

Guatemala Forest Protocol for Offset Credits V1.0 Workgroup Meeting 5 Notes and Takeaways

Workgroup Meeting #5 Notes – 08/02/2023 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (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	A
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	A
Cool Effect	Rafael Mendoza	A
EARTHLAB	Oscar Ruíz (alternative)	P
Fundación Solar	Hugo Romeo Arriaza Moralesa	P
Itsmo Verde	Ivan Barrientos	P
Karbone, Inc.	Ariela Farchi Behar	P
MÉXICO2	Alejandra Blanco	P
Munnings Advisory Group LLC	Alicia Robinson	A
Swisscontact	Andrea Mazariegos	A
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. GFP Draft - Key Considerations
4. Questions, comments, and next steps

Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

Key Changes to the Initial Draft

1. Section 2.- Stages of Project Development and Maintenance

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 2 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings regarding Project Area and Activity Areas.
- There were no further comments from the Workgroup (WG).

2. Section 3.- Eligibility Criteria and Participation Requirements

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 2 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings, which includes the following:
 - 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 Communal, Public & Private property
 - 3.6 Required Documentation for Land Tenure Status
 - 3.7 Conflicts
 - The WG confirmed that as of August 2020 the Secretary of Agrarian Affairs (SAA) transferred the function of issuing certificates of no-conflicts to the Secretariat for Peace.
 - The Reserve will continue to evaluate which is the appropriate government entity to certify the non-existence of land tenure conflicts.
 - 3.9 Social safeguards, Table 3.1 & Table 3.2
 - 3.10 Environmental safeguards, Table 3.3
 - The Reserve clarified that allometric equations approved by CONAP for tree species to be included in the standardized quantification tool (CALCBOSK) will be prioritized, followed by equations approved by the United Nations.
 - Parcialidades
 - The WG commented that there are no time limitations for the Title of Conformation of Partialities and there is no specific regulation outside of ministerial agreements. In addition, the government may decide on the resources managed by the Parcialidades, however, it is not a common practice.
 - The Reserve will continue to evaluate the inclusion of Parcialidades in the Protocol.
 - 3.13.2.1 Performance Standard Test for IFM AAs
 - 3.13.2.2 Performance Standard Test for Reforestation AAs
 - The Reserve will require a project has had 10% or less forest cover at the start date and a minimum of 10 years prior to the start date for Reforestation Activity Area's PST.
 - 3.13.2.3 Performance Standard Test for Restoration AAs
 - 3.14 Minimum time commitment

3. Section 5.- Quantifying Net GHG Removals and CRTs

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 5 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings, which includes the following:
 - Equation 5.1 Annual Net GHG Removals
 - 5.2 Determining the AA baseline
 - Permissible harvesting in protected areas

- The Reserve will continue to review CONAP unwritten guidance limiting harvesting up to 80% of the average annual increment to evaluate considerations for IFM baseline development.
- There were no further comments from the Workgroup.

4. **Section 6.- Ensuring the Permanence of Credited GHG Removals**

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 6 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings regarding PIA and communal permanence commitments.
- The Reserve will continue to evaluate which is the appropriate government entity to register the PIA, since SAA no longer exists.
- There were no additional comments from the Workgroup.

5. **Section 7.- Project Documentation, Monitoring, and Verification**

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 7 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings, which includes the following:
 - Table 7.2. Monitoring Requirements and Schedule for Compliance with Social Safeguards on Communal lands
 - New table 7.3 Monitoring Requirements and Schedule for Compliance with Social Safeguards on Public & Private Lands.
 - 7.3 Monitoring Objectives and Results for Non-Compliance
- There were no additional comments from the Workgroup.

6. **Section 8.- Project verification**

- The Reserve summarized the changes to Section 8 of the draft Protocol introduced at previous Workgroup meetings, which includes the following:
 - Government Agency that oversees registration of certified professional foresters as part of the Protocol requirements for site visit verifications.
 - The Workgroup commented that the Colegio de Ingenieros Forestales Agrónomos de Guatemala can act as the National Certifier of the Professional Competence of Forestry Professionals. It was also noted that INAB or CONAP has a list of Forest Regents/Forest Management Plan Developers.
 - 8.3.4 Project SSs. Table 8.3 & table 8.4

Pending Questions for the Workgroup:

- Information on the appropriate government entity to certify non-existence of land tenure conflicts.
- Information/studies on governance and forest management in the Parcialidades.
- Information/studies on CONAP unwritten guidance limiting harvesting up to 80% of the average annual.