

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

Work Group Meeting #7 Notes – 06/08/2023 | 11:00 – 1:00 pm (Panama time)

Reserve Attendees: Amy Kessler, Celeste Meléndez, Claudia Jurado, Miguel Delgado.

External consultants: Alberto Ramirez

[Link to review recording #7](#)

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	A
Congreso General Guna	Jorge Andreve	P
Consultora de proyectos de Carbono Forestal	Adriana Abondano Pineda	P
Consultores Ecológicos Panameños SA – CEPSA	Ramon Alvarado	P
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	P
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	P
Panama Teak & Forestry Inc	Itzel Ivon Rodriguez	A
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	P

Agenda:

1. Presentations
2. Process Overview
3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
 - Recap of Permanence
 - Quantification and MRV
4. Questions, comments, and next steps

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1) Recap of Permanence

- The Reserve summarized the Permanence concepts that were presented in the previous workgroup meeting. The Reserve is continuing to review comments received from workgroup members.

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

3) Quantification of GHG Removals and CRTs

- The reserve presented 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) Calculation of total GHG removals
 - (6) Calculation of the CRTs to be issued.
- The Reserve explained it has developed an Access Database tool called CALCBOOKS to calculate and manage carbon forest inventories based on field data.
- MiAMBIENTE expressed that all forestry projects must have a Management Plan approved by MiAMBIENTE, depending on the type of project, are required to have an environmental impact assessment. MiAMBIENTE explained that all projects in natural forests belong to the forest patrimony of the State and require approval from MiAMBIENTE. The Reserve will ensure that projects under the forest protocol comply with the applicable Panamanian regulations. Regarding land tenure, the Reserve is working

with MiAMBIENTE as an interlocutor with the competent governmental authorities to address land tenure matters.

- The Reserve clarified that within the GHG quantifications, carbon in tree roots is included as a conservative default value of 20% of the total above-ground carbon.
- A Work Group member suggested the Reserve could incorporate into CALCBOSK tree growth rates based on studies in Panama since most projects will be developed in jungle forests without growth rings. The Reserve said it would be willing to look over studies on forest growth rates in Panama; however, project-specific field data is typically required or in the lieu of project-specific field data to support growth estimates, growth estimates based on regional studies may be used. Moreover, the growth estimates in CALCBOSK are adjusted as field plots are remeasured, and growth can be trued-up.

4) Report and Verification

- The Reserve expressed the cycle of the Verification Reporting Period as follows:
 - ii) The first reporting period can be up to 12 months from the project start date.
 - iii) Each subsequent reporting period has a duration of 12 months.
 - iv) Annual Monitoring Reports are required within the 12 months after each Reporting Period.
 - v) 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.

5) Next in-person meeting: June 30, 2023, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Salón Coiba, Senacyt, Ciudad del Saber

- A link to join remotely for observers will be published online.
- For workgroup members that cannot join in-person, please advise to be added as panelists.

Pending Questions for the Workgroup:

- Meeting with the sub-committee to assess pending land tenure considerations.
- Meeting with MiAMBIENTE to assess pending comments and questions.
- Receiving comments from the Workgroup of the Permanence section of the protocol shared via email on July 2.
- Studies on tree growth rates in Panama.