

Bolivia UN-REDD Mission – Main Outcomes

Report of the Closure Meeting of the UN-REDD Mission, held with the Government

21 August 2009

FAO, UNDP and UNEP

The UN-REDD Mission took place in La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 18-21 August 2009

Organizations with which the Mission held meetings:

See the UN-REDD Mission Agenda

Main Outcomes:

1. The Mission achieved significant progress including: a) the creation of a REDD National Team; b) drafting an agenda for the development of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme, the R-PP of the World Bank's FCPF and a REDD component related to the Forest and Climate Change Strategy; c) the creation of the National Environmental Policy Supporting Group ("Grupo Impulsor"), consisting of the five most important social organizations which will send their representatives in order to participate in the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme Document Validation Meeting ; d) the reinforcement of the National Programme for Climate Change which coordinates the REDD National Team. Vice-Minister Ramos reasserted that both the Technical Council and the Policy Council will be asked to support the work of the REDD National Team.
2. Coordination between formulation processes of the National Forest and Climate Change Strategy, the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme, the R-PP, as well as other parties, will contribute to achieving positive outcomes in reducing deforestation and forest degradation at a national level. Therefore, the creation, approval and execution of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and the R-PP will enable local capacity building which will increase readiness to REDD actions and thus reduce deforestation.
3. During the design phase of the above-mentioned documents, it is important that the Technical Council include technical representatives from different government sectors (Agriculture, Infrastructure, Mining, among others) so that they propose actions which will facilitate the integration of REDD criteria and concepts – as well as UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and R-PP activities – into their specific policies. Likewise, it is advised to increase REDD awareness among the Bolivian departments and within several productive areas of the private sector by means of such Technical Council (although, when considered convenient, the Policy Council might also be helpful for such a task). The planning and execution of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme must be adapted to the different socio-economic realities of the country.
4. Likewise, it is crucial to immediately create the Policy Council in order to establish the REDD National Team Policy Guidelines, and to support it institutionally with the cooperation of government sectors.
5. During the Mission – as well as during dialogues held with several other actors – it was proved important to include activities in both projects (UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and R-PP) which facilitate the integration of REDD concepts into the Bolivian Government's development agenda, e.g. into agricultural and livestock programmes, as well as sanitation, land tenure and national infrastructure development programmes. The Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change made clear that, during this initial phase, the main aim is to share opinions and hold the first discussions about REDD.

6. Several actors have stressed the importance of including features and criteria related to the environment, forest stewardship and forest conservation into the legal concepts ruling both the social and economic aspects of land use, and the processes related to sanitation and land tenure. It might be considered to foster technical capacity building and provide INRA (National Institute for Agrarian Reform) initiatives with technical support so as to establish a Land Management and Cadastre System. Such support might be included within the framework of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and the R-PP.
7. It is considered convenient to support REDD actions through activities which are parallel to the design of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and R-PP (e.g. the reformulation of the Forest Act). Therefore, it is crucial to continue coordinating activities between the Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change and the Ministry of Rural Development and Land.
8. The Mission learned of experiences and methodologies on carbon monitoring, natural resources and climate change developed by several organizations in Bolivia. Based on this fact, we recommend that a government institution be identified and appointed responsible for identifying, gathering, systematizing and transferring this knowledge, as they are relevant to REDD. Such an activity could be included in the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme or in the R-PP. The Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change stated that the National Climate Change Programme is the government institution responsible for such a task.
9. Given the importance of forests in the development of indigenous communities, another activity which could be added to the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme or R-PP is support to the creation of an Indigenous REDD Programme linked to the REDD component of the Forest and Climate Change Strategy. The National Climate Change Programme announced that cooperation with CIDOB on REDD projects has been established. This topic is currently being discussed at the Indigenous Panel on Forests and Climate Change.
10. CIDOB expressed its interest in actively participating in the design of a REDD proposal within the framework of the Forest and Climate Change Strategy, as well as giving its input during debates on technical aspects, i.e. payments and distribution of benefits, the relevance of a market approach and its alternatives for carbon transactions. Vice-Minister Ramos stated that the government – in compliance with its own policies – is normally against a market mechanism; nevertheless he said that it is possible to debate and reflect on the issue.
11. FAO could participate during the design of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and the R-PP documents by disseminating information about and raising awareness on REDD topics. This could be implemented with the support of the Ministry of Rural Development and Land, via the Communication Initiative for Development – as both institutions work jointly. Likewise, UNDP and UNEP could facilitate information and knowledge on how to include environmental variables in institutional policies and development programmes.
12. After a preliminary reading of the general topics and activities to be discussed by the REDD National Team for creating the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme and the R-PP, we recommend that the following additional activities be taken into account: a) designing a communication and capacity building strategy for REDD – which would be supported by the Communication Initiative for Development; and b) designing a payment and benefit distribution system.
13. An additional outcome of the UN-REDD Mission will be the proposal of a reasonable benchmark for results and products, set according to expectations and consistent with the range of topics identified by the REDD National Team in Bolivia.

Next Steps:

| No. | Activity | Deadline | Responsible Parties |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Creation of the first UN-REDD Bolivia Programme Draft. | 16 November 2009 | UN-REDD Programme Consultant and REDD National Team |
| 2. | Revision of the first Draft. | 30 November 2009 | UN-REDD Regional Technical Team |
| 3. | Adjustments to the first Draft. | 15 December 2009 | UN-REDD Programme Consultant in collaboration with REDD National Team |
| 4. | Validation Meeting of the UN-REDD Bolivia Programme Document held among the UN Resident Coordinator, civil society representatives and the Government. | 21 December 2009 | UN Resident Coordinator, civil society representatives and the Government |
| 5. | Translation of the Document to English. | 4 January 2010 | Specialized translator |
| 6. | Technical revision of the Document, performed by the UN-REDD Programme Team. | 10 January 2010 | UN-REDD Programme Team |
| 7. | Sending of both the Document and the Validation Meeting minutes to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. | 12 January 2010 | UN Resident Coordinator |
| 8. | Remarks made during the independent international revision to be sent back by the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat to the Resident Coordinator. | 22 January 2010 | UN-REDD Programme Secretariat |
| 9. | Inclusion of the remarks made during the independent revision in the Document. | 29 January 2010 | REDD National Team and UN-REDD Programme Team |
| 10. | Resending of the Document to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. | 1 February 2010 | UN Resident Coordinator |
| 11. | Approval of the Document and budget by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. | 15 March 2010 | UN-REDD Programme Policy Board |
| 12. | Inclusion of the remarks made by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board in the Document. | 23 March 2010 | REDD National Team and UN-REDD Programme Team |
| 13. | Inclusion of Terms of Reference of Consultants in the Document. | 23 March 2010 | UN-REDD Programme Team |
| 14. | Sending of the Document to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat for a last revision. | 24 March 2010 | UN Resident Coordinator |
| 15. | Signature of the Document by the Resident Coordinator and the Government. | 31 March 2010 | UN Resident Coordinator and the Government |
| 16. | Transfer of funds to UNDP, FAO and UNEP. | 12 April 2010 | Multilateral fund based in New York |
| 17. | Introductory workshop to the Project. | 3 May 2010 | UN-REDD Programme Agencies and the Government |