

21st session of the Committee on Forestry 2012 and the third World Forest Week

“THE MONITORING OF FORESTS FOR REDD+ IN PARAGUAY”

Side Event, 26 September 2012, 10.15-11.15 hours

Rome, FAO, Austria meeting room (C237)

Within the context of REDD+ and as requested in the paragraph 71 of the Decision 1/CP.16 (Cancun Agreements) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the set-up of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) represents the need for a country to follow all the actions related to the implementation of its national REDD+ policies and measures and a platform to access to their results. These actions should be related, directly or indirectly, to the national REDD+ strategies and may also include actions unrelated to carbon assessment, for example forest law enforcement. These systems have the main objective of monitoring and facilitating the reporting of the five REDD+ activities (reducing emissions from deforestation, reducing emissions from forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks).

The Government of the Republic of Paraguay recognizes the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC and aims to implement these with regards to forest monitoring on national scale in the country. In July 2011 the national forestry institute (Instituto Nacional Forestal, INFONA), the Federation for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples (“Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas” FAPI) and the ministry of environment (Secretaria del Ambiente, SEAM), signed the Paraguay National Joint Programme (NJP) of the UN-REDD. The main objective of the NJP is to help the Government establishing and implementing a national REDD+ programme. To facilitate a quick implementation of some of the components of the NJP, in February 2012 the UN-REDD Secretariat accepted the request of the Government of Paraguay to receive a targeted support from FAO for the start up and development of a robust and transparent NFMS.

The NFMS of Paraguay aims at establishing a system to address domestic and international monitoring needs and international MRV reporting requirements for REDD+ activities. The NFMS will also help in the monitoring of information on sustainable management of forests. This system was established on the basis of existing remote sensing data, technologies and cartography in the country. It includes tools developed by FAO and by the National Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE, Sao José dos Campos, Brazil). In the beta version of the web portal (<http://paraguay-smf.org>) the user can find existing national data, such as forest cover maps, forest types, maps of protected areas and of forest areas under management (for further information please refer to the information note at [http://paraguay-smf.org/loc/en/documents/Nota%20de%20informacion%20para%20el%20SMF v1 marzo2012.pdf](http://paraguay-smf.org/loc/en/documents/Nota%20de%20informacion%20para%20el%20SMF%20v1%20marzo2012.pdf))

The NFMS is still being developed, however FAO already considers the efforts of Paraguay as an important success and example for other countries interested in implementing REDD+ activities.

The present event “the monitoring of forests for REDD+ in Paraguay” is aimed at sharing with other countries interested in the process of forest monitoring and REDD+ the technical work undertaken by INFONA and SEAM experts to start up and follow up the development of the NFMS and the lessons learnt. The event will be hold in Spanish with translation to and from English.

Programme (version: September 2012)

	Presentation/Topic	Speaker
10.15 – 10.20	Welcoming remarks	Mr. Segovia Aguilera, Director INFONA, Paraguay Mr. Jorge Meza, FAO Rep. Paraguay
10.20 – 10.30	Introduction to REDD+ and to UN-REDD	Ms. Sáenz Sánchez, UN-REDD coordinator of the FAO Forestry Department
10.30 – 10.40	REDD+ position in Paraguay and Paraguay UN-REDD Joint National Programme	Ms. Raquel Gonzalez Ramirez, Director, Dirección de Planificación Estratégica, SEAM, Paraguay
10.40 – 10.50	The technical development and the current status of the NFMS in Paraguay	Ms. Maria José Lopez, Coordinator of the National Forest Inventory, INFONA, Paraguay
10.50 – 11.10	Panel discussion	R. Gonzalez Ramirez, Director, Dirección de Planificación, SEAM M.J. López, Coordinator of the National Forest Inventory, INFONA, Paraguay M.J. Sáenz Sanchez, UN-REDD coordinator, FAO Forestry Department Mr. D. Kasaro, UN-REDD National Coordinator, Zambia
11.10 – 11.15	Closure	Sr. Segovia Aguilera, Director INFONA