

Benefit Sharing Plan: Advanced Draft Dominican Republic

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

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Benefit Sharing Plan for the Dominican Republic's National REDD+ Emissions Reductions Program

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	
ASODEFOREST	Forest Development Asociation from Restauracion Municipality
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
CF	Carbon Fund
CRESER	Centro Regional de Estudios y Servicios
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DB	Data Base
DIGEGA	General Directorate of Livestock
DR	Dominican Republic
EE	Executing Entity
ENREDD+	National REDD+ Strategy
ER	Emission Reduction
ERPA	Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement
ERPD	Emission Reductions Program Document
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FM	Financial Management
FREL	Forest Reference Emissions Level
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoDR	Government of the Dominican Republic
FGRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework
INDOCAFE	Dominican Institute of Coffe
MARN	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MEPyD	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoF	Minsitry of Finance
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NBSC	National Benefit Sharing Commitee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	National Safeguard Approach

OCR	REDD+ Coordination Office
OP	Operational Policy
PA	Protected Area
BC	Beneficiaries Committees
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
POM	Operational Manual
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
RL	Reference Level
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SINAP	National Protected Area System (SINAP for its acronym in Spanish)
SIS	Safeguard Information System
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
tCO ₂ eq	Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UTEPDA	Technical Implementing Unit for Agroforestry Development Projects
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Brief Introduction to the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Program

1. The Dominican Republic's national Emissions Reductions Program (ER Program) is a national program designed by the Government of the Dominican Republic (GoDR) through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN due to its acronym in Spanish). The ER Program aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) by implementing strategic actions that boost the regeneration of forest cover in degraded areas, and promoting the sustainable management of forests and the creation of agroforestry systems for coffee, cocoa and silvopastoral systems.

2. The goal of the Program is to reduce emissions from the sector by 4,735,129 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)¹. With the ER Program, the GoDR will seek to improve the quality of life in rural Dominican communities and to increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change. With this set of strategic actions, the Dominican Republic (DR) seeks to become a net carbon reservoir of the Forestry sector. The GoDR considers the ER Program a key instrument for increasing the flow of funds to the environmental sector, promoting the implementation of practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, strengthening the national REDD+ agenda, and responding to the commitments made by the country before the international community.

3. Changes in land use in the DR are mainly explained by the development of the agri-food sector. Considered one of country's engines of growth, the agricultural sector includes agricultural, livestock, forestry and fishing activities. This sector contributed to 5.6 percent of the national GDP in 2017². Slash and burn agriculture, and extensive livestock production practices in upper watersheds have been identified as the main direct activities driving deforestation in recent years. Wildfires, mining, pests and diseases, infrastructure (including urban, road and tourism infrastructure) have also been identified important drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Weak forest management institutions, the absence of an adequate regulatory framework for the forest sector, transboundary migration pressure and poverty constitute the main underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation. Table A.2.1. in Annex 2 lists the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the proposed interventions to address them.

4. The DR is simultaneously going through a REDD+ Readiness Preparation process and pursuing the development of an Emissions Reductions Program (ER Program). As part of the REDD+ Readiness

¹ Central Intelligence Agency (2019), "Dominican Republic", *The World Factbook*. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dr.html>.

² GoDR will pursue selling initially 5 million tCO₂e on the Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement

Preparation process, the GoDR is developing a National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+ for its acronym in Spanish). ENREDD+ includes a set of mitigation and adaptation measures that will contribute to reducing deforestation and forest degradation and that will promote productivity of the forest sector. The ENREDD+ is being developed by the Climate Change Directorate of the MARN based on the results of several analytical studies funded by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant. The ER Program is expected to become the first step to implementing the ENREDD+. ER Program activities are grouped into three strategic pillars encompassing 22 strategic actions:

- a) Strengthening the legal and institutional framework, and enforcement, for the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- b) Establishing, strengthening and applying public policies to manage the expansion of the agricultural frontier, cattle ranching and infrastructure into forest areas.
- c) Promoting natural resource management models that contribute to sustainable and productive uses, including the growth of local and small and medium forest enterprises, as well as the conservation of forests.

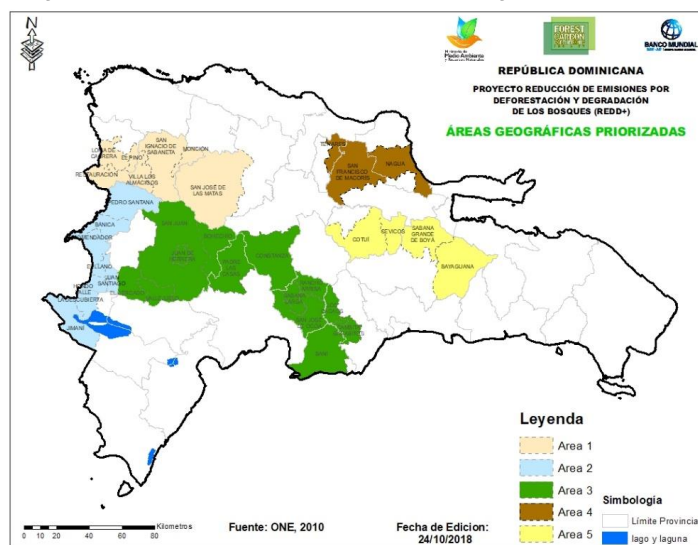
5. Whereas pillars a) and b) encompass activities targeting the strengthening of the enabling environment for the implementation of REDD+ activities, pillar c) encompasses activities such as promoting the incorporation of agroforestry systems, reforestation of areas and training programs promoting sustainable management of forests. More specifically, pillar a) groups activities targeting collaboration with institutions to improve the existing legal frameworks that inhibit carbon removals or act as a perverse incentive to expand deforestation. It also aims at establishing the appropriate enforcement mechanisms to counteract deforestation and forest degradation. Activities grouped in pillar b) include establishment of areas for sustainable forest management, and zoning areas for production of crops and livestock compatible with forest conservation. Activities grouped in pillar c) will promote the establishment of sustainable productive systems based on agroforestry and sustainable cattle ranching. The first two options will generate legal and institutional conditions in order to meet the established reduction goals, while the third includes actions to be carried out in the field through successful plans, programs and projects being developed by the country. Annex 3 contains a detailed list of the different activities per strategic option of the ER Program.

6. REDD+ activities will be implemented through plans, programs and projects in the DR that are being developed by various public and private entities including government agencies such as the Ministry of Environment (MARN) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), or private sector such as San Ramón Foresters Producers association which are referred to as Executing Entities (EEs) in this document. The EEs will sign an agreement with the MARN that they will comply with the conditions stipulated in the ERPD and on this document, after which they will register as participating entities. Identified EEs entities to date include the following: (a) Vice-Ministries of Forest Resources and of Protected Areas and Biodiversity and the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Program of the Ministry of Environment; (b) Technical Implementing Unit for Agroforestry Development Projects (UTEPDA); (c) Ministry of Agriculture (MA) Department of Cocoa; (d) Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ); (e) General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA); (f) San Ramón Foresters Producers

Association; and the (g) Forest Development Association from Restauracion Municipality (ASODEFOREST)³.

7. **The area for the ER Program is the entire national territory, with the exception of some small islands, keys and islets with no forest cover.** The DR is located in the Caribbean Sea on the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti. The ER Program has national coverage, with the exception of some small islands and islets. The country occupies an area of 48,198 km² (4,819,800 ha), of which 47,733 km² corresponds to the Program's accounting area (Annex 1). Five priority areas were identified with the aim of distinguishing regions with a higher propensity for deforestation and forest degradation, strategic important due to the presence of river basins and human population that could benefit from ecosystem services provided by forests. Areas with expected high rates of deforestation and forest degradation were identified using statistical spatial models employing geographic and socio-economic variables (Annex 2), among other key variables such as distances to roads, markets, protected areas and correlations to past deforestation and forest degradation, which in turn were derived from the land-use maps of 2005 and 2015. The clear identification of vulnerable areas is desirable as it will allow the GoDR to focus efforts and implementation of REDD+ actions in areas with high potential for ER mitigation. A more detailed description of the methodology used for calculating deforestation and degradation scenarios and outcomes of these forecasts is represented on maps and in data tables available in Chapter 4.1 of the Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD). The following figure presents the priority areas (divisions at municipality level) in which the efforts and activities of the ER Program will be focused.

Figure 1. Geographic areas prioritized in the REDD+ Program



8. **Implementation of the Program will cover a five-year period from 2020 to 2024.** The Program implementation period is the period during which the country will receive payments from the Bank for the sale of verified emissions reductions. Monitoring events and respective payments (i.e.

³ Some entities that have manifested their intention of participating in the ER Program by contributing to the implementation of ER Program activities through financing support are referred to financing entities. The financing entities include the (h) Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD) and the (i) National Council for the Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry (CONALECHE).

disbursements) against verified emission reductions and removals results are expected to occur in 2021, 2023 and 2025. The ERPA signature is expected to take place during in April 2020.

9. **The reference period of the ER Program is 2006-2015 and the Reference Level (RL) of the Program is of 6,321,442 tCO₂e ERs.** The RL includes emissions from deforestation, degradation and removals from the enhancement of carbon stocks from afforestation/reforestation activities. Deducting uncertainties, the expected volume of ERs is of 4.74 million tCO₂e. Confident that the implementation of the ER Program will produce a slightly higher number of ERs, the GoDR will aim to negotiate on the ERPA the sale 5 million tCO₂e to the Carbon Fund (CF). The payment for ERs will be based on ERs achieved against a Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL). (Annex 4)

10. **The ER Program is built on broad participatory process that includes the participation of different stakeholders.** Key stakeholders that have participated of the design of the ER Program and that are expected to contribute with its implementation include: public sector agencies (MARN, MoA, Ministry of Economy and Planning MEPyD, MoF, among others), representatives of the private sector (e.g. San Ramón Producers Association, Forest Development Association from Restauracion Municipality (ASODEFOREST), cattle ranching producers, etc.) academia and research teams (Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra, Universidad ISA), and civil society (Asociacion Ecologica del Cibao, CRESER – Centro Regional de Estudios y Servicios). 17 regional and national workshops have been carried out as part of the REDD+ Readiness Process. Consultation workshops were essential to identify the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation affecting DR and for developing the different safeguards instruments that are mandated for the Program.

1.2. General Considerations of the Benefit Sharing Plan

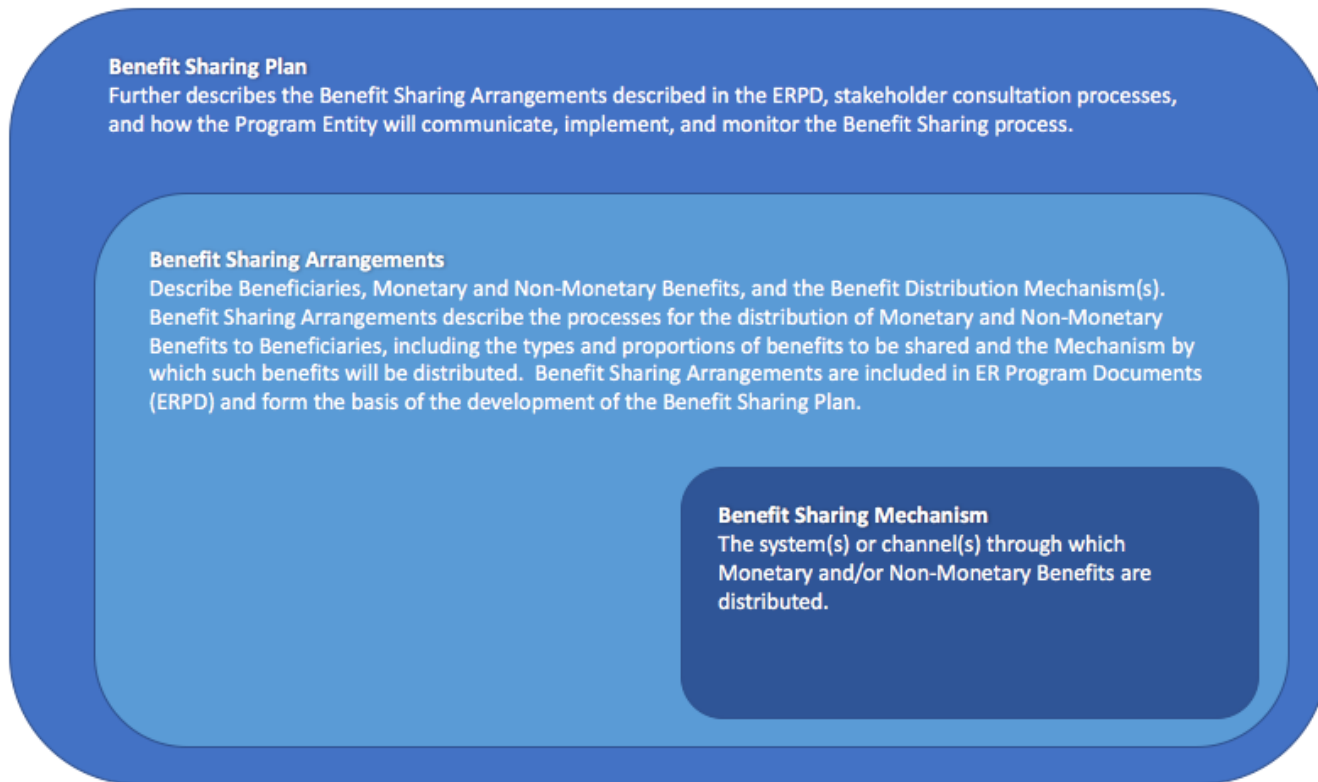
11. The delivery of 5 million of measured, reported and verified ERs of tCO₂e to the Carbon Fund (CF) of the FCPF is expected to translate in the pay up of USD 25 million. The preparation of a Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) is important to ensure that the payments that will be generated by the implementation of the Program are distributed in a transparent and equitable manner between the different actors who will carry out efforts conducive to achieving the Program's emissions reduction goal. In this regard, it is expected that the payments received can be used to finance activities that address the identified causes of deforestation and promote carbon sequestration, thus generating additional emission reductions. The BSP specifically expects:

- Individuals and families, small and medium forest producers, individual farmers or associates to receive the **most significant part** of the Program's benefits, since they are the actors whose activities will generate Emissions Reductions (ERs).
- The benefits obtained should reward **efforts** to reduce emissions and/or increase carbon sequestration with respect to the reference level.

12. Taking the above into account, this document seeks to clearly define the principles, and provide the general guidelines governing the institutional arrangements and mechanisms that the ER Program will use to distribute benefits (Figure 2). This BSP will be accompanied by the development of an Operations Manual that will include specific procedures regarding the conformation of the benefit sharing governing bodies that will be created for this purpose (1. A National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC) and Program Level Committees designated as Beneficiaries Committees (BC), as well as

specific guidelines regarding EEs' activity performance monitoring, and reporting to the MARN, and MARN's reports verification.

Figure 2. Description of the Benefit Sharing Plan, Benefit Sharing Arrangements, and Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the distribution of benefits and the relationship between each



1.3. Principles of the Benefit Sharing Plan

13. This BSP has been designed in accordance with the implementation approach of the DR's ER Program, considering the applicable legal framework, the country's available institutional and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) capabilities; and compliance with the social and environmental safeguards of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Bank Operational Policies. The BSP is governed by the following principles:

- **Justice and equity:** the BSP will reward beneficiaries according to their contribution to the achievement of mitigation results and incentivize participation (particularly that of women, youth and vulnerable groups). In addition, it will establish decision-making bodies with the participation of all involved actors to ensure a fair benefit distribution process.
- **Transparency:** the BSP will contain measures to ensure that its operation is transparent as well as accountable, making it mandatory to publish all information about how decisions have been made for the distribution and transfer of resources to beneficiaries and about all the benefits generated by the ER Program. Benefit sharing arrangements have been designed to be simple and easy to understand.

- **Cost-effectiveness:** the BSP will be based on existing institutions and capacities to minimize transaction costs and maximize the amount of benefits that will reach the developers of REDD+ activities.
- **Solidarity:** the BSP will explicitly recognize that attaining results-based payments will depend on the joint responsibility of all actors involved and will therefore, contain measures to ensure the proper performance of each and to provide solidarity incentives for those whose performance have been negatively affected by catastrophic events.
- **Continuous improvement:** the BSP will be reviewed periodically as required to improve benefit sharing, taking into account, for example, improvements to the MRV System and the capabilities of the EEs to collect and process data, while taking advantage of lessons learned from the implementation of the Plan.

