

## REQUEST FOR TARGETED SUPPORT<sup>1</sup>

*Support the Implementation of a National Forest Monitoring System for the measurement, monitoring and reporting process for REDD+ in Ecuador<sup>2</sup>*

I. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (complete cells in white)	
Main objective	Support forest monitoring efforts of the Ministry of Environment and implement the National Forest Monitoring System for the measurement, monitoring and reporting process for REDD+ primordial for the implementation of REDD+ Action Plan in the country, towards demonstrating national performance of emission reductions from deforestation and accessing and obtaining results based finance, in accordance to relevant decisions for REDD+ and Green House Gases Inventories for Non Annex I countries, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Main results expected	<p>The main results expected from the implementation of the technical and financial support (targeted support) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support to the National Forest Monitoring System for the measurement, monitoring and reporting</b> for emission reductions achieved through the implementation of REDD+ activities (in the context of REDD+ results based payments) <b>implemented</b> against Forest Reference Emission Level for deforestation assessed by the UNFCCC and based in monitoring of forest coverage changes at national level.</li> <li>• <b>GHG Inventory System established</b>, including the development of the 2010 GHG Inventory to be presented in the Biennial Update Report for the UNFCCC; the development of the automatization of the National Inventory System, which needs a previous process</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> It is voluntary to use this form in the application process for UN-REDD Programme targeted support. If the country prefers using its own document, this form can be used as guidance on the content that is needed. See also guidance in the [Procedures for Accessing UN-REDD Programme Targeted Support](#).

The requests for targeted support should be presented in coordination with the teams of the participating UN organizations (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and the Resident Coordinator.

It is recommended that the UN-REDD Country Focal Point submits the request. The request should be sent to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat (E-mail: [un-redd@un-redd.org](mailto:un-redd@un-redd.org)). The Resident Coordinator to be copied on the request.

<sup>2</sup> Targeted Support proposed hereby is expected to support implementation and continuity of activities designed with the support of Ecuador's National Joint UNREDD Programme and previous TS on MRV with FAO. More information and background supporting the request will be provided in section II of this document.



	mapping; as well as the development of the 2012 GHG inventory and the updating process of the GHG inventories (LULUCF and Agriculture sectors), to be included in the Third National Communication.
Total amount requested (US\$)	595.100,00
Related Work Area/s <sup>3</sup> as defined in the <b>UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015</b>	Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)
Planned period of implementation <sup>4</sup>	09/2015 – 11/2016 (14 months)
Please select below type of funding as appropriate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD + activities implemented in support of existing UN-REDD National Programmes. <input type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD+ activities complementary to other nationally-defined REDD+ activities (national strategies, RPP and/or bilaterally funded REDD+ activities) or for initiation of REDD+ activities. (The country has no UN-REDD National Programme.	
<b>II. BACKGROUND<sup>5</sup></b> Please describe the background to the request. Examples of relevant content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief description of status of REDD+ readiness in the country and the national REDD+ efforts.</li> <li>- Rationale for the needed support (it should represent additional and specific contribution to national REDD+ efforts with a view to fill gaps or to leverage other activities).</li> <li>• Clearly provide linkages to National REDD+ strategies.</li> <li>• If the country has a UN-REDD National Programme or is the pipeline for a National Programme, review how the needed support fits into the National Programme/R-PP.</li> <li>• If the request is addressing results of a country needs assessment, please contextualize within overall results of the needs assessment.</li> </ul>	

<sup>3</sup> The work areas are: Monitoring Reporting Verification (MRV), Governance, Stakeholder Engagement, Multiple Benefits, Transparency & Accountability, Green Economy.

<sup>4</sup> Period: from month/year to month/year.

<sup>5</sup> Depending on the phase of the country in its REDD+ efforts, some of these details are relevant. Others may be too detailed and can be further elaborated if the request is approved.

Ecuador is at an advanced stage of its *REDD+ readiness* phase and aims to move towards the implementation of results-based REDD+ activities in the context of results-based finance while implementing its national strategy or action plan as a policy instrument that contributes to tackling main drivers of deforestation while contributing to sustainable development broader policies.

