	Ivan Barrientos	P
Karbone, Inc.	Ariela Farchi Behar	P
MÉXICO2	Alejandra Blanco	P
Munnings Advisory Group LLC	Alicia Robinson	A
Swisscontact	Miguel Chacón (alternative)	P
The Nature Conservancy	Sara Ortiz	P
Universidad Rafael Landívar	Roberto Moya Fernández	A
WRI	Rene Ibarra	A
YAAX Carbon	Johny Romero Correa	A

### Agenda:

1. Presentations
2. Process Overview
3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
  1. Summary Social Safeguards and Additionality
  2. Quantification Principles
  3. Permanence
  4. MRV

4. Questions, comments, and next steps

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

**1. Summary of Social Safeguards & Additionality. Recap from the previous meeting**

- 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 concerning the Restoration PST tool and related studies on risks of deforestation or degradation in mangroves and the rest of forest lands.
- The Reserve proposed the consideration of social safeguards for any type of forest owner (public, private, and communal lands). A WG member asked whether social safeguards applied to different owners would result in different CRT pricing. The Reserve team explained that all projects would be required to comply with social safeguards and that the pricing of credits is outside of the scope of the protocol. CRTs generated under this protocol will be eligible for the voluntary carbon market, which does not have a fixed price.
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**2. GHG Assessment Boundary**

- The Reserve presented the boundaries for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assessment of the forest protocol, which includes the following sources, sinks, and reservoirs:
  - i. Primary effects:
    - (2) Standing live carbon
    - (3) Standing dead carbon
  - ii) Secondary effects:
    - (10) Mobile combustion emissions from site preparation activities
    - (13) Emissions from clearing of shrubs and herbaceous understory carbon
    - (14) Biological emissions from clearing of forestland outside the Activity Area for agriculture and/or grazing
    - (15) Biological GHG emissions/removals from changes in timber harvesting on forestland outside of the Activity Area
- The Reserve requested studies to determine ratio estimators (t CO<sub>2</sub>e) for the different canopy cover analyses proposed in the Protocol. Additionally, studies from Mexico are being evaluated for applicability in Guatemala.
- There were no further comments from the workgroup.

**3. Quantification of GHG Removals and CRTs**

- The Reserve explained the Steps for GHG Quantification as follows:
  - (1) Quantify the Activity Area (AA) live and dead standing carbon
  - (2) Determine the AA baseline of carbon stocks.
  - (3) Calculate the AA Primary Effect for each Activity Area: the actual change in GHG removals associated with the expected effects must be quantified.
  - (4) Quantify the AA Secondary Effects for each Activity Area: Enhancement activities by the Forest Project may result in increased forest carbon emissions outside the Forest Project unexpected.
  - (5) Calculate the total GHG removals
  - (6) Calculate the CRTs to be issued.

- The Reserve explained it has developed an Access Database tool called CALCBOKS to calculate and manage carbon forest inventories based on field data. Further, it has a Spreadsheet that facilitates quantification of CRTs in coordination with CALCBOSK.
- A WG member asked about the process for establishing the baseline. The Reserve explained the rationale for the baseline setting process proposed by the Protocol. No further comments were received.

#### **4. Permanence**

- The Reserve presented both the concept and procedures of Permanence. Related concepts were analyzed:
  - Project Implementation Agreement (PIA),
  - Ton/year accounting, emissions of CRTs, Reversals, and
  - Buffer pool (contributions, redistributions, and examples). The Reserve is reviewing the risk percentages in order to adapt them to Guatemala.
- There were no further comments from the workgroup.

#### **5. Monitoring, Report and Verification (MRV)**

- The Reserve explained the cycle of the Reporting and Verification Periods as follows:
  - I. The first reporting period can be up to 12 months from the project start date.
  - II. Each subsequent reporting period has a duration of 12 months.
  - III. Annual Monitoring Reports are required within the 12 months after each Reporting Period.
  - IV. Full verifications (i.e. typically requiring site visits) should be performed every 6 years with the option to perform a desk verification in the interim years to receive credits more frequently.
- The different levels of monitoring proposed by the Protocol were presented. In addition to the main project documentation and the monitoring cycle. Further, the Verification process and different types of Verification were discussed.

#### **Pending Questions for the Workgroup:**

- Review the Restoration PST tool and related studies on risks of deforestation or degradation.
- Studies on deforestation in mangrove forests in Guatemala.
- The Reserve requested studies to determine ratio estimators (t CO<sub>2</sub>e) for the different canopy cover analyses proposed in the Protocol.
- The Reserve requested the Workgroup to send a sample of the official assembly minutes and provide further information on how the assembly minutes are published and/or shared with the community members as well as the communal governance structure in general.
- The Reserve requested the Workgroup to provide a forest management plan, the INAB/CONAP approval document, and an authorized harvesting license.