1.4. Legal basis of the Benefit Sharing Plan

14. This Benefit Sharing Plan was designed based on: (a) the land tenure regime and the current legal instruments that allow for recognition of ownership, and (b) the legal system for natural resources conservation compensation mechanisms and the legal instruments and provisions for the transfer of carbon and/or ERs in the Dominican Republic.

a) Land tenure regime and legal instruments for the recognition of property

Formal property rights in the Dominican Republic are based on private documentation and registration. On the contrary, untitled rights are characterized, in principle, by the possession or material apprehension of property. Currently, material apprehension of property is an initial fact that serves as the basis for acquiring land by acquisition or usurpation, provided that the characteristics and requirements required by law are met; this is distinguished from the right of ownership and can be held independently of it. Generally, the most common form of making that right visible is materially possessing the property (living in the property or making use of it). In order for lands rights to be recognized for those with untitled lands rights, an individual must comply with the conditions and requirements set out in Article 2228 of the Dominican Civil Code and Article 21 of Property Registration Law No. 108-05.

Land tenure regime constitutes an important aspect in determining land use. However, informal tenure in the DR does not represent an obstacle for the recognition of benefits derived from ERs.

Apart from the legal provisions set forth above, there are recognized and adopted customary practices that establish the formal ownership rights registration system. These mainly involve the informal occupation of land, whether rural or urban, by individuals who do not have access to the land by means of conventional legal procedures or are in a discontinued or expired phase of the consolidation process established by law.

De facto possession of land can be acknowledged by demonstrating occupation of the land, provided that it can be documented by any means of evidence recognized by the country's legal system⁴. For this purpose, the ER Program does not contemplate different approaches for each

⁴ Dominican legislation does not include a specific period to prove possession. This recognition of the possession constitutes an initial fact that serves as the basis for acquiring the property of the land by prescription or usucapion, that is to say opt for

type of tenure (formal or informal). Customary practices and requirements established for the legitimization of informal landholders will allow for the recognition of rights over land use, permitting participation of beneficiaries implementing REDD+ activities regardless of land tenure.

b) Legal system for natural resources conservation compensation mechanisms, and legal instruments and provisions for the transfer of carbon rights and/or Emissions Reductions (ERs)

Currently the DR does not have any specific legal provisions on the system of property and transfer of forest carbon and emission reductions, but provisions do exist that could provide clarity for determining this right, applying by analogy the principles and concepts of the traditional property rights system and the instruments and legal provisions that recognize the different environmental services offered by natural resources.

To tackle the ability of the country to transfer emissions reductions titles, the application of common law provisions relating to formal ownership and the forms of recognizing informal tenure adopted by customary law are considered. In this regard, a scheme of rights to carbon or emission reductions is established based on the generation of an environmental service (carbon capture) instead of linking it to formal tenure rights, thereby allowing the majority of small farmers and informal landholders to also access the distribution of benefits and participate in the Emissions Reduction Program.

Based on the above, it is established that the forest is associated not only with the ownership of land or soil, but also to the resulting environmental services and accessories that the forest generates. For this, the country has legal provisions that recognize the environmental services provided by ecosystems through natural resources. Taking a broad interpretation of these legal provisions, we can say that the rights to forest carbon and emissions reductions resulting from avoided degradation and deforestation could adopt a similar legal system.

At the national level, the plan is to regulate the recognition of carbon rights as the “right to reduced emissions or carbon captured in forests,” linked to the implementation of activities that conserve, restore or increase forest areas, whether under the responsibility of formal owners or duly recognized de facto holders. This legal-institutional alternative will be enough to grant legal certainty to transactions with the FCPF.

To this effect, the ownership of rights to the ERs is based on effective participation in the provision of said environmental services, good faith land tenure, and the fulfillment of certain necessary requirements to be recognized and legitimized as a beneficiary. These requirements could be linked to be an informally tenured or a good faith land holder, having an approved management plan, signing a commitment agreement, the assignment of incentives and transfer rights to ERs, among

the formal registration of the property right, as long as the occupant can also demonstrate a prolonged *occupancy* in accordance with the provisions and conditions of article 2262 of the Civil Code.

Informal occupants can show that they own the land because they cultivate it or use it for any other lucrative use (material possession); because they are surrounded or by any other way that serves to determine their domain.

Article 21 of Law No. 108-05 of the Real Estate Registry establishes that possession exists when a person has a property under his or her own title or by another who exercises the right in his name. In order for the possession to be recognized, it must be public, continuous, uninterrupted, peaceful and proprietary. In this sense, it is considered a possessory act when the lands are cultivated or dedicated to any other lucrative use, the perception of fruits, the construction that is done in the property or the materialization of the limits.

Likewise, the Real Estate Registry Law provides that possession can be demonstrated through any means of proof admitted by DR's legal system, including prolonged possession of generations of occupying families (Art. 22 Law No. 108-5 of Real Estate Registration).

Likewise, the **Dominican Civil Code** establishes that possession is the occupation or enjoyment of a thing or a right that we have or exercise for ourselves, or for another who has the thing or exercises the right in our name and that, in order to be legitimized, it must be continuous and not interrupted, peaceful, public, unambiguous and as owner. (Arts. 2228 and 2229).

others. Effectively, the power to access “rights to reduced emissions or carbon captured in forests” will be closely associated with effective participation in activities that generate specific ERs, while avoiding any link to formal land titles.

15. The following are the legal provisions related to the recognition of environmental services and the respective general framework for compensation considered relevant for the implementation of the BSP.

Table 1. Relevant legal provisions for Benefit Sharing

Legal Instrument	Relevant Legal Provisions for the Benefit Sharing Plan
<p>General Law No. 64-00 on the Environment and Natural Resources August 18, 2000</p>	<p>Article 15 - The objectives of the law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prevention, regulation, and control of any of the causes or activities which result in the deterioration of the environment or contamination of ecosystems, as well as the degradation, alteration, and destruction of the natural and cultural legacy; 2. To establish the means, forms, and opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, acknowledging their true value, which includes the environmental services which they render, within a national plan based on sustainable development, with equity and social justice; <p>Article 35 - The objectives of establishing protected areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To promote and encourage conservation, recuperation, and the sustainable use of natural resources; 4. To guarantee environmental services derived from protected areas, such as carbon setting, decreasing the greenhouse effect, contributing to the stabilization of climate (weather) and sustainable energy; <p>Article 63 - The Dominican government acknowledges the environmental benefits offered by the country’s natural resources and shall establish a procedure to include their value in national financial statements.</p> <p>Paragraph: In the case of natural resources belonging to the nation, the value of the environmental benefits which they offer shall be based on their quality and quantity and shall reflect conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Article 64 - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall create the necessary mechanisms and shall issue the standards for the recognition of environmental benefits. When these benefits come from resources belonging to the nation, the benefits generated must be reinvested in improving the quality of the environment and in reducing the vulnerability of the area from which they come.</p>
<p>Law No. 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services August 31, 2018</p>	<p>Article 1 - Objective: Aims to conserve, preserve, restore, and sustainably use ecosystems, in order to ensure the environmental or ecosystem services that they provide through a general framework for the compensation and remuneration of environmental services.</p> <p>Article 3 - Definitions in the context of this law are understood as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Beneficiaries or Users: Public or private individuals or legal entities that use or benefit from ecosystem services for sustaining life or economic exploitation. 25. Payment for Environmental Services: This is a flexible environmental management instrument that can be adapted to different conditions that points a financial payment to a person to ensure land use that guarantees the maintenance or provision of one or more environmental service recognized by this law and its general implementing regulation. 37. Environmental Services or Ecosystems: Those benefits society receives through the use of different elements of nature, which may be composed of wildlife ecosystems and whose effects on quality of life are tangible and intangible. They include, but are not limited to, soil fertility and creation; pollination, growth and reproduction of edible species; storm mitigation; waste assimilation; climate regulation; and the control of pests and phytopathogenic elements.

Legal Instrument	Relevant Legal Provisions for the Benefit Sharing Plan
	<p>38. National Payment and Compensation System for Environmental or Ecosystem Services: Set of interrelated regulations, standards, principles, procedures and institutional arrangements destined to contribute to the conservation, preservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems in order to guarantee the environmental services or ecosystems of natural resources and the sustainability of the interaction between the natural environment and human activities.</p> <p>Article 4 - Environmental or Ecosystem Services. The main environmental services considered for the purposes of this law are: 1. Water regulation, protection and conservation of water sources; 2. Conservation of ecosystems and wildlife habitats; 3. Soil conservation; 4. Capture of carbon and other greenhouse gases; and 5. Scenic beauty or landscapes.</p> <p>Article 5 - Criteria of Environmental Services. The following criteria must be taken into account by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources in defining a national system for environmental services: 1. Inclusion of the different types and modalities of environmental services identified; 2. Determining the mechanisms for the definition of policies, plans and national strategies on the matter of environmental services; 3. Development of the technical and zoning criteria for assessment and payment; 4. Identification of the mechanisms for defining national priorities for investment in payment for environmental services; and 5. Determining the monitoring, control and audit mechanisms for the verification of the adequate use of ecosystems and natural resources.</p> <p>Article 6 - Economic Beneficiaries of the Service. Any activity, company or institution, whether public or private, that uses or benefits economically from the environmental services recognized in this law have the obligation to pay a rate to ensure the provision of said services. The payment received from those who use or benefit from environmental services shall benefit the owners and legal or legitimate usufructuaries of the land where such services have been generated in accordance with the rates and procedures established in this law and in its general implementing regulation.</p> <p>Article 7 - Beneficiaries of the Payments. The owners and legal or legitimate usufructuaries, whether public or private, of lands where the recognized environmental services are generated shall have the right to access the payment and compensation processing system of said services in accordance with the procedures and requirements established in the general implementing regulation of this law.</p> <p>Article 18 - Sub-Account Resources. The funds in the payment for environmental and ecosystem services account will applied in the amount of 85% to direct payments and compensation of suppliers, and the remaining 15% may be dedicated to covering the costs of operation, transaction and audits; investigations; technical studies; education programs; and environmental information.</p>
<p>Forestry Sector Law No. 57-18 December 10, 2018</p>	<p>Article 2 - The fundamental objectives of this law are:</p> <p>2) Ensuring the zoning, conservation, and sustainable management of forests to obtain the multiple goods and services that these ecosystems provide, including the regulation of the water system, protection of biodiversity, soil conservation, carbon adaptation and sequestration, energy production, among others.</p> <p>5) To value and compensate the environmental services that forests, and forestry plantations provide, as an incentive for their conservation and improvement.</p> <p>Article 4 – Definitions. For the purposes of this law and its regulation, the following terms shall be understood as follows:</p> <p>15) Environmental services: Those provided by natural forest, forestry plantations and other ecosystems that directly affect the protection and improvement of the environment and the quality of life of society in general. They are as follows: Soil protection, regulation of the water system, protection of biodiversity, maintenance of the landscape and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Article 13.- Duties. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, without prejudice to the powers assigned to it by the law creating the Secretary</p>

Legal Instrument	Relevant Legal Provisions for the Benefit Sharing Plan
	of State for the Environment and Natural Resources and other forestry management instruments emanating from the Executive Office, in terms of forestry administration: 11) To regulate and promote compensation and payment mechanisms for the environmental services of forestry ecosystems.

1.5. Document Structure

16. This document is divided into 10 sections, including this introduction. Section 2 covers the different types of benefits in the Program and explains the relevant differences between gross and net payments. Section 3 states the different types of beneficiaries, as well as the programs, projects and plans of the EEs. This section also references the requirements that beneficiaries must meet to participate in the ER Program and the general guidelines EEs must comply with to be eligible to receive the benefits in case they decide to participate in the ER Program. Section 4 presents the criteria by which the benefits will be distributed, as well as a series of different hypothetical scenarios demonstrating how benefit sharing will take place. Section 5 shows the benefit sharing mechanism and the institutional arrangements that will operate BSP governance, covering the: (i) identification of beneficiaries and transfer of titles, (ii) flow of benefits and the decision-making process for the distribution of benefits, and (iii) arrangements for the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ and BSP activities. Section 6 refers to the safeguards applicable to the ER Program. Section 7 identifies the provisions through which implemented activities will be monitored for performance and followed-up with to ensure compliance with safeguards. Section 8 summarizes the results of the consultations carried out so far at the government level and presents the workplan of the consultations to be carried out with beneficiaries in the coming months. Finally, Section 9 describes in broad terms how the communication of the REDD+ Program and the BSP will be carried out. Section 10 includes the annexes.

2. BENEFITS OF THE REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) PROGRAM

2.1. Types of benefits

17. The implementation of the ER Program will generate two types of benefits: 1) Greenhouse gas mitigation benefits ("benefits associated with carbon") and 2) Benefits other than mitigation ("non-carbon benefits"), also referred to as co-benefits.

- i. **Benefits associated with carbon:** Correspond to the results-based payments made by the CF from the sale of ERs.
- ii. **Non-carbon benefits or co-benefits:** According to the FCPF, non-carbon benefits are any benefits produced by or in relation to the implementation and operation of an ER Program other than monetary and non-monetary benefits associated with carbon. The Dominican Republic has identified the following potential non-carbon benefits that could receive from the implementation of the ER Program.

Environmental: (i) Conservation of biodiversity; (ii) Improvement of the provision of ecosystem services (water cycle regulation, carbon sequestration, landscaping, climate regulation); (iii) Improvement of water quality; (iv) Improvement of production techniques

(application of good practices); (v) Soil conservation and stabilization; (v) Rehabilitation of degraded land and (vi) Recovery of productive land.

Social: (i) Improvement of agricultural, forestry and livestock productivity; (ii) Increase of local forest culture for commercial purposes; (iii) Better domestic economies and poverty reduction; (iv) Job creation; (v) Recognition of land ownership rights; (vi) Better governance and (vii) institutional strengthening

18. The BSP covered in this document is responsible for providing the general guidelines for the distribution of benefits associated with carbon. The different types of carbon benefits and how they will be monitored by the country are explained in more detail in Chapter 16 of the Emissions Reduction Program Document (ERPD).

19. In general terms, results-based-payments from the sale of emissions reductions to the CF may be distributed to the beneficiaries in a monetary or non-monetary form (in kind). The distribution and the way in which carbon benefits will be received will depend on the final beneficiaries, which will be responsible for defining the form of the benefits according to the agreed decision-making processes presented in Section 5 of this document. Brief definitions of monetary and non-monetary benefits are provided below.

- **Monetary benefits:** Refer to the delivery of cash to beneficiaries, financed through the results-based payments received from the CF.
- **Non-monetary benefits:** Refer to goods, services or other benefits financed by the payments to be received from the CF. Non-monetary benefits can include, but are not limited to, technical assistance for capacity building and the provision of inputs such as seeds, seedlings, equipment, infrastructure, etc.

20. Whenever possible, preference will be given to non-monetary benefits for the following reasons:

- a. Most EEs have traditionally granted this type of support, so they are better prepared to provide it; and
- b. Monetary benefits distributed at the individual level could be too small to encourage the continuation or expansion of REDD+ activities or improve the living conditions of its recipients. What may be more feasible is concentrating all the individual benefits and dedicating them to program or community investments that represent the common good and have greater environmental and social impacts.
- c. The monitoring system to estimate the ERS will not allow to assign specific ERs to each participant and thus it will be difficult to pay a specific amount of cash for each activity.

2.2. Benefit sharing “net monetary benefits”

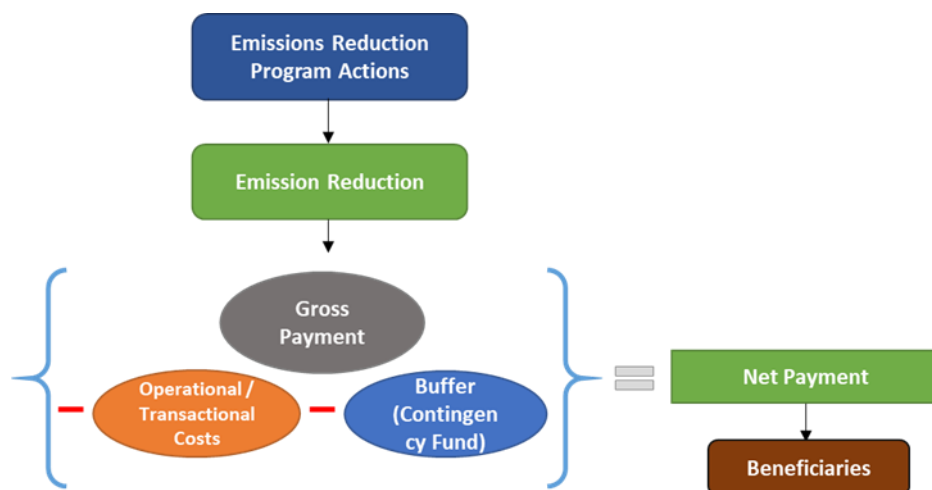
21. The implementation of the ER Program and the BSP involves a series of operational and transactional costs for the operating, monitoring, and reporting necessary to cover the proper execution of the program. For this, it has been decided that a limited amount (not more than 15%) of the total

payments received from the CF may be used to cover said costs⁵ that will be distributed between the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (in its role as administrator of the REDD + Program) and the EE in a proportional percentage to the operational and transactional costs incurred. Due to the difference in scope and associated costs between programs and projects, as detailed in Table 2 below, the percentage distributed among the EE will not necessarily be done in equal parts.