The MAE together with the NJP, in closure phase, has implemented awareness raising, information and capacity building processes at national and local level aiming for a full and effective participation of key stakeholders in the design and implementation of REDD+. These efforts will continue during the implementation of the national strategy or action plan aiming to ensure full and effective participation during REDD+ implementation. The country has also done important progress with regards to the Safeguards Information System, for which a national approach towards safeguards has been established and the SIS has already been designed at a methodological and concept stage. Completion and implementation of the SIS, together with processes aiming to address and respect safeguards, will be implemented during the completion of REDD+ readiness and REDD+ implementation phase.

Taking into consideration main drivers of deforestation identified by the MAE, together with information on REDD+ related costs, legal / policy analysis and instruments to enable REDD+ implementation, and strategic options of policy measures and local actions delivered by the NJP are now the basis for a national strategy or action plan, currently under completion with the support of the NJP. This national strategy or action plan will allow Ecuador to allocate REDD+ results-based finance and other financial sources to contribute on reducing emissions from deforestation, as well as to reinforce broader national policies for sustainable development and sustainable management in the forestry and land use sectors. All activities referred to above (national strategy or action plan, SIS, participation and engagement processes) will be supported between 2015 and 2016 by a broader TS already approved to be implemented by UNDP.

So far, Ecuador has already developed a National Forest Inventory, geographically explicit time-series for deforestation as well as implements wall-to-wall processes for forest coverage and loss monitoring. Also, Ecuador – based on the information mentioned above – has been able to develop the 2010 GHG Inventory for the Agriculture Sector and is currently working on the calculation process of the 2010 GHG Inventory for the LULUCF sector to be submitted to the UNFCCC in Ecuador's First Biennial Update Report (BUR) aiming to ensure methodological consistency with the FREL/FRL as per decisions 12/CP.17 and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

All the processes and information detailed above allowed Ecuador – by the end of 2014 - to construct its National Forest Reference Emission Level for deforestation for the national level which was submitted to the UNFCCC for the Technical Assessment process by December 2014 and during the first semester of 2015, Ecuador has gone successfully through the TA process in implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. It is important to highlight that progress mentioned related to the National Forest Monitoring System and FREL – together with the update and establishment of GHG inventories – has been possible with the support of – first – the NJP and – recently - from the Targeted Support with UNREDD/FAO for the 'Design and Implementation of a MRV Process for REDD+ in Ecuador', currently under implementation.

However, even though significant progress has done with the support of the TS with FAO, mentioned above, additional reconsiderations and improvements were required with regards to processes of estimating and reporting data in the of the FREL submission technical assessment under the UNFCCC. This reconsiderations and improvements were needed not only for methodologies and calculations on forest changes for the FREL but also when calculating the GHG inventories in order to ensure that information provided and used in the construction of the FREL was 'transparent, complete, consistent and accurate'.

Therefore, in spite of outcomes expected with the TS under implementation aimed to support both 'design and implementation' of a MRV process for results based activities, some activities required to focus on design phase only in order to consider recommendations received from the UNFCCC's Assessment Team in a revised version of the FREL submission, already resubmitted to the UNFCCC. Also, a series of improvements' suggestions for short term consideration have also been derived from the FREL technical assessment.

In this regard, Ecuador has identified the need for a second phase of a Targeted Support with FAO, which would be focused in the completing the design – and implementation - of the MRV Process for REDD+ in Ecuador, including activities related to the NFMS and MRV of emission reductions, but also with regards to continuing the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in terms of supporting MAE to develop the 'REDD+ technical annex' to be included in the BUR and also providing information on safeguards 'f' and 'g' during the implementation of a Safeguards Information System and the development of summaries of information on how safeguards have been addressed and respected during the design and implementation of REDD+ activities and the national strategy or action plan.

### III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Please describe the main objectives and activities of the request.

- Provide details on type of support requested and include any needs for in-kind support such as knowledge, capacity building or technical information.
- If the country has a UN-REDD National Programme, describe how the requested support will fill gaps / be complementary to the already received funding for the National Programme.

