

Guatemala Forest Protocol for Offset Credits V1.0 Workgroup Meeting 3 Notes and Takeaways

Workgroup Meeting #3 Notes – 05/30/2023 | 09:00 – 11:00 am (Guatemala time)

Reserve Attendees: 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 | A |
| Agroproyectos S.A. | Silverio Espino | P |
| Asociación SOPLANETSH | Xiomara Villeda | A |
| BRET CONSULTORES | Teresa Tattersfield | P |
| Carbonof | Geronimo Quiñonez Barraza | A |
| Climate Impact Partners | Eddy Melendez | P |
| Consultor Independiente | Carlos Renaldo Bonilla Alarcón | A |
| Consultor Independiente | Aristides Lara | A |
| Consultor Independiente | Teodoro Si Cuc | P |
| Cool Effect | Rafael Mendoza | P |
| EARTHLAB | Oscar Ruiz (alternative) | P |
| Fundación Solar | Hugo Romeo Arriaza Moralesa | P |
| Itsmo Verde | Ivan Barrientos | P |
| Karbone, Inc. | Ariela Farchi Behar | P |
| MÉXICO2 | Yulisa Camacho (alternative) | 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 | P |
| YAAX Carbon | Johny Romero Correa | P |

Agenda:

1. Presentations
2. Process Overview
3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
 1. Summary Land Tenure, Eligible Activities & Environmental Safeguards
 2. Social safeguards
 3. Additionality
4. Questions, comments, and next steps

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1. Summary Land Tenure, Eligible Activities & Environmental Safeguards. Recap from the previous meeting

- The Reserve summarized the land tenure, eligible activities, and environmental safeguards that were presented in the previous workgroup meetings. The Reserve is continuing to review comments received from workgroup members.
- The Reserve asked how mangrove land tenure is delimited. The Workgroup explained that mangroves can have any type of property (for example, public, private, or communal). The property regime for concessions and permits is defined by the Office of Control of Areas in State Reserves (OCRET, by its Spanish acronym) and it has a temporary limitation that can be renewed. Likewise, CONAP authorizes management and operation plans for protected areas and INAB for the rest of forest lands. Finally, WG noted that little information is available on mangroves.
- Reserve requested clarification on the laws governing mangrove protection in Guatemala. Please provide information on current legislation or regulations concerning mangroves (protection, land tenure, use of usufruct, etc.). The Workgroup shared the Law Regulating Territorial Reserve Areas of the State of Guatemala. The Reserve is continuing to review the comments and information provided.

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)
 - SS1 Forest Carbon Project Concepts
 - SS2 Anticipated Costs
 - SS3 Anticipated Benefits
 - SS4 Credit Sales and Use of Funds
 - SS5 Project Approval
 - SS6 Project Developer Approval
 - SS7 Aggregate Approval
 - Notification, Documentation, and Participation
 - SS8 Proper Notification
 - SS9 Participation
 - SS10 Assembly Documentation
 - Project Governance
 - SS11 Identification of a Project Coordinator (PC)
 - SS12 Role and Participation of the PC
 - SS13 Term of a PC & SS14 Replacing a PC
- The Workgroup agreed on the incorporation of the SS into the protocol.
- The Reserve asked the Workgroup if the social safeguards should apply to all project types or only communal properties. There was a diversity of opinions, with workgroup members both in favor of applying the social safeguards to private lands and limiting them to communal lands. The Reserve will continue to analyze the Workgroup's comments.

- In relation to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), the workgroup confirmed that there is no legal framework for FPIC. However, it is ratified by the State in Decree 9-96 of the Congress of the Republic 1996.
- The Reserve asked about decision-making processes on communal lands. The Workgroup explained that there are Community Councils for Urban and Rural Development (COCODE, by its Spanish acronym), which is a community governance structure formed by community leaders that are organized to hold assemblies to make decisions with community participation. In this regard, the COCODE drafts the assembly minutes with the topics discussed and the decisions made, which are available for consultation in an assembly minute book.
- 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.

3. 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 Silvopastoral systems, and Restoration).
- The Workgroup agreed with the presented PST for Reforestation, Agroforestry/Silvopastoral Systems, and Small Urban Forest activities.
- The Workgroup agreed with the presented PST for Large Urban Forest activities.
- The Reserve confirmed with the WG that the Forest Management Plans (FMP) are documents approved by INAB or CONAP that allow the harvesting of timber. In this regard, the Reserve asked if it is possible to update the FMP and the harvest volumes if the growth is higher than estimated. It was confirmed that it is possible to amend the volumes of use by paying for license renewal.
- The Reserve requested the Workgroup to provide a forest management plan, the INAB/CONAP approval document, and an authorized harvesting license in order to become familiar with the documentation.
- The Reserve asked if there are commercial FMPs within the communal lands aside from the ones with forestry concessions. The Workgroup explained that there are PMFs in the communities that do not necessarily have concessions. It was also clarified that there are other community groups involved in forest resource management, for example, cooperatives and/or associations.
- The Workgroup asked if historical FMPs are requested. The Reserve clarified that only the most up-to-date FMP is requested for the purpose of confirming eligibility as an IFM activity; however, the Reserve would like to clarify that historic FMPs are requested to evaluate secondary effects (leakage), which will be reviewed further in the next Workgroup meeting.
- The Reserve demonstrated the Restoration PST tool. There was a request for studies on the dynamics of forest cover in the country. The Workgroup commented that there are no updated forest cover studies (the most recent is from 2016) and the next one that includes up to 2020 will potentially be published soon.
- Regarding mangroves, the Workgroup confirmed that there is a monitoring system, but is not functional. In the Workgroup's view, some universities in the country conduct mangrove inventories to support the completion of this information in the Protocol.

Pending Questions for the Workgroup:

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