22. On the other hand, in line with the principle of solidarity that governs the BSP, the creation of a Contingency Fund has been considered, which will seek to separate a percentage of the payments received to guarantee the payment of benefits in periods in which emissions reductions are less than expected due to events beyond control, such as the effects of a natural catastrophe.

23. In light of the above, it is worthwhile to differentiate the gross benefits from the net benefits that the Program will distribute to beneficiaries. Gross benefits correspond to the payments that the Dominican Republic will receive for the total emissions reduced during the program period. Net benefits correspond to the amount that will be distributed as different types of benefits among beneficiaries, deducting: (i) operational and transactional costs; and (ii) resources allocated to the Contingency Fund. Figure 3 illustrates this relationship.

Figure 3. The relationship between gross and net payments



⁵ Article 18 on Sub-Account Resources in Law No. 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services specifies that “The funds in the payment for environmental and ecosystem services account will be applied [in the amount of] 85% to direct payments and compensation of suppliers, and the remaining 15% may be dedicated to covering the costs of operation, transaction and audits, investigations, technical studies, education programs and environmental information.” Following the legal provisions of the country, it is then expected that no more than 15% of the payments received can be used to cover operating and transaction costs. Therefore, any cost greater than the 15% received in a specific monitoring and reporting period must be covered by the EEs. Similarly, if in any period the 15% exceeds costs, the remaining amount will be added to the amount to be distributed among the beneficiaries.

2.3. Operational Costs and the Contingency Fund

2.3.1. Operations and transaction costs

24. Operational costs cover expenses related to the technical support, administrative management and financial management of the ER Program and the BSP. Transactional costs correspond to expenses related to the transfer of benefits through different channels required for the execution of the BSP, as well as the costs associated with the legalization of the agreements necessary for the operation of the Program, and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system; commissioning and operation of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM); and to partially cover expenses that will be incurred for the establishment of the REDD+ Coordination Office (OCR due to tis acronym in Spanish) to ensure the coordination and implementation of the Program and supervision at all times of compliance with the Program safeguards. The Program will be followed up with existing personnel in the Ministry of Environment and the EEs.

25. A preliminary estimate of operational and transactional expenses was made during the structuring of the ER Programn the Dominican Republic, Table 2 presents the estimated budget of the operational and transactional costs for the implementation of the ER Program during the 5 years.

Table 2. Estimated operational and transactional costs of the ER Program and the BSP

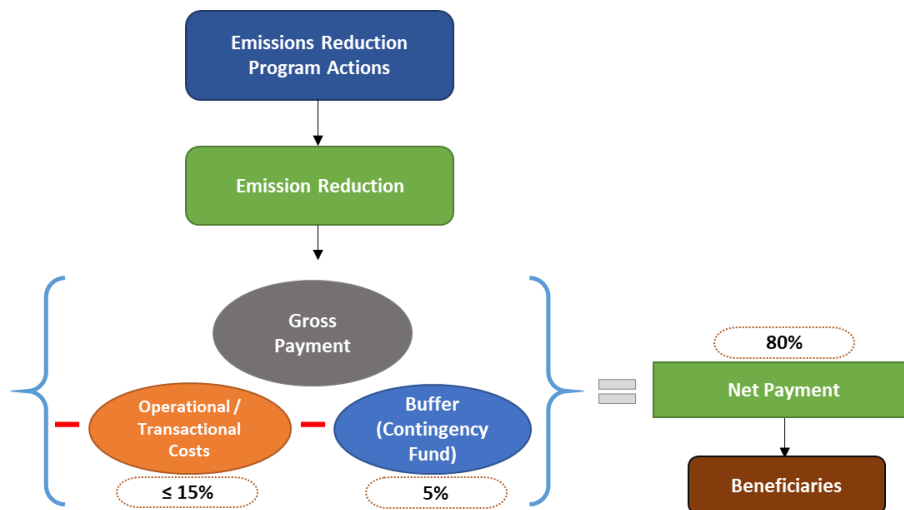
Operational and Transactional Costs (Safeguards and PDB)			FC payments for result incomes (15%)			Notes
Sources/ funds	USD (5 yrs)	%	USD esstimate	% (base 15%)	% (base 100%)	
Preparations funds (Equipment)	683,205.17	13.01				
EE operational budget	2,749,786.06	52.36	2,062,500.00	8.25	55.00	10 EE (USD 206,250.00 each one) Personnel expenses are covered by institutional budgets
Governing Bodies Logistics for the Implementation of the REDD+ Program and BSP Ministry of Environment OCR	1,818,356.75	34.63	1,687,500.00	6.75	45.00	Personnel expenses are covered by institutional budget
Fund Handling Commission (Ministry of Finance)		0.00		0.00	0.00	
15% of FC payments for result to operational and transactional costs (Ley PSA)			3,750,000.00			
Total	5,251,347.98	100.00		15.00	100.00	

2.3.2. Contingency Fund

26. The Contingency Fund is a mechanism through which the GoDR will set aside 5% of the total payments received from the CF so that beneficiaries who can not meet performance expectations in a given period (due to major forces) may be able to receive a symbolic incentive to continue the implementation of REDD+ activities, the criteria under which the contingency fund will be applied during and after the ER-P period, will be defined by the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC) and will be reflected in the MOP. Section 4 presents 3 different scenarios that could occur depending on Program's performance.

27. Figure 4 is a graphic representation of the operational and transactional costs in relation to gross and net payments, including the Contingency Fund.

Figure 4. Depiction of operational and transactional costs in relation to gross and net payments



3. TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENEFIT SHARING

3.1. Types of beneficiaries

28. The “beneficiary” refers to the person or group of persons who, having met the applicable participation requirements during the period of results, are eligible to receive benefits derived from any result-based payments from the CF in exchange for emissions reductions generated by the Program during the stated period.

Law 44-18 establishing Payment for Environmental Services provide the basis for defining the types of beneficiaries:

Payment to Beneficiaries: The legal or legitimate owners and usufructuaries, both public and private, of land where recognized environmental services are generated will have the right to access the system of payment and compensation for such services following the procedures and requirements established in the general regulation of the law.

Owner: Person or legal entity that has the right to ownership over one or more immovable properties (real estate).

Suppliers: The legal or legitimate owners and usufructuaries, both public and private, of land in which a certain environmental service is generated (all physical persons who manage to demonstrate the right to ownership of their land). These categories will primarily apply to beneficiaries at the individual and family level who own land, and to informal landholders located within and/or in buffer zones of protected areas who exert pressure on forest resources and will be the beneficiaries of the National System of Protected Areas actions. Likewise, these categories and definitions will be applied to the beneficiaries of the National Reforestation Program (Quisqueya Verde).

Resolution 39-19 of the Ministry of Agriculture also sets a framework to define the categories of Agricultural Producers and Associations, the beneficiaries of the Executing Entities that develop the Agroforestry Systems of Shade-Grown Coffee and Cocoa and Silvopastoral Systems. The Resolution establishes the categories of agricultural producers according to the following criteria.

- **Small producers** are physical persons who are engaged in agricultural production, with a maximum volume of production or extension of land per average production unit, meeting the following criteria:
 - A. Agriculture (all crops): up to 50 “tareas”⁶, or 3.144 ha
 - B. Livestock (cattle): up to 30 heads
- **Medium producers** are physical persons who are engaged in agricultural production with a volume of production or extension of land per average production unit, meeting the following criteria:
 - A. Agriculture (all crops): from 51 up to 500 tareas, or 3.145 up to 31.44 ha
 - B. Livestock (cattle): from 31 up to 100 heads
- **Large producers** are physical persons who are engaged in agricultural production with an extension of land per average production unit greater than 500 tareas (31.44 ha) or more than 100 heads of cattle.

Family farmers, who, in addition to the criteria established in Articles 1 and 2 of this Resolution, have productive units that simultaneously meet the following characteristics:

- i) The administration and management of the productive unit is carried out by the family.
- ii) Members of the nuclear family participate in the activities of the production unit and are able to occasionally use hired labor.

Similarly, Resolution 39-19 of the Ministry of Agriculture establishes that:

⁶ A “tarea” is a common unit of land measurement in the Dominican Republic and is the equivalent of approximately 1/16 of a hectare.

- **Small producers’ organizations**, whose membership is at least 60% composed by small producers, which follow the classification and meet the formal requirements of Law No.122—05 on the Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Law No.127 on Cooperative Associations from 1964.
- **Medium producers’ organizations**, whose membership is at least 60% composed by medium producers, which follow the classification and meet the formal requirements of Law No.122—05 on the Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Law No.127 on Cooperative Associations from 1964.
- **Large producers’ organizations**, must have at least 40.1% large producers or 0% to 59.9% small and medium producers, and therefore do not fit within the categories of small and medium producers’ organizations.

Based on the above, the following definitions are considered for the ER Program:

Table 3. Types of Beneficiaries in the ER Program

Types of ER Program Beneficiaries	
Individual and Family Land-Owners	Any naturalized or legal person who has the right to own both public and private land that, having fulfilled the applicable participation requirements and fully fulfilled the commitments developed with the Executing Entities (EE) in the context of the ER Program for a period of results, is capable of receiving the benefits derived from any results-based payment received from the CF in exchange for the emission reductions that the ER Program would have generated during said period.
Suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries)	Proprietaries and/or legal or de facto usufructuaries’, both public and private where the emissions reductions activities take place. These beneficiaries, having fulfilled the applicable participation requirements and fully fulfilled the commitments developed with the Executing Entities (EE) in the context of the ER Program during a period of results, will be able to receive the benefits derived from any results-based payment received from the CF in exchange for the emission reductions that the Program would have generated during that period.
Forestry or Agricultural Producers	Forestry or agricultural producers are considered those individuals who are engaged in forestry or agricultural production, with a maximum production volume or average extent of land per production unit, according to the following classification of small producers’, medium producers and large producers as explained above.
Associations and/or Federations	Small or medium producers’ organizations , whose membership is at least 60% composed by small or medium producers, which meet the formal requirements of the Law on Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Cooperative Associations. Large producers’ organizations , whose membership is <u>less than</u> 60% composed of small or medium producers, which meet the formal requirements of the Law on Regulation and Promotion of Non-Profit Associations (ASFL) and/or Cooperative Associations.

Federations are the union or institutionalized grouping of relatively autonomous social entities (associations).

29. The actors and potential beneficiaries that will participate in the ER Program may do so through the different programs, plans and projects (or simply EE program for the purpose of this document) that are currently under implementation by the different EEs participating of the ER Program. The BSP will reward programs incurring on additional efforts to implement REDD+ activities and its efforts will be focused on the priority areas of the ER Program. Table 4 presents the EEs and their programs that will be a part of the ER Program. Table 4 presents the potential universe of beneficiaries, their scope and location. Annex 5 provides a more detailed table with the REDD+ activities and types of support provided by the different EEs' programs.

Table 4 is only indicative and does not aim to represent the final number of beneficiaries.

Table 4. EEs' Programs currently under implementation and potential beneficiaries of the ER Program.

Program	Executing Entity	Type of Beneficiary				Location and Scope
		Individual and Family Land-Owners	Suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries)	Forestry or Agricultural Producers	Associations and/or Federations	
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO)	Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing - MAG			X	X	Cocoa producers located throughout the national territory
La Celestina Sustainable Management Project	Association of Foresters in San Ramón, La Celestina			X		71 associates and 340 small non-associate producers located in the municipality of San José de las Matas
National System of Protected Areas (SINAP)	Protected Areas Directorate - Vice Ministry of AAPP and Biodiversity - MARN	X	X			Proprietary individuals and families and suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) on land located within and in the buffer zones of Protected Areas
National Reforestation Program (Quisqueya Verde)	Reforestation Directorate, Vice Ministry of Forest Resources- MARN	X		X	X	1,140 individual forest producers and 279 producer associations located throughout the national territory 303 tree-planting brigades 195 Associations
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Coffee (CAFÉ)	Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ)			X	X	28,000 small and medium-sized associated coffee producers located throughout the national territory
Sustainable Forest Management Plan	Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration (ASODEFOREST)			X		64 associated forest producers and 546 non-associate forest producers located in the province of Dajabón

Program	Executing Entity	Type of Beneficiary				Location and Scope
		Individual and Family Land-Owners	Suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries)	Forestry or Agricultural Producers	Associations and/or Federations	
Agroforestry Development Project of the Presidency (PAP)	Technical Implementing Unit for Agroforestry Development Projects (UTEFDA)			X		11,000 small and medium forestry and agricultural producers located in the upper basins of the provinces of Elías Piña, Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana, Independencia, Azua, Bahoruco and Pedernales
Payments for Environmental Services Program - Yaque del Norte Basin	Steering Committee PSA EGEHID, CORAASAN and MARN	X	X	X		Proprietary individuals and families, suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) and forestry and agricultural producers located in the North Yaque Basin
MEGALECHE Program (silvopastoral system and forest conservation on livestock farms)	General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA)			X		Small and medium milk producers located throughout the national territory
Silvopastoral Systems and Forest Conservation in Livestock Farms	National Council for Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry – CONALECHE			X	X	1,747 small and medium milk producers and associations and federations of producers located throughout the national territory

3.2 Eligibility requirements for the participation of beneficiaries

30. The different Executing Entities will open an annual call⁷ period for those interested in participating in the Emission Reduction Program to voluntarily submit their applications and proposals, so that each year new participants can join the Program. The calls will be public and widely disseminated in the prioritized areas, with precise information on the type of activities eligible for the program in each EE, the criteria and requirements that the applicants must meet for their addition and the obligations to which they undertake including the compliance with safeguards. The periods of measurement, reporting and verification of reduced emissions will also be specified, and the Benefit Distribution Plan will be detailed, according to the rules established by the National Benefit Sharing Committee and Benefit Distribution Committee in each EE. In addition to the specific requirements of each program, the selection of beneficiaries by the EE will take into account the following criteria:

- a. The beneficiaries must be able to demonstrate ownership or right to possession of the lands in which they plan to implement REDD+ activities with the support of EE⁸. **Future beneficiaries**

⁷ They are expected to be annual calls for each EE, however if the EE together with the REDD + Coordination Office consider it necessary based on the annual goal established for each EE, intermediate calls may be made.

⁸ With regard to the recognition of de facto possessions, there are currently legally recognized and customary mechanisms which allow for peaceful interventions to be endorsed as an acquisitive prescription scheme or presumption of informal tenure

will not be eligible by virtue of their citizenship rights; that is, no distinction will be made on this matter for Dominicans and foreigners.

- b. The beneficiaries must carry out the REDD+ activities proposed by the EE programs that will integrate the ER Program, or, where appropriate, must develop them as a result of the support received from said entities.
- c. Comply with the procedures and requirements established in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) corresponding to the development of the respective REDD + activity (Annex 6); and
- d. Lands on which the beneficiaries will develop REDD+ activities must count on mitigation potential in accordance with the type of activity that is planned. This potential must exist during the results period during which the chosen REDD+ activities will be developed. In the case of activities that seek to reduce deforestation, the EE should take into account the analysis of causes and agents as well as other information that is relevant when choosing the regions where potential beneficiaries will be sought.
- e. Once the applicant has completed the requirements, and has been deemed eligible, sign an agreement with the EE, which undertakes to meet the required points in the call and make the legal transfer of ownership of emissions reduced in their property and receive the corresponding benefits according to the BSP that was announced. The EE will enroll it in the National System for the Data Management of REDD + Programs and Projects (REDD + Registry), in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines for the participation of Executing Entities in the ER Program section 3.3.

31. In situations in which beneficiaries participate in more than one program in the same area during the period of results, they will not be eligible to receive benefits more than once for said area even though multiple supported activities will be carried out there by the different programs. The beneficiary will voluntarily choose the program in which they want a particular area of their property to be registered and request their registration through the EE or through their corresponding Federation or Association. The corresponding EE will then register it in the National Registration System in charge of the OCR, where it will be verified that there is no duplication of registered properties in the MRV System. The detailed procedures will be incorporated in the Operations Manual.