As detailed in the background section, this request aims to complement previously approved TS with FAO, currently under implementation, in terms of finalizing design of some activities and supporting Ecuador in actual implementation, which was not possible with current TS due to reasons detailed in the previous section and to newly acquired needs in the country with regards to the NFMS and the FREL. These new needs will help the country move towards an implementation phase of the NFMS in the context of the implementation of a national strategy or action plan for REDD+. Therefore, objectives of this TS request focus on an implementation phase of objectives of the same 'MRV process for REDD+ in Ecuador':

1. To support the implementation of a national forest monitoring system for the measurement, monitoring and reporting of (among other things) emission reductions achieved through the implementation of REDD+ activities at national level, in the context of REDD+ results based finance. Activities considered to accomplish the expected outcome include:
  - a. Complete and implement the process to provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and are suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions based on the most updated methodological guidance for MRV agreed by Parties under the UNFCCC and in consistency with the Forest Reference Emissions Level for deforestation assessed by the UNFCCC and GHG Inventories to be submitted through the BUR.
  - b. Complete and implement a monitoring protocol to identify the performance of measures and local actions to be funded by the National REDD+ Action Plan, in order to verify their effective contribution to tackle drivers of deforestation.
  - c. Follow up of the FRELs technical assessment and development of the Technical Annex to be included in the BUR.
  - d. Support the Natural Heritage Monitoring Unit to generate and update data and information on forest coverage and forest loss monitoring not only for deforestation but moving towards other REDD+ activities, with emphasis on degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks.
2. To contribute to the development of Ecuador's GHG Inventory System and the Biennial Update Report (BUR). Activities considered to accomplish the expected outcome include:
  - a. Development of the 2012 GHG Inventory for the Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sectors.
  - b. Review and update of the GHG inventories for the years 1990, 1994, 2000, 2006 for the Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sectors.
  - c. Contribute to complete the development of a software-like tool for the GHG Inventories System as a contribution for Ecuador's Biennial Update Report (BUR) and Third National Communication.

The request for the targeted support has considered financial but also technical support from the UN-REDD Programme through one of its Implementation Agencies, FAO, from global, regional and local offices, in accordance to previous implementation arrangements for the TS under current implementation with FAO.

The financial support considered in this request will enable the MAE to ensure sustainability of full time technical team hired under the TS under implementation, to implement specific processes and activities to deliver the expected outcomes (detailed in section I and above) and to carry in the preparation of processes and protocols to ensure sustainability and institutionalization of the NFMS in the country. International consultants will continue to be required to support and review: the MRV process; the monitoring protocol for measures and actions to be implemented as part of the PNREDD+, and; GHG inventories.

The results already achieved through the NJPs and the previous TS (FAO) have been mentioned in the above section. Outcomes and outputs expected from this targeted support will help the country to



complement - and continue with - efforts being undertaken with regards to the NFMS and its M&MRV functions, and FREL related processes in the context of REDD+ results-based activities and finance.

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Please describe the implementing arrangements for the activities planned.

- Include the main implementing institutions and partner institutions.
- Explain what measures were taken to engage indigenous peoples and civil society, as applicable

The targeted support will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, through the Undersecretariat of Climate Change, as national partner in close coordination with FAO as Implementation Agency and with the operational support of current coordination and technical team under the current TS (FAO).

The activities defined under this targeted support will require hiring a full time technical team in charge of implementing activities under the outcomes detailed above, as well as hiring consultants for specific activities as detailed in the annex, under the direct coordination of the Undersecretariat of Climate Change, in order to ensure close coordination with other partners mentioned below. It is important to mention that most of the required technical team has already been identified and hired under the current TS, however contracts would require to be renewed under other cooperation taking into consideration available funds.

Implementation of activities detailed in the annex will continue to require close coordination with the Undersecretariat of Natural Heritage (Natural Heritage Monitoring System), the Unified System of Environmental Information (SUIA, in Spanish) and the Project for the Development of Ecuador's Biennial Update Report and Third National Communication, as main partners within the Ministry of Environment.

Implementation of activities detailed in the annex will also require the engagement of FAO national, regional and global offices and staff for technical support.

## V. FUNDING SOURCE

Please indicate any co-funding for the planned activities.

The Undersecretariat of Climate Change has a full time technical team in charge of the design and implementation of Ecuador's National REDD+ Programme; however this technical team continues to be short in number in spite of the support received so far by the NJP UN-REDD Programme<sup>6</sup>.