32. Participation in EEs' programs and the ER Program will always be voluntary. The decision to join any program as a beneficiary must be made before the start of the implementation of the REDD+ activities for which the payment will be generated.

33. Beneficiaries of the ER Program may receive two types of benefits: monetary and non-monetary (seccion 2.1). Beneficiaries will decide on the types of benefit that they will get through Benefit Sharing Committees that will be established at the EE program Level for this purpose. In this sense, it is through

legality. For the recognition of this presumption of informal land tenure legality in the implementation of the ER Program, the following documents or acts may be considered valid, namely:

- Notarizing, registering and transcribing purchase of communal land.
- Not notarized act of Selling or purchasing witnessed by the mayor
- Selling measured lands.
- Notarized act of possession with witnesses.
- Determination of heirs for succession cases.
- The employment of existing legal mechanisms, to include landholders without land titling as potential beneficiaries, aim at including all potential beneficiaries of the Program

the Benefit Sharing Committees that beneficiaries will be able to decide if they want to receive benefits in cash or in kind. In case they decide upon the latter, beneficiaries can choose either to scale up the benefits that the EE programs offer, or to invest the benefit in different activities or projects of the interest of the community that do not generate GHG emissions . Committees must be representative, and election of members must be done in a participatory and transparent way. The GoDR, EEs and beneficiaries will decide on the procedures for the establishing of Program Level Committees. These procedures will be defined in detail in the POM to be developed during the first year of ER Program implementation. Table 5 outlines the potential types of benefits that could be expected from the different programs as shown by the result of a series of exchanges carried out with each EE to identify the possible types of benefits anticipated and the operational and social implications of each, leading to the defined benefit sharing principles presented in this document. As such this table is only indicative on the types of benefits that are currently being distributed, however it does not intend to limit potential benefits to the ones included in the Table.

Table 5. Potential types of monetary and non-monetary benefits provided by the Program

Program	Executing Entity	Benefit Type	Benefit Description
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO)	Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing - MAG	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Provision of quality hybrid cocoa plants which will be delivered to the producers, subsidized at cost. Technical assistance.
La Celestina Sustainable Management Project	Association of Foresters in San Ramón, La Celestina	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Expand and strengthen the capacity of the Association to provide facilities (equipment, machinery, etc.) to current and new partners to ensure the intervention area and boost its growth, which has been limited by existing shortcomings.
National System of Protected Areas (SINAP)	Protected Areas Directorate - Vice Ministry of AAPP and Biodiversity - MARN	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Will be used to finance land use change actions favorable to the conservation and restoration of Protected Areas. Actions would include technical assistance according to the management plans of each PA to reduce its vulnerability.
National Reforestation Program (Quisqueya Verde)	Reforestation Directorate, Vice Ministry of Forest Resources- MARN	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Includes the delivery of seeds, planting of seedlings and technical assistance.
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Coffee (CAFÉ)	Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ)	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others.
Sustainable Forest Management Plan	Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others.

Program	Executing Entity	Benefit Type	Benefit Description
	(ASODEFOREST)		
Agroforestry Development Project of the Presidency (PAP)	Technical Implementing Unit for Agroforestry Development Projects (UTEFDA)	Monetary	Monetary benefit: Monetary payments to beneficiaries.
Payments for Environmental Services Program - Yaque del Norte Basin	Steering Committee PSA EGEHID, CORAASAN and MARN	Monetary	Monetary benefit: Monetary payments to beneficiaries.
MEGALECHE Program (silvopastoral system and forest conservation on livestock farms)	General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA)	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefit: Includes technical support, the purchase of machinery, among others.
Silvopastoral Systems and Forest Conservation in Livestock Farms	National Council for Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry– CONALECHE	Monetary	Monetary benefit: Credit financing at preferential/subsidized rates.

34. Although the benefits granted by the EEs may be similar to the benefits currently provided by these programs, EEs will have to follow the granting benefits procedures presented in this document (refer to section V) and to clearly distinguish between the benefits given as a result of the program. The type of benefit to be granted by an EE must be agreed through Beneficiaries Committees (BC) that will be created for each EE program. Governance and decision-making procedures are explained in more detail in Section V of this document. The Beneficiary Committee of each EE will be chosen from among the participating members in each entity, considering the representation of the entity's management staff, representative of associations and federations as well as direct beneficiaries in each prioritized area. The number of members will be established in the regulations that will be prepared by Comites for this purpose.

3.3 Guidelines for the participation of Executing Entities – EEs in the ER Program

35. The following sections describe the minimum guidelines for ensuring that programs and EEs that will participate in the ER Program will apply uniform rules and procedures for the proper implementation of the BSP.

3.3.1. General guidelines

- a. Each EE should ensure that the funds obtained by the results-based payments reach the beneficiaries who have been involved in the activities that contributed to the reduction of emissions during the period of results for which payments have been received from the CF.
- b. Each EE should take the necessary measures to ensure that its beneficiaries do not exclude any potential beneficiary that complies with all requirements established in the call for participation in the Emission Reduction Program and contributing to ER Results (ERs), regardless of their land tenure status (formal tenure or recognition of de facto possessions).
- c. Each program must take the necessary measures so that its beneficiaries, include a minimum number of women and youth or members of any other population that might be considered vulnerable that should be determined by the NBSC.

3.3.2. Identification of potential beneficiaries

36. Each program shall identify potential beneficiaries in areas where the supported activities result in the reduction of emissions from deforestation or the increase of forest carbon stocks, for which they must take into account, where appropriate, the causes and rates of deforestation and forest degradation in those areas. The EE in charge must ensure that the proposed activities are suitable for responding to these causes and that the potential beneficiaries have the capacity to carry out the proposed activities. The EEs, with support from the MARN, will be in charge of communicating BSP's arrangements and benefits to potential beneficiaries. Potential beneficiaries that express their interest in joining the ER Program and that are interested in being eligible to receive results-based payments, must first comply with the requirements as expressed in seccion 3.2, and register as beneficiaries with an EE of their choice.

37. Registering must happen before the implementation of any activity leading to ERs. Enrollment of beneficiaries will happen on an on-rolling basis or according to the call for enrollment period that each EE employs for resgistering beneficiaires under their existing programs. In the POM, to be developed, every EE must specify if registration of beneficiaries will be done on a on-rolling basis or if it will use the exisitng call for enrollment period dates⁹. For registering as a beneficiary, the elegible individual, association or federation, must sign an enrollment agreement with the EE. By signing the agreement, the potential beneficiary commits to the righteous implementation of Program's activities for 5 years or the remaining years of the ERPA according to their registration date, to transfer ERs titles to the EE and to follow the BSP guidelines for benefit sharing¹⁰.

⁹ In general terms, the enrollment will be annual with the objective of incorporating new records to the accounts every year, in case the EE establish intermediate enrollment, the beneficiaries will be subject to the measurements of the year following the completion of one year of registration.

¹⁰ The agreement will also include a section in which the potential beneficiary affirms that he/she has not registered the same land on which REDD+ activites will be implemented with a different EE.

3.3.3. Provision of information to potential beneficiaries

38. The EEs, with support from the MARN, will be in charge of communicating BSP's arrangements and benefits to potential beneficiaries, their expected role, their obligations and the type of benefits that they could receive by participating of the ER Program. This information must be provided before the signing of the agreement, through accessible means and in formats and languages that are easily understood by potential beneficiaries. Provision of information to potential beneficiaries should not generate unrealistic expectations and must inform potential beneficiaries on the possible risks of ER Program's underperformance. More information on the communication of the Program is provided section 9 of BSP communication.

3.3.4. Agreements between the REDD+ Coordination Office and the Executing Entities

39. Similar to beneficiaries, every EE participating of the ER Program must sign a contract or agreement with the MARN, in which it agrees to fulfill the following commitments and criteria:

- a. Apply the MRV instruments and the Safeguards Information System (SIS) of the projects in accordance with the procedures presented by the OCR for the monitoring and systematization of information in the REDD+ Registry, as well as submit the reports required by the BSP in the agreed frequency and formats.
- b. Comply with guidelines established for participation in the ER Program and the BSP related to governance, identification of potential beneficiaries and the provision of information to them.
- c. Apply the procedures and requirements established in the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the ER Program to ensure they align with environmental and social safeguards, in order to comply with UNFCCC Environmental and Social Safeguards and World Bank Operational Policies.
- d. Participate in the periodic evaluations that the OCR will coordinate and carry out to verify compliance with the Environmental and Social Safeguards of the UNFCCC and the World Bank Operating Policies.
- e. Participate in the OCR training program aimed to strengthening institutional capacities
- f. Sign contracts for the distribution of benefits with federations, associations and individual beneficiaries that determine the obligations and responsibilities ensuring and regulating the right to transfer ownership of emissions reductions through clauses stipulating the conditions of sale/assignment thereof, where the ownership or legitimacy of informal tenure and the execution of activities that generate rights to emissions reductions are also formalized and consequently allocate compensation or benefits¹¹.

¹¹ Specifically, each contract or agreement will be negotiated under all the relevant points set forth above and will address elements related to the: **1)** Application of the General Conditions and Definitions; **2)** Description of the Emissions Reduction Program; **3)** Good or service on which it is contracted. In this case, the EE and beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries will agree to transfer their rights to the ERs to the government of the Dominican Republic as a condition to receive the benefits derived from the results-based payments provided by the FCPF and the compensation or price that the remunerator will grant to each beneficiary (Conditions of Sale/Allocation); **4)** The express consent of the EE, beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries to participate in the ER Program, to apply the procedures and requirements established in the ESMP and the activities,

3.3.5. REDD+ Registry

40. Each program must be enrolled in the National System for the Data Management of REDD+ Programs and Projects (REDD+ Registry), which must include all the beneficiaries who participate in the activities that may generate emissions reductions through which the CF can provide results-based payments, as well as the areas covered by each and the activities carried out in them, and any other information the Registry requires. The System will be controlled by OCR; the registry system should be robust enough to avoid double counting or overreporting of number of hectares intervened. The detailed procedures will be incorporated in the Operations Manual.

3.3.6. Monitoring REDD+ activities

41. Annually, the beneficiaries through their EEs, must submit a progress report following the methodology and formats established for this purpose in accordance with the Guidelines for the Participation of Executing Entities in the Emissions Reduction Program in this document.

42. The programs and the EEs in charge are responsible for review the progress report and monitoring the actions implemented directly, validating and reporting the number of hectares where activities have been carried out and that proper implementation of activities have been implemented including compliance with safeguards. Therefore, they should monitor the development of REDD+ activities periodically to verify that these are implemented in accordance with what has been stipulated in the contracts, including safeguards compliance, and to identify any incident that could affect successful development. The EE with OCR may apply random sampling methods that offer adequate certainty regarding the results of monitoring, while also reducing the costs of doing so. MARN through OCR (REDD+ Coordination Unit) will be in charge of the implementation, supervision and coordination of the ER Program. Tasks include consolidating information in reports, provide assistance to EE on safeguards compliance when required, facilitate coordination, manage the registry, communicate benefits of REDD+, facilitate dialogue between different entities part of the NBSC.

3.3.7. Review of beneficiary reports

43. Each program will guarantee that its beneficiaries submit annual reports on the development of their REDD+ activities, in compliance with the safeguards and identify benefits other than carbon, which must be reviewed and validated by it's EE, send it to the OCR and later to the NBSC tasked to verify that they are complete and accurate. If incomplete the OCR will ask the relevant clarifications and additions from the EE.

estimated budgets in the ESMF and to allow for the inclusion of their data in the REDD+ Registry; **5)** Commitment to prepare and submit the reports required by the BSP with the frequency and templates established for this purpose; **6)** Schedule of activities to be carried out and the duration of the Emissions Reduction Program; **7)** Guarantees and specific conditions of compliance; **8)** Policies for dispute resolution, conflict resolution mechanism, grounds for dissolution of the agreement, penalties for non-compliance, and applicable law.

3.3.8. Presentation of EE performance reports

44. Each program must prepare and present reports on the performance of REDD+ activities carried out with their support and that are likely to participate in benefit sharing with the frequency and formats determined for this purpose by the National Benefit Sharing Committee. In the event that an EE is in charge of several programs, it must consolidate the information by program previous the distribution of benefits in accordance with the stipulations of the BSP, including the information necessary to confirm compliance with applicable environmental and social safeguards, as well as information on the achievement of benefits other than carbon identified as priorities by the National Benefit Sharing Committee. Ministry of Environment (OCR) will consolidate, and National Benefit Sharing Committee based on the reports of the Ministry of Environment will allocate benefits.

3.3.9. Monitoring the application of the BSP

45. Each program must monitor the application of benefit sharing among its beneficiaries to confirm that it has been carried out in accordance with what was agreed upon with the beneficiaries. This includes verifying that the benefits have been used for the established purposes and that the distribution of benefits among the beneficiaries (described in Section 5.1) has been carried out following the principles of the BSP and respecting the conditions described in this document. Monitoring of the application of the BSP should follow the guidelines established by the National Benefit Sharing Committee for this purpose.

3.3.10. Reporting on Benefit Sharing

46. After each occasion in which the EE distributes benefits related to the Carbon Fund's results-based payment, each must prepare (with the approval of the Beneficiaries Committees (BC) of each EE) a report to be presented to the MARN. The report should include the results of the benefit distribution (how benefits were shared), the vouchers of respective transfers and information on any incident that occurred during the distribution process (both in its interaction with the Ministry of Finance and with beneficiaries) and how it was resolved. This report should also detail how the EE met each of the requirements established in Section 3.3 of the Guidelines for the participation of Executing Entities in the ER Program. Once submitted to MARN, MARN will consolidate the report and send it to the National Benefit Sharing Committee and the report must be made public.

3.3.11. Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanism – FGRM

47. The programs must apply the FGRM established for the ER Program to receive and resolve any complaints by the beneficiaries. More information on the FGRM is available in section 7.2.2.

3.3.12. Transparency

48. The programs will be obliged to make public all the information related to benefit sharing, including progress reports on the implementation of activities, minutes and resolutions of the respective EE Beneficiaries Committees (BC) and the transfer of resource vouchers to beneficiaries, as well as information related to the internal and external audits performed.

4. CRITERIA FOR BENEFIT SHARING AND SCENARIOS

4.1. Benefit sharing criteria

49. Distribution of benefits should be done proportionally based on the contribution of emission reductions made by each participant. Unfortunately, the Dominican Republic currently does not have the data nor the technical capabilities to estimate in detail the exact ERs per beneficiary. Taking into account this limitation, it has been determined that **the basic criterion for the distribution of benefits will be the number of hectares of land on which activities leading to ERs have been implemented as stipulated in their respective contract.**

50. In this way, the benefits (or net payments) will be divided by the total number of hectares in which REDD+ activities have been carried out under the different EEs' programs during the period corresponding to the payment received from the CF. Thus, distribution among EEs will be determined by multiplying this payment-per-hectare by the number of hectares reported by each EE program in the period, which is then aggregated to the EE level. The areas reported by each program should represent only those in which REDD+ activities have been carried out and registered successfully (and not all areas covered by the Program) during the period of results (not before nor after).

51. As an example, suppose that hypothetical Programs A, B and C had implemented REDD+ activities over a given number of hectares listed in Table 6, and assume that the Program had achieved emissions reductions totaling 1 million tCO₂e during the period of results for which a payment of 5 million dollars from the CF (considering a payment of USD 5 per tCO₂e) would be received. In this case, the payment-per-hectare would be USD 100 (USD 5 million divided by 50,000 ha).

52. Table 6 outlines the area covered by each program for the period of results. Table 7 calculates the amount corresponding to each respective program for the same timeframe.

Table 6. Area of REDD+ activity implementation for hypothetical Program A, B, and C during a set period of results

Program	Area covered by REDD+ Activities in the period of results (ha)	Payment per hectare
A	10,000	100
B	20,000	50
C	20,000	200
Total	50,000	

Table 7. Calculation of the corresponding payment for hypothetical Program A, B, and C

Executing Entity	Calculation (ha x USD payment-per-hectare)	EE Corresponding payment (USD)
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A	10,000 x 100	1,000,000
B	20,000 x 50	1,000,000
C	20,000 x 150	3,000,000
Total		5,000,000

53. Despite the fact that there are no specific data on the emissions reduction for each type of activity to be developed, the **National Benefits Sharing Committee (NBSC) may take into account other additional criteria** in order to carry out a better differentiation and weighting the amount to be compensated or distributed per hectare, according to the type of activity in question.

54. The calculation for distributing benefits has been previously consulted and agreed. However, there is potential to add criteria to the calculation of benefit distributions to promote greater equity amongst beneficiaries. For example, among these additional criteria the following could be considered: a) the magnitude of the ER potential according to the type activity, b) the effort (expressed in resources invested) of the type activity developed, c) the surface or farm size, d) gender approach implementation. In any case, the establishment and application of any of these additional criteria by the NBSC as well as others that it may determine in a complementary manner, must take into account and be consistent with general considerations (paragraph 12) and with the principles (paragraph 13) of the BSP.

55. **Magnitude of ER potential according to the type activity:** Although there are no precise data, this criterion could potentially be established with some approximation. For example, there is a difference between the ER potential of a hectare dedicated to forest conservation and the ER potential in a hectare under the establishment of a tree component (10% -15% cover), as is the case of silvopastoral systems. Given this premise, it could be considered that the ER potential per hectare could decrease according to the order of the following type activities: a) forest conservation in priority protected areas with social actors, b) establishment of agroforestry systems with coffee and / or cocoa under shade, c) sustainable forest management, d) reforestation for conservation, e) natural regeneration in degraded areas, f) planting trees for firewood and charcoal, g) establishment of a tree component in silvopastoral systems.

56. **Effort (expressed in resources invested) of the type activity developed:** Not all type activities involve the same effort and cost per hectare. Before the first reporting period of ER and its corresponding benefits distribution, there will be information on the estimation of the cost involved in the activities contemplated in the ERPD, which could potentially serve as inputs for the decision-making of the National Sharing Benefits Committee.

57. **Size of farm:** another additional criterion that could be considered for each type activity by the NBSC, would consist in the application of the criterion based on the size or farm surface. Thus, the rates or amounts to be paid per hectare may vary according to the size or farm surface, and may be staggered, assigning the greater amount the smaller the area intervened. For this, the criteria defined in Resolution No. 39-19 of the Ministry of Agriculture (paragraph 28) could potentially be applied, which defines the concepts related to the extension of agricultural and livestock farms, that is, the definition of what it is a small, medium and large producer.

58. Gender approach: Another additional criterion to be considered by the NBSC could be the gender approach, favoring with a higher payment per hectare to owners or owners who carry out activities promoting the equal participation of men and women, as well as vulnerable minority groups.¹²

4.2. Distribution Scenarios

59. Benefit sharing can occur in practice under three scenarios:

Scenario 1: The ER Program reduces emissions with respect to its target and all EEs contribute to this achievement during the results period.

Scenario 2: The ER Program reduces less emissions with respect to its target and some of the EEs perform below the expected performance during the results period.

Scenario 3: The ER Program does not manage to reduce emissions with respect to its target and therefore there are no benefits to distribute, even though one or more of the EEs has achieved a performance equal to or better than expected during the period of results.

4.2.1. Scenario 1

60. Scenario 1 does not imply any additional considerations for benefit sharing. However, Scenarios 2 and 3 do have implications in this regard.

4.2.2. Scenario 2

61. In Scenario 2, depending on the cause resulting in the lower performance of one or more of the programs the NBSC in accordance to the POM that will be developed before the adoption of this BSP, two additional measures will be applied when distributing benefits. If the program had performed significantly less than expected due to a force of nature (hurricanes, non-human cause fires, pests, floods, etc.), said program could receive a “solidarity payment”. These solidarity payments should be covered by the **Contingency Fund of the BSP**. Once the resources in the Contingency Fund have been exhausted, and in extreme cases, the rest of the programs may choose to grant additional assistance so that the affected program or EE may receive an incentive to continue participating in the ER Program and receiving the advice of OCR technicians to improve performance.”.

62. Applying such an approach has a double benefit. First, it provides an incentive to the programs and their beneficiaries affected by catastrophic events, thus encouraging them to continue their efforts. Secondly, it makes evident to all programs as well as their beneficiaries, that their participation in the ER Program is “**solidarity**”, that is, when they all act together, the performance of each one can affect the extent of the benefits that they can all receive as a whole. This approach to providing this solidarity payment must first be considered and accepted by the NBSC before the adoption of this BSP.

63. If the significantly deficient performance was due to causes demonstrably attributable to the poor performance of the programs or poor management of the EE or to general and persistent failures to comply with the commitments agreed by their beneficiaries, or both, the NBSC may agree on measures to prevent this situation from recurring. This may include in an extreme case an agreement, cancellation, and, the exclusion of the EE from the distribution of benefits during a given period. The establishment of such a measure will make the participating programs and EE more responsible in their management

¹² It is important to point out that in order to vary the scheme that had been proposed, a consultation process will be necessary with those involved at the national and local levels, in line with the principles of Equity, Justice and Transparency of the BSP.

and more careful to apply the rules and procedures for the selection of beneficiaries and to pursue the same remedial or extraordinary actions towards them in cases of non-justified non-compliance.

4.2.3. Scenario 3

64. In the case of Scenario 3, the NBSC may consider compensating programs that performed well during the results period in one of two ways:
- a. Granting them a compensatory payment from the Contingency Fund, the amount of which should be determined by the NBSC; or
 - b. Granting them an extra payment in the next period with an amount that should be defined by the NBSC.

As in Scenario 2, programs with markedly poor performance may face some kind of remedial or extreme actions if the NBSC considers it appropriate.

5. BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS

5.1. Flow of funds to beneficiaries and decision-making processes for benefit sharing

65. The GoDR considers it convenient that the programs and the EEs in charge serve as channels to distribute the benefits received from the CF. In this regard, the EEs will have to comply with the *Guidelines for the Participation of Executing Entities in the Emissions Reduction Program* described in Section 3.3 of this document.

66. The distribution of benefits will be carried out in the 3 levels described below:

Level 1: From the CF to the MoF;

Level 2: From the MoF to the EEs

Level 3: From the EEs to beneficiaries (federations, associations and individuals);

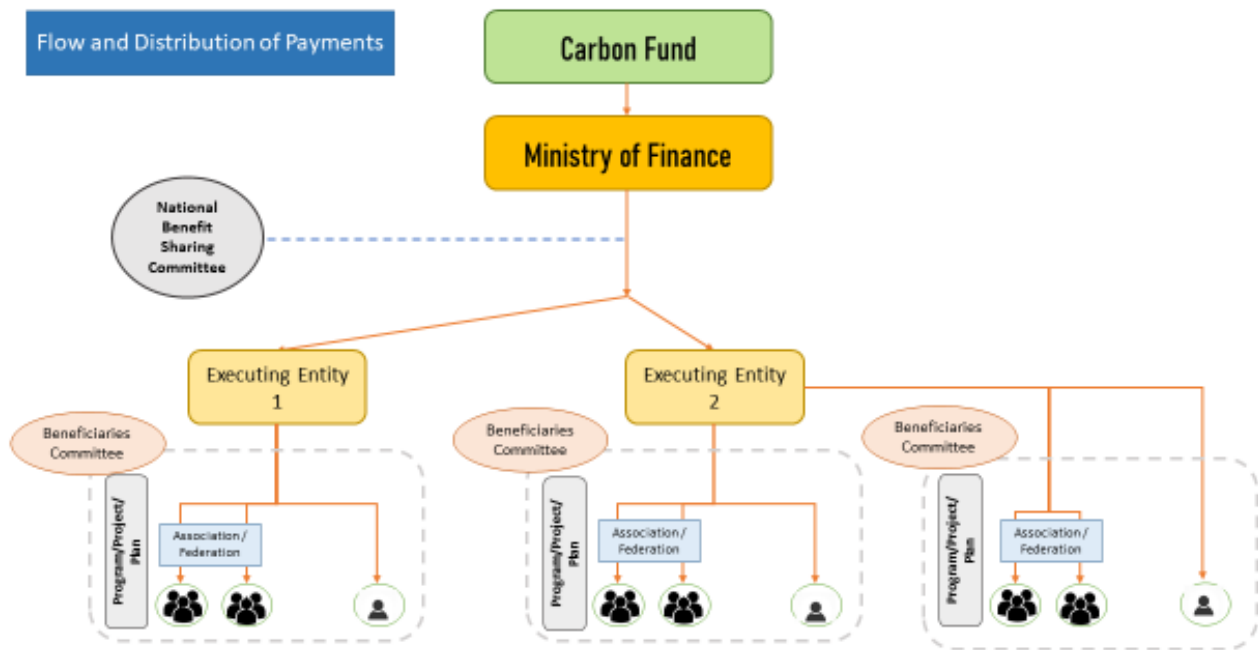
67. The following steps summarize the flow of benefits and decision-making for the distribution of benefits, as shown in Figure 5.

- i. The CF receive the consolidated report on the total performance of the ER Program for the corresponding period and transfers the payments to the Single Treasury Account managed by the MoF¹³.
- ii. The NBSC applies the benefit distribution criteria and draws up a document through which the MARN request the MoF the transfer of funds to the different EEs.
- iii. The MoF makes the transfer to each EE, which must open a specific bank sub-account for managing ER Program payments.

¹³ With regard to ER transactions and transfers, the GoDR is a proponent of the mixed competencies of MARN and the MoF to carry out transactions and transfer emissions reduction titles. ***The MARN will have the specific task of performing the technical evaluation, as well as determining the legal beneficiaries and usufructuaries in the BSP framework.*** In addition, it will be the entity in charge of transferring the emissions reduction titles to the FCPF. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance will have the authority to sign the ERPA, as well as allocate the monetary resources to the distribution funds to the EEs.

- iv. Upon payments receipt, each BC will decide on how benefits will be shared among beneficiaries. BC should follow the hectares' criterion and others established by the NBSC, for benefit sharing, unless beneficiaries request otherwise (e.g. distribution of in-kind benefits (rural roads, community schools, financing/scaling up of REDD+ activities, etc.).
- v. When applicable, associations and/or federations of producers eligible to receive benefits, will follow their own procedures to distribute benefits amongst their members.

Figure 5. Flow of benefits and decision-making processes for the distribution of benefits



68. The decision-making regarding the distribution of benefits will be mainly determined by the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC), which will be composed with the support of the MARN, and must have an equitable representation of all relevant actors, including the participation of women, youth and other vulnerable minorities that have been identified by the programs in each case¹⁴:

- a. For decision-making at Level 1, the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC) will be responsible for establish the additional criteria under which the distribution of benefits will be carried out as well as the application of the contingency fund, the implementation, supervision and auditing of the BSP at the national level and will report directly to the ER Program Steering Committee (governance structure available in Chapter 6.1 of the ERPD). The NBSC will be composed of representatives from the MARN, the Ministry of Economy Planning and Development (MEPyD) and Ministry of Agriculture, as well as representatives from all the

¹⁴ The constitution of each BSC by Program must have an Initial Formation Act in which the representatives of each relevant stakeholder group will be identified.

programs and final beneficiaries. The procedures for the selection of beneficiary representatives will be established as part of the rules of operation for the Committee in the POM.

- b. For making decisions about benefit sharing at Level 2, the individual Beneficiaries Committees (BC) will have the function of applying and supervising the BSP at the EE level. Beneficiaries Committees (BC) will report directly to the NBSC and will be composed by representatives of the corresponding EE and the beneficiaries of said entity. The procedure to define the types of benefits will be through the Beneficiaries Committee (BC) sessions of each EE. Representatives for those who had taken part in REDD+ activities under the framework of the ER Program will participate in each BC during the period of results in which emissions reductions for which the payment associated with such benefits would have been achieved.
- c. Conformation of both NBSC and BC will be determined by the procedures in the upcoming Operational Manual (POM). The procedures will ensure that the beneficiaries are truly represented, in addition to including veto-approval mechanisms by the representatives of the beneficiaries in the decision-making process. At Level 1, it must be including at least three CSOs from different programs.
- d. Making decisions on the distribution of benefits within associations or federations of producers will be based on the existing processes within them, adapted when necessary to reflect the stipulations of this BSP. In the composition of all the decision-making bodies described above, the effective and representative participation of vulnerable women, youth and minorities will be ensured. In addition, these bodies will have rules of operation that facilitate equitable decision-making and avoid the capture of benefits by elites.

5.1.1. Benefit sharing within the EE (Level 2 Distribution of Benefits)

69. Having received the corresponding benefits according to the distribution criteria presented in Section 4, the EE will in turn distribute the benefits through their programs among the final beneficiaries following their specific distribution criteria defined by the NBSC, such as type of activity and type of producer or organizations (small, medium and large producers or organizations). In this case, the BC will be responsible for applying the criteria, as well as taking into account the applicable legal provisions and provisions related to carbon rights¹⁵:

¹⁵ Document on carbon rights and the transfer of Emissions Reduction titles. Ludovino Lopes. Version V.02, June 29, 2018.

1. (continue Note 15). Forests owned by the nation: resources must be allocated to improve the quality of the environment and reduce the vulnerability of the territory from which they come (Art. 64 General Law of the Ministry of Environment);
2. SINAP: carbon rights belong to the State (Sectoral Law on Protected Areas, Art. 9), the income generated by SINAP will be distributed prioritizing the maintenance of the system and the needs of the peripheral communities of the municipalities / provinces where they are located (Art. 29.1 Sectoral Law on Protected Areas)
3. Co-management of PAs: the income generated by Comanagement AP will be distributed prioritizing the maintenance of the system and the needs of local communities that influence the PAs, whose benefits should be recognized by their efforts in REDD + actions. (Co-management Regulation);
4. Article 6 of the Environmental Services Law (No. 44/18) states that the payments received by those who use or benefit from environmental services will benefit the legal or legitimate owners and users of the land where said services were generated, in accordance with the rates and procedures established by the same law and its general regulations.

70. The BC may incorporate additional criteria depending on the circumstances and due justification. These additional criteria must be approved by the NBSC before being applied. Similarly, it will decide on the type of benefits to be distributed.

5.1.2. Benefit sharing among beneficiaries (Level 3 Distribution of Benefits)

71. The distribution of benefits within groups of beneficiaries¹⁶, such as forest, cattle ranchers or agricultural associations or federations, will be carried out following the procedures established by said groups in an agreed manner with their members. However, decision-making must consider the general rules for benefit sharing established by the NBSC, including compliance with safeguards and the conditions for the use of benefits. The EE will be responsible for monitoring compliance with these rules as part of the post-distribution reporting process described previously.

5.2. Institutional arrangements and procedures for benefit distribution

72. Benefit sharing under the ER Program will be carried out following the procedures detailed below:

5.2.1. Procedures prior to benefit distribution

73. EEs participating in the ER Program will identify potential beneficiaries, invite potential beneficiaries from their programs. Potential beneficiaries who express their interest in joining the ER Program and who are interested in being eligible to receive payments based on results, may voluntarily apply to the call and meet the requirements expressed in it (section 3.2), to be eventually selected and register as beneficiaries with an EE of their choice.

74. To be eligible to receive benefits, beneficiaries must **sign a contract or agreement** with the corresponding EE in which they commit to successfully carrying out agreed REDD+ activities during the period of results and comply with all other requirements in said contract or agreement. The contracts will contain specific requirements for each EE and general requirements that apply to all of them, including the following:

- a. *Transfer of Carbon Rights*: Including a clause, when necessary¹⁷, through which the beneficiaries will agree to transfer their rights to the reductions in GHG emissions or removals of CO₂ from the atmosphere (hereinafter referred to as "carbon rights") to the

5. Article 7 of the Environmental Services Law (No. 44/18) establishes that owners or users, both public and private, of land where recognized environmental services are generated will have the right to access the system for payments and compensation for said services following the procedures established in the general regulations of the law.

¹⁶ Defined for the purpose of this BSP as the individual beneficiaries who participate jointly in the ER Program and therefore have signed a contract or agreement with the respective EE through a representative.