The Undersecretariat of Natural Heritage is going through a formal process to establish is Natural Heritage Monitoring System (National Forest Monitoring System - NFMS), which aims to institutionalize processes of data collection and analysis and wall-to-wall forest monitoring, which so far have been implemented with projects with the support of international and multilateral cooperation, such as GIZ, KfW, OTCA, FAO Finland and Ecuador's UNREDD NJP and TS (FAO) as well. This processes of what would be the country's NFMS will be implemented mostly with public funds from the Ministry of Environment. However in this phase, additional financial support – through the TS being requested here – is still needed and would help the country moving towards an institutionalization of the NFMS capacities in the context of REDD+ implementation and REDD+ results-based payments under the UNFCCC.

The Project for the Development of Ecuador's Biennial Update Report (BUR) and Third National Communication (TCN) (funded by GEF/UNDP and supported by the FOCAM project, funded by UNDP/LECB) is in charge of the establishment of a GHG Inventories System (to be institutionalized in the future in the Ministry of Environment) as well as of the development of the Biennial Update Report and Third National Communication, to be submitted by the country to the UNFCCC on August/September<sup>7</sup> 2014 and 2016, respectively.

This project is currently working closely to the SUIA in the development of a software-like tool which will enable MAE to collect and analyse information from all five IPCC sectors for the country's GHG inventories. The BUR-TCN project is currently funding activities related to other sectors and will continue to be co-funded by the targeted support for LULUCF and Agriculture sectors. This project, in coordination with activities establish in this request, will support the MAE in the development of the REDD+ technical annex to be included in the BUR.

As already detailed above, the MAE together with FAO is currently implementing a Targeted Support, up to September 2015. Activities proposed for this targeted support will be developed on the basis of -and complement- current activities implemented with the technical and financial support of the previous TS to ensure continuity until MAE is in the capacity to institutionalize NFMS, its M&MRV functions and FREL related processes so far supported by the UNREDD Programme.

## VI. SUMMARIZED WORKPLAN WITH BUDGET AND TIMELINE

*(Please expand space as needed. Alternatively, add Annex with workplan, budget and timeline)*

Description of planned outputs and activities	Amount (US\$)	Implementation period (from month /year to month/year)
1. Support to National Forest Monitoring System for the measurement, monitoring and reporting of (among other things ) emission reductions achieved through the implementation of REDD+ activities implemented		09/2015 – 09/2016

<sup>6</sup> It is important to mention that currently Ecuador's technical and financial aid for REDD+ has been reduced significantly due to political matters related to German Cooperation (both GIZ and KfW, including a potential financial agreement with the REDD Early Mover programme for results-based payments).

<sup>7</sup> Revised estimated dates.



1.1 Support to implement the National Monitoring and MRV System processes for REDD+ (including support for generating data and information for the NFMS)	221.400,00	
1.2 Support to design and implement the monitoring protocols to identify the performance of measures and local actions to be funded by the National REDD+ Action Plan	152.200,00	
<b>2. Support to the GHG Inventory System for the Agriculture and LULUCF Sectors design and implementation</b>		<b>09/2015 – 09/2016</b>
2.1 Support to the development of the 2010 GHG Inventory and updating of GHG Inventories of previous years for the Agriculture and LULUCF Sectors	109.100,00	
2.2 Support to complete the design and implementation of a software-like tool for the GHG Inventories System - Agriculture and LULUCF Sectors	112.400,00	
<b>Total amount requested (US\$)</b>		<b>595.100,00</b>

#### VII. MONITORING OF PROGRESS AND REPORTING

Please describe how the progress of planned activities and outputs will be monitored and reported by time.

Outcomes, outputs and activities identified for this targeted support are detailed with a proposed budget in the annex. A workplan and/or an Annual Operational Plan (AOP), including timeline and means of implementation, will be further developed as a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the progress and achievement of expected outputs and outcomes.

The implementation of activities considered in this targeted support will be monitored by a designated focal point in the Undersecretariat of Climate Change (SCC), in charge of the National REDD+ Action Plan. This focal point will look forward the correct implementation of activities according to the workplan/AOP as well as to ensure consistency and coordination with other processes under the SCC related to the design and implementation of National REDD+ Action Plan.

#### IV. UN-REDD COUNTY FOCAL POINT (name and title)<sup>8</sup>

María del Carmen García, National Climate Change Mitigation Director, (Surrogate) and REDD+ Focal Point  
Cristina García, (Alternate)



(Signature)

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