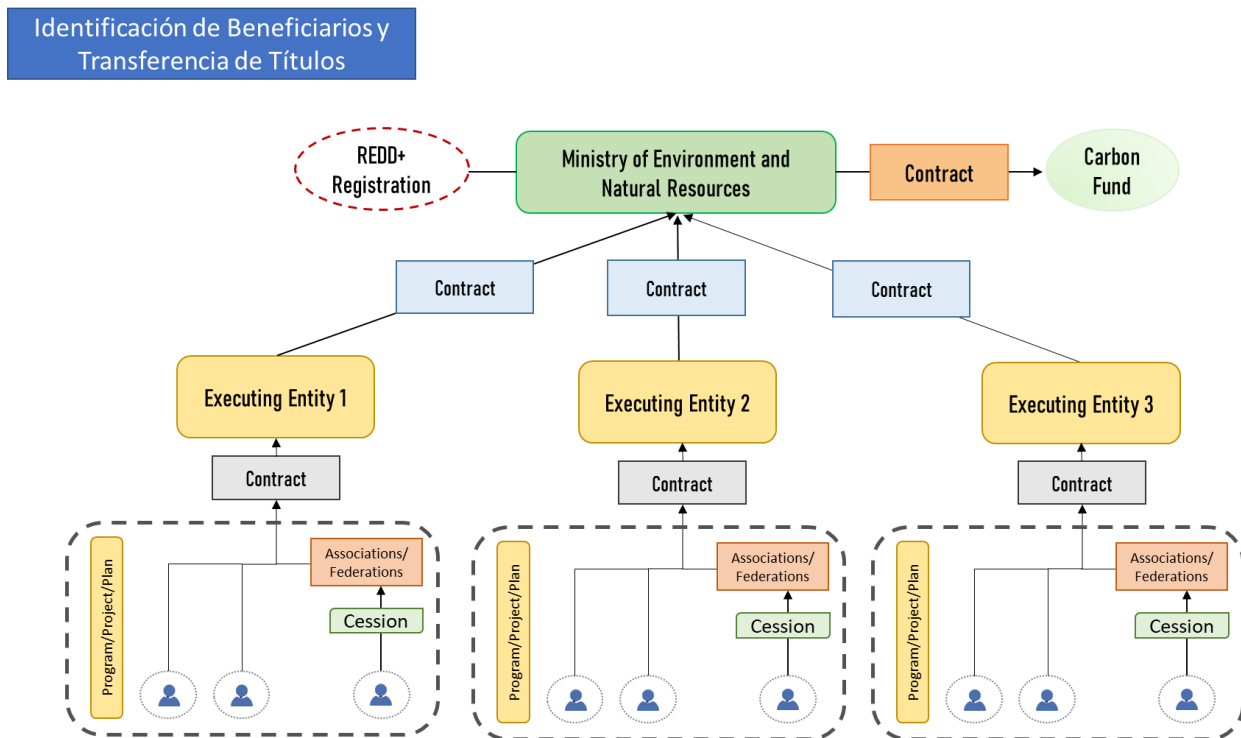
¹⁷ It is important to note that the transfer of "carbon rights" is not necessary in areas where, by law, these rights already belong to the State.

GoDR as a condition to be able to receive the benefits derived from the results-based payments provided by the CF;

- b. *Transparency*: The express consent of the beneficiaries to participate in the ER Program and allow the inclusion of their data in the REDD + Registry;
- c. *The commitment to prepare and submit the reports required* by the BSP with the frequency and in the formats established for this purpose by the National Benefit Sharing Committee (NBSC); and
- d. *The commitment to reduce emissions in order to receive benefits (except in some cases of force majeure) and to comply with the procedures and requirements established in the ESMF and the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) corresponding to the development of the respective REDD+ activity.*
- e. *When contracts or agreements with EE are signed by representatives of groups of beneficiaries (associations or federations), they must present evidence that each individual beneficiary meets the requirements established in said contracts specifically the formal land tenure or recognition of the facto possessions.*

Figure 6 illustrates the mechanism by which carbon rights are transferred from the final beneficiaries to the CF.

Figure 6. Procedures to be taken into account during and after the distribution of benefits



5.2.2. Procedures during and after the benefit distribution

75. Annually, the beneficiaries through the EE’s must submit a progress report to the REDD+ Coordination Office (OCR) following the methodology presented in the Operational Manual (POM) and the forms established for this purpose in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Participation of*

Executing Entities in the Emissions Reduction Program. With the exception of the first year the report must be submitted 6 months after the first payment.

76. The OCR will be the designated unit within the ER Program for the provision of technical support for the preparation of reports and monitoring the implementation of activities. Additionally, this unit is expected to be responsible for reviewing progress reports. If necessary, the OCR may request clarifications or revisions from beneficiaries. To the extent necessary, the EE with the OCR will conduct field sampling to verify the data provided by them.

77. Once all beneficiary reports have been approved, the authority prepares a general report on the performance of the program for the period and submits a database (DB) of the beneficiaries following the established forms. The report and DB must contain information disaggregated by type of beneficiary and the ownership or forest-use that have been applied in the areas under activities such as: property of the nation forests within the SINAP, co-managed PAs, etc. This information should be itemized by natural area, co-management area, type of REDD+ activity, etc. This report and DB must include information on compliance with safeguards (including on the participation of women and youth), application of the FGMR and the monitoring of benefits other than carbon generated by the activities carried out (co-benefits).

78. The required steps for reporting compliance and performance that must be taken to request and subsequently distribute payments at different levels are detailed below and later illustrated in Figure 7:

1. Beneficiaries provide information to the programs and the EE about how the benefits have been distributed, as well as the type of benefits received, and about any mishaps or anomalies in the process identified through the use of the FGMR.
2. Programs submit their performance and DB reports to the EE; these in turn strengthen the Ministry of Environment's charge over program information.
3. The MARN (OCR) reviews the reports and incorporates the DBs into a national system and, if necessary, requests clarifications or revisions from the EEs until the report and DB comply with the agreed requirements.
4. Once the MARN (OCR) has the reports and DBs of all EEs, it will prepare a consolidated report on the total performance of the ER Program for the corresponding period, and send it to National Benefit Sharing Committee and CF
5. The CF, after carrying out the necessary procedures for this purpose, transfers the payments corresponding to the results into the Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Finance, who distribute them on among EEs in accordance to the distribution established by the National Benefit Sharing Committee.

79. After each payment, the EE must prepare (with the approval of each BC), submit to the MARN (OCR) and publish a report with the results of the distribution criteria application (including type of land tenure (formal or *recognition of de facto possessions*), the type of benefits granted, i.e. monetary or non-monetary and the amount), vouchers for respective transfers and information on any incident that occurred during the distribution process. This report must also detail how the EE met each of the requirements established in the *Guidelines for the Participation of Executing Entities in the ER Program* as well as the applicable safeguards, including the FGMR.

80. The MoF, for its part, must send the MARN its own report, which must provide the data and vouchers for the transfers received and made, including the timing and whether any incidents were encountered when carrying them out. The MARN, through the OCR, shall review and compile the

reports produced by the EEs and the MoF and prepare a general report about how the benefits have been distributed to beneficiaries in the corresponding period in the context of the ER Program.

81. The NBSC must examine the report and, where appropriate, decide if it is necessary to apply corrective measures if one or more of the programs or EE has not complied with the general guidelines for participating in the ER Program, or make modifications to the BSP. Decisions made by the NBSC must be made public on the Ministry of Environment’s website. As part of this process, the NBSC will also take into account any complaint related to benefit sharing that the ER Program’s FGRM has sent to it. Based on this feedback, the National Benefit Sharing Committee will decide if it is necessary to modify the BSP to improve its operation, and, where appropriate, revise said plan as necessary, or suggest modifications for the operation of the EE, the Committee, or the MoF in the context of the ER Program.

Figure 7 shows the procedures to be taken into account after the distribution of benefits.

Figure 7. Necessary procedures following the distribution of benefits

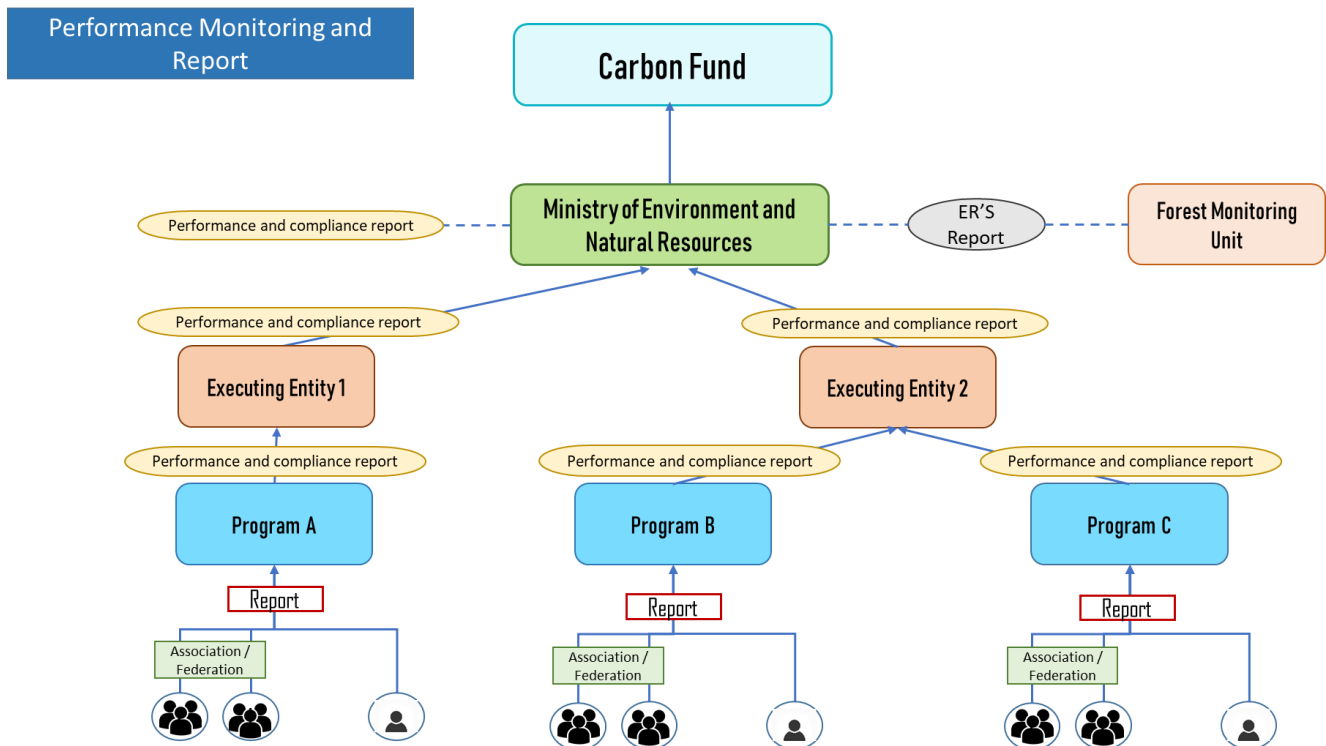


Tabla 9. Summary of responsibilities of participants

Institution	Responsibilities
CF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfers the payments to the Single Treasury Account managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) based on the report produced y the OCR and subsequently submitted to MoF
MARN-MoF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfers benefits to each EE according to the guidelines established by the NBSC. - Send the report of the transfers received and made to MARN OCR providing the data and proof of the transfers.
MARN-OCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit responsible of coordination, implementation and supervision of the ER Program. - Participate in the preparation of the BSP Operation Manual. - Participate in the design of procedures for establishment and rules of the NBSC. - Participate in the design of procedures of the BC with the EE and the beneficiaries - Facilitate the dialogue between EEs that are part of the NBSC and between it and the BC - Manage the National System for the Data Management of REDD+ Programs and Projects (REDD + Registry), the SIS and the FGRM. - Coordination and supervision of the Communication and Dissemination Program on the BSP at different levels. - Provide technical support to EE in the preparation of reports and monitoring of the implementation of activities. - Supervise implementation, procedures and established ESMF requirements, ESMP corresponding to REDD + activity in both the EE and the beneficiaries. - Provide technical assistance to EE on compliance with safeguards when necessary - Perform in coordination with EE field sampling to verify the data provided by them. - Review and compile EE progress reports and consolidate the information in a general report. Submit it to NBSC and CF - If necessary, request clarifications or reviews from the beneficiaries or EE. - Prepare a general report on the distribution of benefits in each period and send to the CF and the NBSC, as well as take care of their publication on the website. - Produce the reports from the MRV system and submit to the Ministry of Finance - Review the payments report done by the MoF to the EEs=
EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign the contract with the MARN as a participant of the ER PROGRAM, - Enroll in the National System for Data Management of REDD + Programs and Projects (REDD + Registry).

Institution	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the NBSC and comply with the regulations established for its operation - Coordinate the establishment of the BC and participate in it. - Convene potential beneficiaries to disseminate the BSP in coordination with the OCR and collect letters of intent. - Prepare and publish annual calls for participation in the ER Program, considering social inclusion criteria and requirements to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the capacity to carry out the proposed activities. - Receive and organize proposals submitted by potential beneficiaries and take them to the BC for evaluation. - Gather information on the type of benefit that participants want and bring them to the agreement of the BC - Enroll the beneficiaries chosen in the National System for Data Management of REDD + Programs and Projects (REDD + Registry). - Sign participation contracts in the ER-Program with federations, associations and individual beneficiaries - Ensure that the funds obtained by the results-based payments reach the beneficiaries regardless of their land ownership status (formal or recognition of de facto possessions) - Apply the MRV instruments and the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and FGRM of the projects in accordance with the procedures presented by the OCR for the monitoring and systematization of the information in the REDD + Registry. - Apply the procedures and requirements established in the ESMF, ESMP of the ER Program to ensure that they align with the environmental and social safeguards of the UNFCCC and World Bank operational policies. - Participate in the periodic evaluations that the OCR will coordinate and carry out to verify compliance with the UNFCCC environmental and social safeguards and World Bank operational policies. - Prepare and submit reports on the performance of REDD + activities carried out with its support and that may participate in the distribution of benefits with the frequency and formats determined for this purpose by the NBSC - Present the reports required by the BSP in the agreed frequency and formats. - Participate in the OCR training program aimed at strengthening institutional capacities. - Monitor the actions directly implemented, including compliance with safeguards, validating and informing the number of hectares where the activities have been carried out - Monitor the application of the distribution of benefits among its beneficiaries to confirm that it has been carried out in accordance with what was agreed with the beneficiaries. - Prepare with the approval of the corresponding BC a report on the performance of the program for the period, documenting the distribution of benefits and the incidents that occurred during the

Institution	Responsibilities
	distribution process. Submit the general report to the OCR and the NBSC
NBSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish criteria and rules for the formation and election of participants in the NBSC and BC, including the participation of women, youth and other vulnerable minorities who have been identified by the programs in each case - Establish the criteria and rules for Calls, Evaluation of Proposals, Benefit Sharing, Contingency Fund and POM for both the NBSC and the BC that regulate the BSP - Review and evaluate the consolidated report submitted by the OCR of MARN, - Establish and apply the criteria for the distribution of benefits and define the transfers for each EE, if necessary apply corrective measures if one or more of the programs or EE have not complied with the general guidelines to participate in the ER Program. - Request MARN MoF to transfer funds to the different EE. - Monitor and evaluate the application of the BSP in accordance with the established criteria and propose modifications if necessary, to improve its operation. - Submit documented reports on the transfer of benefits to OCR for publication. - Implement, supervise and carry out the BSP audit at national level and will report directly to the ER Program Steering Committee
BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Conformation in a representative, participatory and transparent manner. - Establish the operational rules of the BC in line with those established by the NBSC including distribution of benefits to the Associations, Federations and individual beneficiaries. - Review and evaluate the reports submitted by the EE. - Apply the criteria for the distribution of benefits, define transfers for the beneficiaries, and report to OCR and NBSC if one or more of the EE programs have not met the general guidelines for participating in the ER Program. - Prepare documented reports on the distribution of Benefits - Apply and monitor the BSP at the EE level. - Report directly to the OCR and NBSC about the performance of the BSP in the EE.
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend information meetings convened by the OCR and the EE. - Express the interest to participate in the ER program and register with the EE of their choice - Attend the corresponding call, meet the requirements and submit a proposal. - Sign a compromise agreement with the EE, to comply with the requirements established in the call and make the legal transfer of the ownership of the ERs on their property to the EE and to follow the BSP guidelines for the distribution of benefits

Institution	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define the form of the benefits according to the processes established in the BSP - Prepare proposals according to the REDD + activities of each Program or EE - Comply with the procedures and requirements established in the ESMF and ESMP corresponding to the development of the respective REDD + activity. - Prepare and submit a progress report annually following the methodology and formats established for this purpose in accordance with the BSP, including the type of benefits received, and any mishaps or anomalies in the process identified through the use of the FGRM and deliver them to the EE correspondent - When applicable, associations and / or federations of producers eligible to receive benefits will follow their own procedures to distribute the benefits among their members. - Participate in the BC or NBSC when they have been elected and respect the rules established for its proper functioning

Expected timeline for Benefit Distribution

82. Per request from the FMT, the MARN in consultations with the MoF has provided the following schedule for distributing benefits to final beneficiaries upon receipt of CF payments. The schedule presented is only indicative and may vary upon the development of the POM.

Table 8. Expected timeline for distribution of payments and benefits from CF to final beneficiaries (This timeline is indicative of the time that it would take for the funds to flow and be distributed among the potential beneficiaries of the Program)

Distribution levels	Description	Estimated time (measured in working days)
Level 1	From the Carbon Fund to the MoF	15
Level 2	Performance review by the NBSC and decision regarding distribution of benefits among EEs.	15
	Transfers from MoF to EEs	15
Level 3	Performance review by the BCs and decision regarding distribution of benefits among final beneficiaries.	10
	Transfers from EEs to final beneficiaries	15
Total estimated time		70

5.2.3. Update of the Benefit Sharing Plan

83. A revision of the BSP to integrate lessons learned is envisaged after the delivery of the first BSP implementation reports. The BSP could also be revised if the NBSC requests so. Any modification regarding to the Benefit Sharing Distribution criteria, mechanism or institutional arrangements must be

approved by the REDD+ TAC and should follow a consultation process similar to the one carried out for the elaboration of this BSP.

6. SAFEGUARDS

84. Since the development of the ER Program, the country has been developing actions aimed at achieving compliance with both the safeguards of the UNFCCC and the World Bank (WB) Operational Policies. Accordingly, the country has sought to adopt the necessary measures to establish mechanisms and develop the adequate tools for the efficient monitoring and reporting of REDD+ safeguards during the stages of implementation and payments for results.

85. As part of the requirements established in the design of the REDD+ National Strategy and ER Program, the Dominican Republic carried out a Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA), designed the National Safeguards Approach (NSA), prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), established a Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanism (FGRM) and developed a Safeguards Information System (SIS).

86. The National Safeguards Approach – NSA defines and provides guidelines aimed at: (i) describing the concrete ways compliance with REDD+ safeguards will be guaranteed, (ii) setting out a legal and political framework together with the institutions responsible for implementation and (iii) determining the aspects of compliance, such as conflict resolution, mechanisms for identifying non-compliance and the application of sanctions, and the generation of corresponding reports (more details in Chapter 14 of the ERPD).

87. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment – SESA, as an analytical and participatory process, was carried out through a broad consultation process with the main actors linked to the forestry, agroforestry and livestock sectors to identify and analyze the likely risks and opportunities for the REDD+ Strategic Options. Based on this process, the ESMF was developed to analyze and contextualize the identified impacts and risks linked to the implementation of the REDD+ Strategic Actions (see Annex 3).

88. During the development of the process, a detailed analysis of the legal framework of the DR was carried out to determine the convergence of existing legal provisions with the essential principles and elements of the WB Operational Policies and the UNFCCC safeguards in order to identify any legal gaps that may exist and propose the necessary measures to solve them.

89. The Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF functions as an operational document that establishes the principles, guidelines and procedures for addressing the UNFCCC safeguards and the WB Operational Policies. The document is based on a risk assessment of the strategic options and actions developed during the SESA to identify, through a multidisciplinary group, the positive and negative environmental and social impacts that each of the REDD+ activities could generate during implementation. The ESMF considers environmental and socioeconomic context, and establishes the prevention, mitigation and compensation measures that must be applied to carry out the activities in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the national regulatory framework and the safeguard policies of the World Bank and UNFCCC. In order to guarantee the application of the Framework and full compliance with all safeguards, a systematized information mechanism was designed for their monitoring and follow-up during implementation.

90. Moreover, the ESMF includes a detailed capacities diagnosis of the EEs, which will be responsible for implementing the actions selected for REDD+ in plans/programs/projects and national systems where institutional capacity and areas of opportunity for strengthening have been established.

91. In parallel, the Involuntary Resettlement Framework (IRF) and the Procedural Standards for the involuntary restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas were developed in addition to the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) for the prioritized intervention areas that, together with the previous information collected, allow for the contextualization and stronger identification of environmental and social impacts related to REDD+ activities. All these safeguards instruments were under consultation and validation by actors involved in each of the prioritized areas through five workshops held in June 2019.

6.1. Institutional provisions for the application of the ESMF

92. The leading institution responsible for the supervision and coordination of ESMF implementation is the MARN via the OCR, which will be made up of a multidisciplinary team with coordination and technical and financial advisory capacities to support EE responsible for implementing the ER Program activities and complying with safeguards.

93. The EEs will coordinate with the OCR for implementing the safeguard instruments, applying the monitoring and reporting mechanism for each beneficiary in compliance with the provisions of the institutional agreements that must be signed in order to access the distribution benefits of the ER Program.

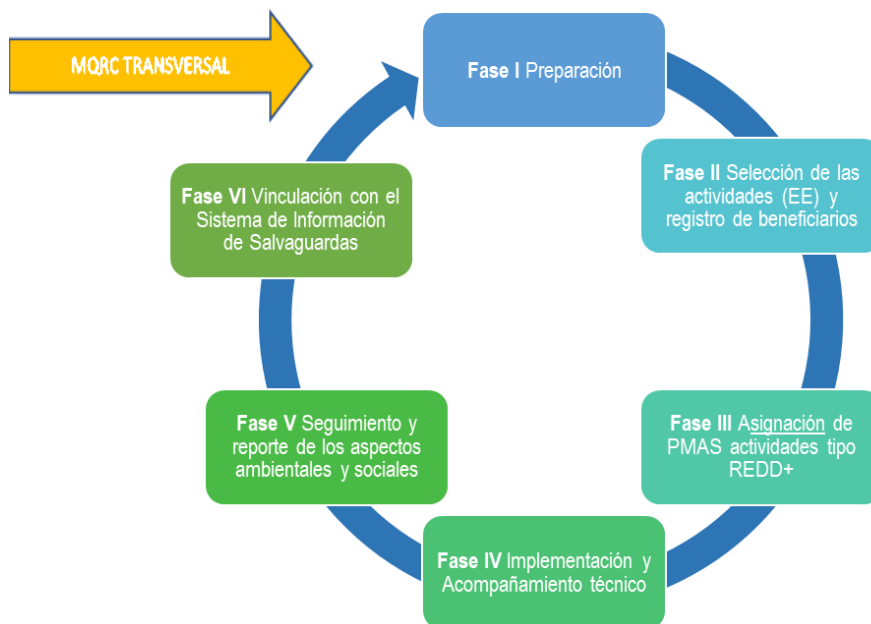
6.2. Procedures for the application of safeguards

94. The application of safeguards is carried out in six stages throughout the entire REDD+ Activities Cycle, from the call for registration of potential beneficiaries to the payments for results:

- a. **First stage - Preparation:** During this phase, the project will be socialized among the Executing Entities, their associates, technical assistance personnel and beneficiaries through training sessions in the different priority areas, with an emphasis on the list of excluded activities and compliance with the general and specific (normative) environmental and social requirements to qualify as potential beneficiaries.
- b. **Second stage - Selection and registration of beneficiaries by the EE:** To apply for registration in the ER Program, potential beneficiaries must comply with the required documentation, including the data and location of the property, physical conditions of the property, verification and legitimization of each type of land tenure, general and specific environmental and social requirements for each activity (Annex 6), as well as the conditions defined by each EE.
- c. **Third stage - Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP):** Once the **beneficiaries and the type activities they will carry out on their property have been registered**, the EE, with the support of their technical agents, will indicate the status of environmental and social components in the territory where the activity will be executed, and the most sensitive elements of the geographical, ecological, social and temporal context will be established in order to appropriately adapt the ESMP that will be implemented and presented to the OCR and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for its final validation and registration in the ER Program.

- d. **Fourth stage - Implementation and technical support:** A Guide was designed for the application and follow-up of safeguards (Data Base DB) in which potential impacts and all mitigation measures and good environmental and social practices are integrated for each activity that comply with the WB Operational Policies. Both the technical agents of the EEs that will accompany the development of the activities and the beneficiaries must observe and fully comply with the mitigation measures considered. These guides are the basis for monitoring and reporting safeguards and will be linked to the Safeguards Information System (SIS) once the pilot is developed, which will function through electronic records.
- e. **Fifth stage - Monitoring and reporting of environmental and social aspects:** The monitoring of compliance with mitigation measures will be carried out by the EEs through the technical agents assigned to the activity. The technical agent will use the same guide used by the beneficiary (DB) to comply with the mitigation measures, and will verify quarterly, identify possible breaches and provide technical support to strengthen beneficiary capacities. The guide (DB) is designed to automatically generate the beneficiary performance rating in each file as proof of compliance for benefit sharing.
- f. **Sixth stage – Linkage with the Safeguard Information System:** Information about the safeguards compliance of different EEs will be compiled by the OCR in order to validate and integrate the SIS, where the UNFCCC safeguards compliance indicators will also be recorded. Both sources of information will be used to generate the corresponding annual report for the CF.

Figure 8. Application of safeguards within the REDD+ Activities Cycle



6.3. Development and strengthening of institutional capacities

95. Since the REDD+ preparation phase, institutional capacities related to EN-REDD+ have been developed through activities to sensitize and involve the different institutions and actors involved, such as meetings and workshops covering general topics on REDD+, safeguards and carbon rights.

96. The preparation of staff in the ORC, TAC, and REDD+ Governance Working Groups will be strengthened by meetings and improved communication flow, as well as through the preparation of information for governing bodies and meetings with local organizations that have important impacts on REDD+ work. Likewise, trainings on safeguards and REDD+ will also be provided to the staff of the Vice Ministry of Protected Areas, Livestock and Agriculture.

97. In order to strengthen the institutions involved to successfully fulfill the responsibilities assumed for the implementation of the ER Program, specifically in matters of applying and monitoring of safeguards, the capacity-building process will continue during the implementation phase through an Institutional Capacity Strengthening Program. The Institutional Capacity Strengthening Program is based on the result of the EE Capacity Diagnosis (carried out by the Technical Management Unit, or UTG, in August 2019). As part of the program, technical courses and thematic workshops will be offered that are related to: Ecosystems; Environmental Services; Climate Change; Sustainable Forest Management; Best Environmental and Social Practices; Integrated Pest Management; Involuntary Resettlement; Protected Areas; International Commitments; Monitoring Safeguards; Legal Framework; Guaranteeing Rights; Participation and Governance; Conflict Management; Results-Based Payments and Benefits; Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanisms; Safeguards Information System; etc. It is important to mention that the training program will be updated and adjusted in order to meet the training needs detected during the implementation phase, monitoring and supervision.

7. MONITORING

7.1. Monitoring performance

98. The implementation of this BSP will be monitored continuously through the reports that the programs, EEs, and MARN (OCR) must prepare. The reports will be presented to the NBSC after each distribution event, as well as the information collected through the FGRM of the ER Program. These reports must be prepared following the guidelines and formats established by the NBSC in the POM and will be based on a series of criteria for monitoring that must also be adopted by said body. Following the principles of this BSP, the criteria that the National Committee may consider may include, among others:

- a. Distribution agility (the time required for the benefits to be transferred between the different levels);
- b. Compliance with distribution criteria and procedures;
- c. Transparency in benefit sharing;
- d. The inclusion of vulnerable women, youth and minorities among the beneficiaries; and
- e. Compliance with safeguards, including the mechanism for complaints, claims and conflict management.

99. At the level of the final beneficiaries, the EEs with OCR must additionally carry out monitoring based on random sampling to complement the information that will be provided by the beneficiaries through respective reports.

7.2. Monitoring safeguards compliance

7.2.1. Safeguards Information System – SIS

100. The SIS contains information related to compliance with the UNFCCC Safeguards and the WB Operational Policies set forth in the MGAS, the IRF, PMAS and the FGRM.

The objectives of the SIS are:

- a) Respond to the requirements of the UNFCCC to report on the approach and compliance with the Safeguards and other sources of cooperation, during the implementation of REDD +, to form the integrated reports.
- b) Provide information on REDD + in a transparent, accessible, understandable and culturally appropriate manner for different stakeholders.
- c) Integrate the results obtained by the Complaint Feedback and Repair Mechanism, the benefit distribution system and other mechanisms or systems defined in the context of the safeguards and the national legislation applicable to EN REDD + and the ER Program.
- d) Strengthen the implementation of the National Strategy in the context of REDD +, with information and inputs to improve the provision of potential benefits and mitigation of potential risks associated with the implementation of the ESMF and the ESMP.
- e) Provide key information for the implementation of development aspects of the forestry sector, governance, priority REDD + activities, technical assistance and capacity development, operations and consultation and implementation processes for results-based payments.
- f) Contribute to national objectives on sustainable development, climate change, forest governance, transparency, anti-corruption and human rights through the analysis, management and dissemination of information on social and environmental aspects of REDD + and the corresponding legal and institutional framework.
- g) Provide risk indicators that allow decisions to be made in a timely manner.

7.2.2. Functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS

101. The functions of the SIS are closely related to the institutional arrangements since it will be carried out by the OCR and the EE. The proposed SIS scheme is presented below with both the institutional arrangements and functions of each. (More details are in Chapter 14 of the ERPD.)

Figure 9. Institutional arrangements of the SIS

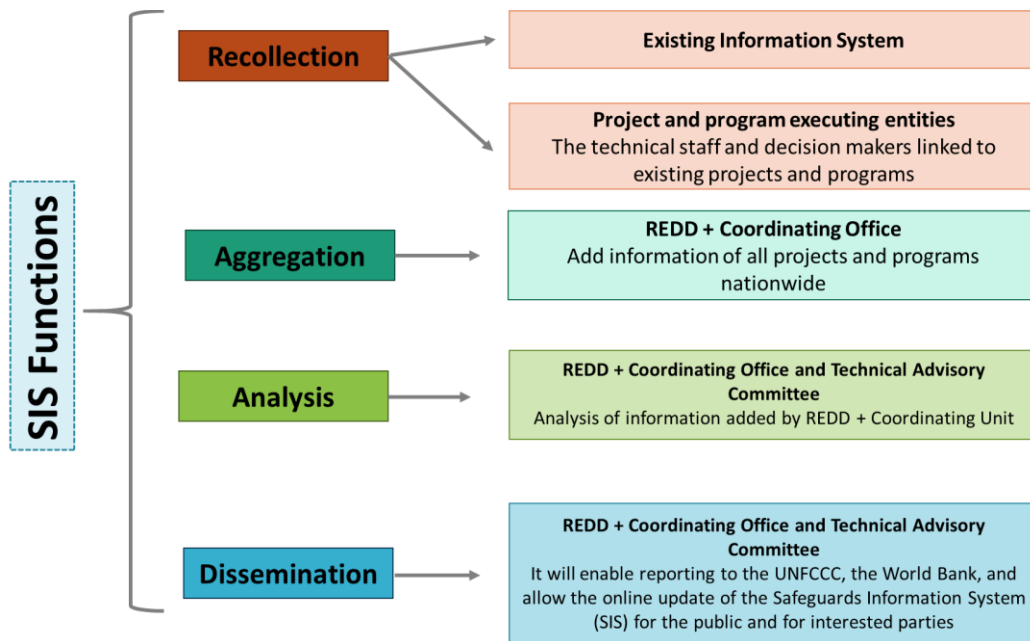
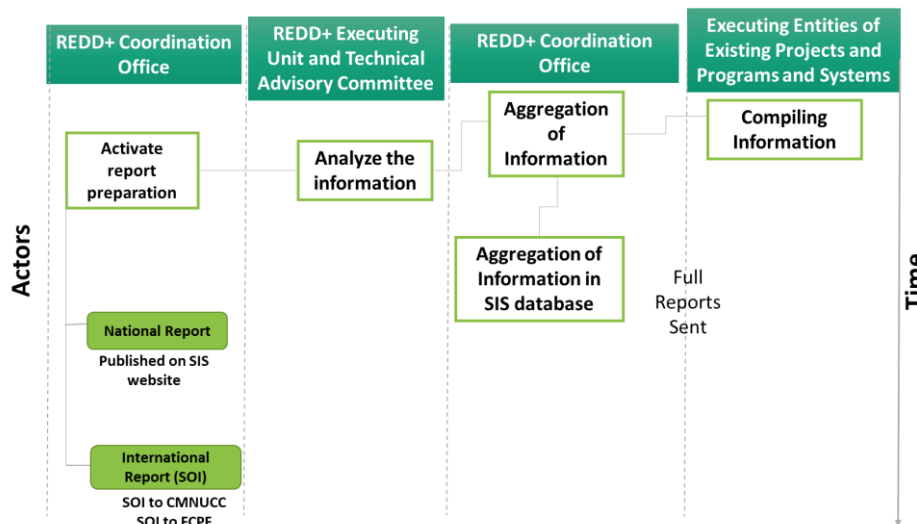


Figure 10. SIS functions



102. The SIS will be hosted by the MARN through its website. A program will be developed that allows the data and information to be managed. To do this, a compatibility analysis will be carried out of the information systems managed by the various implementation entities and the requirements related to the aggregation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of the information, which will be the responsibility of the OCR.

103. During the REDD+ implementation process, the operation of the SIS will be permanently monitored, and continually improved by strengthening interinstitutional linkages with the bodies of the EEs.

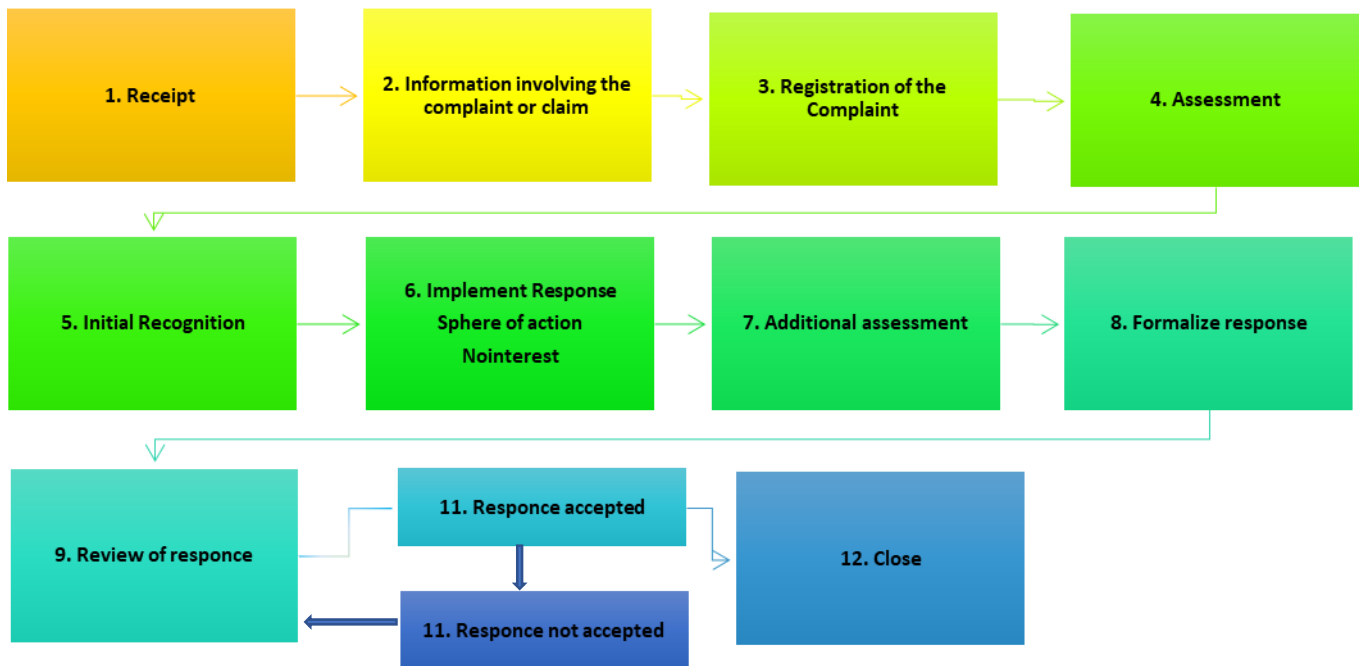
7.2.3. Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism - FGRM

104. The FGRM will be applied throughout the national territory over all the actions or activities developed for the implementation of REDD+ in the DR in order to adequately handle the complaints, claims, and conflicts that arise in the process. The FGRM will allow the clear and effective handling of received complaints, claims or conflicts arising from the implementation of REDD+ activities, with the aim to provide adequate responses, satisfactory solutions directly or, where appropriate, redirect requests to other participating institutions that can settle and resolve issues accordingly. This mechanism will have a preventive, decisive and practical nature, preventing processes from having different consequences for multiple stakeholders.

105. The FGRM articulates the regulatory frameworks, mechanisms, and capacities existing between the institutions. The focal point of the FGRM is the Social Participation Directorate of the MARN, within whose jurisdiction is the management of the Green Line, which currently receives the complaints referred to the institution. In the background of this structure are the thematic vice-ministries of the MARN who are responsible for the monitoring, evaluation, and handling of the complaints and conflicts in each area. All the information and products generated to the OCR are input to improve the implementation of REDD+.

106. The FGRM operating procedure consists of the following steps, in accordance with the guidelines and principles of the FCPF and international best practices:

Figure 11. FGRM Procedure in the Dominican Republic, estimated time: 21 days



107. The complaint will be registered through the Green Line at the MARN Social Participation Department (SPD) a tracking number will be assigned to it. SPD send the complaint to the person in charge of the involved area, who in the shortest time (maximum 21 days) analyzes the case, makes the respective consultations and verifications, listens to the complainant and prepares a written report indicating the solutions and proposals for the formal response to the complainant.

108. In the cases that the responses merit additional evaluation and conflict resolution between the interested parties, it will be the responsibility of the SPD to coordinate actions with the OCR for their attention and resolution. Once the process is finished, it is writing communicated to the claimant and the corresponding agreements are signed.

109. In case of not reaching an agreement or that the answer has not been accepted by the claimant. The latter is informed of other available alternatives, including the use of judicial or other administrative mechanisms for the appeal.

110. In order to provide credibility and the participation of key stakeholders, two representatives of community organizations, NGOs, academia or others, will be included in the step corresponding with the analysis of the site, particularly with respect to possible conflicts related to informal land tenure and the proposed strategic actions. The FGRM will address the management of these disputes through the verification of the requisite documents supporting de facto possession. The requirements for determining the legitimacy of informal tenure under the acquisitive prescription scheme will allow for the reduction of risks related to possible conflicts.

111. The FGRM does not intend to replace the legal authorities or other forms of legal action existing in the country (including the mechanisms to handle claims at the project level), but to complement them. Therefore, the affected parties will be able to file claims and use all existing and relevant mechanisms under the jurisdiction of each.

112. The OCR receives each report file related to REDD+ activities in real time and uses it to follow steps, time and results. OCR will present reports every six months to the TAC regarding the amount and type of complaints and claims received and their responses. Finally, when there is an unsatisfactory response, the OCR will ask the FGRM work group of the TAC as a channel to evaluate and make recommendations on the particular case.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1. Summary of consultations carried out

113. The preparation of this draft of the BSP considers the opinions expressed during the SESA workshops carried out in 2018 through regional and national consultations with the participation of approximately 600 persons.

114. Likewise, during the months of January and February 2019, a broad process of bilateral consultation was carried out with each EE to present what the BSP is in the scope of the ER Program, the issues to be defined, guidelines and basic principles that must be complied with, and to also gather concerns and suggestions. About 70 people participated, including technicians and managers.

115. Based on these inputs, an initial proposal on the mechanisms and criteria for benefit sharing was presented, discussed and approved by representatives of the EE in a National Workshop held in February 2019 with the participation of 26 people. In addition, the *Guidelines for the participation of Executing Entities in the Emissions Reduction Program* were analyzed and validated. The results of this consultation are reflected in this draft. The first draft of the BSP was submitted to each EE for revision and feedback.

116. In July and August 2019, a series of exchanges were carried out with each EE to identify and specify the criteria, definitions and types of beneficiaries they had planned for the ER Program, as well as the possible types of benefits anticipated and the operational and social implications of each, leading to the defined benefit sharing principles presented in this document.

117. In September 2019, a workshop was held with 35 people representing the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), including the participation of representatives from producer organizations, universities, NGOs, the private sector, public institutions linked to REDD+ and representatives of the

EE. During the workshop, issues related to the confirmation of the types of beneficiaries and the types of beneficiaries proposed by each EE, the criteria for the distribution of benefits, the governance structure of the BSP and the flow of funds to beneficiaries, as well as the processes and procedures for making decisions about the distribution of benefits were presented and validated.

118. Another meeting was held in September to present the ER Program and the BSP, this time with 15 participants including the managers of the 5 regional federations of cattle ranchers.

119. In addition to the consultation process with the Executing Entities already described, between December 2019 and February 2020, a broad process of dissemination and consultation with interested parts and direct beneficiaries was carried out. The Consultation Plan has included the mapping of beneficiaries, including representatives of different individuals and families linked to the Programs. The invitation and announcement have been made in coordination with each EE. Contact and awareness regional meetings were held before the BSP consultation with Associations and Federations to offer key information of the ER Program and the BSP.

120. Technical and feedback meetings with the authorities of the MARN and Executing Entities were held, both bilaterally and collectively. As well as Sectoral and intersectoral workshops with Technical Advisory Committee (CTA) and its participants were held. The CTA was formally informed on February 13, 2020, about the progress concerning the ENREDD +, ER-P, ERPA and BSP.

121. The consultation process with different stakeholders was focused on defining: i) who will be the beneficiaries; ii) criteria to regulate the BSP; iii) types and proportions of monetary and non-monetary benefits; iv) requirements that beneficiaries must meet; v) decision-making mechanism for benefit sharing; vi) institutional arrangements, and vii) flow of information and the process of reporting and verification.

122. During January and February 2020, 5 regional meetings (1 for each priority area) were held with associations and federations of forestry producers, coffee, cocoa, livestock farmers and community groups from surrounding areas to protected areas. Opinions, evaluations, and preferences of beneficiaries about the main components of the Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) were collected. There was also a national workshop with Cocoa Producers, and two Livestock Farmers Regional Federation. In this process of consultation with beneficiaries, a total of 293 people was registered.

123. Despite the efforts made in the calling focused on women, men have had greater representation (83%) in the BSP consultation process. This is partly explained by the deep gender gap in agricultural and forestry activities and therefore in the levels of representation in organizations. The newly initiated gender consultancy is expected to define the strategies and measures to expand the participation of women in the REDD + and ER-Programs.

124. The opinions expressed by the direct beneficiaries who participated in the consultations yielded the following considerations: i) preference for receiving non-monetary and collective benefits; ii) all participants are in favor of adhering to the governance and decision-making mechanisms proposed in the BSP Advanced Draft and request to actively participate in the election of their representatives in the BC; iii) agree that the FGRM and active participation in governance mechanisms are the tools available to address possible breaches of the agreements..

Table 10. Schedule of consultations with direct beneficiaries

Meeting Place	Municipalities	Time	Participants	Men	Women
Cotuí	Bayaguana	January 30, 2020	2	2	-
	Sabana Grande de Boyá		16	10	6
	Cevicos		10	7	3
	Cotuí		14	4	10

Meeting Place	Municipalities	Time	Participants	Men	Women
	Constanza		9	9	-
	Jarabacoa		3	2	1
	Monte Plata		3	3	-
	Fantino		1	1	-
TOTAL			58	38	20
San Francisco de Macorís	San Francisco de Macorís	January 31, 2020	3	3	-
	Tenares		-	-	-
	Nagua		7	6	1
	Salcedo		1	1	-
TOTAL			11	10	1
Santiago Rodríguez	El Pino	February 4, 2020	2	2	-
	Loma de Cabrera		5	5	-
	Restauración		6	6	-
	San José de Las Matas		9	9	-
	Monción		-	-	-
	San Ignacion de Sabaneta		20	15	5
	Villa Los Almácigos		-	-	-
	Mao		9	9	-
	Dajabón		3	3	-
TOTAL			54	49	5
Baní	San Cristobal	February 5, 2020	15	15	-
	Cambita Garabitos		1	1	-
	Los Cacaos		5	3	2
	Rancho Arriba		2	2	-
	Sabana Larga		-	-	-
	San José de Ocoa		9	7	2
	Banica		-	-	-
	Baní		7	6	1
	Nizao		1	1	-
TOTAL			40	35	5
San Juan	Comendador	February 6, 2020	-	-	-
	Jimaní		-	-	-
	El Llano		-	-	-
	Hondo Valle		19	16	3
	Juan Santiago		-	-	-
	Pedro Santana		3	3	-
	La Descubierta		6	6	-
	Bohechio		1	1	-
	El Cercado		1	1	-
	Padre de las Casas		1	1	-

Meeting Place	Municipalities	Time	Participants	Men	Women
	Juan de Herrera		1	-	1
	San Juan		17	14	3
	Vallejuelo		6	4	2
TOTAL			55	46	9
Livestock Farmers North Federation (Federación de Ganaderos del Norte)		February 7, 2020	33	29	4
National Workshop with Cocoa producers.	National level	February 11, 2020	42	39	3
TOTALES			293	246	47

125. In February 2020, consultations were carried out with 3 federations of farmers, corresponding to the North, Northeast and East regions of the country, as well as was requested to the Executing Entities linked to the dairy sector (DIGEGA and CONALECHE) to continue reporting on the BSP.

126. Additionally, 12 consultations were conducted with key stakeholders in five regions, for those who participated previously in the entire consultation process and for those who had not been able to participate yet. The consultations took place between the end of August and September 2020 with the aim of discussing with key stakeholders the additional criteria to make the distribution of benefits more equitable. The consultations yielded positive results for the inclusion of these criteria in the Advance Draft of the BSP. Given the restrictions of the pandemic COVID 19, the consultations were carried out in person, observing the recommendations for social distancing and physical safeguards, so they were limited in physical participation. A total of 99 (21.1%) women and 372 (78.9%) men have been participated.

8.2. Upcoming consultations

127. The advanced draft will be reviewed with the inputs and results of the whole consultation process. If necessary, the suggested adjustments and corrections will be made. Between September and October 2020, consultations are yet planned in 6 municipalities. Beneficiaries linked to the production of coffee and cocoa under shade, as well as silvopastoral systems (livestock) will participate in these consultations. The final version of the BSP will be presented and validated in a multi-actor and multi-sector National Workshop with the participation of beneficiaries, EEs and the TAC, in 2020.

9. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

128. The objective of the Communications Plan is to raise awareness and empower key actors about the role they play in the ER Program and the BSP. In addition, it seeks to support enhancing the capacity of relevant actors through educational and informational materials covering essential topics for their participation.

129. General questions to be answered during the communication of the BSP include: *What is climate change and how does it affect us?, Why are forests important and what is their role in climate change?, What are greenhouse gases?, What is the importance of forests for reducing the emission of these gases?, What is REDD+?, What can I/my community do to help prevent deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?, What are results-based payments?, How can I participate in this?, and finally, What is the PDB?, How it will work? To whom is it directed? What are the types of benefits and beneficiaries, criteria for the distribution of benefits and governance structure? Which are the potential risk of ER program underperformance? What is the contingency fund?*

130. Communication of the Plan will have a territorial and stakeholder approach. While the communication strategy will have a national reach, activities at the regional level and in rural areas will take place. Communications activities will be conducted by EEs which will use informative material and infographics prepared and provided by the OCR.

131. Greater emphasis will be placed on communication aimed at key actors, such as EEs, populations in prioritized areas, forest and agroforestry producers, livestock farmers, and communities surrounding protected areas. Communication actions and products disseminated in a lower degree of intensity to the general public.

132. Greater emphasis will be placed on communication actions targeting key actors, population of Priority Areas, forest agroforestry producers, livestock farmers, communities around Protected Areas. Special efforts will also be carried out to assure that vulnerable groups of the population are also informed on the ER Program and the BSP. In order to convey these messages, the following identified channels will be used: traditional mass media (radio, press, e-mail), print (newsletters, brochures, summaries, posters, EN-REDD+ and ER Program documents), billboards and posters, meetings with the press and continuous publication on respective websites and social networks (2.0), participation in federation and association meetings, etc.

133. A Gender Action Plan which identifies concrete indicators to measure identified gender gaps from the country-specific analyses is in the process of being developed. Once finalized, the communication strategy will consider the results to be sure that it correctly reaches out to women.

10. Annexes

ANNEX 1. Accounting Area of the ER-Program

The accounting area for of the Emissions Reductions Program (ER Program) for the Dominican Republic will be the entire national territory, with the exception of some small islands, keys and islets. The country occupies an area of 48,198 km² (4,819,800 ha), of which 47,733 km² will make up the accounting area. Although the ER Program will be implemented on a national level, some components have an approach that requires special attention in 5 priority geographical areas, based on the following criteria:

- Areas where high rates of deforestation, forest degradation and/or loss of soils are expected.
- River basins of strategic importance in terms of: i) protected areas/biodiversity, ii) provision of water and/or with infrastructures such as hydroelectric dams, aqueducts and irrigation canals.
- Human population benefiting from ecosystem services from the aforesaid river basins.

Figure A.1.1 depicts a map of the 5 priority areas in the ER Program and Table A1.1 lists the municipalities for each corresponding area.

d)

Figure A.1.1. ER Program priority regions

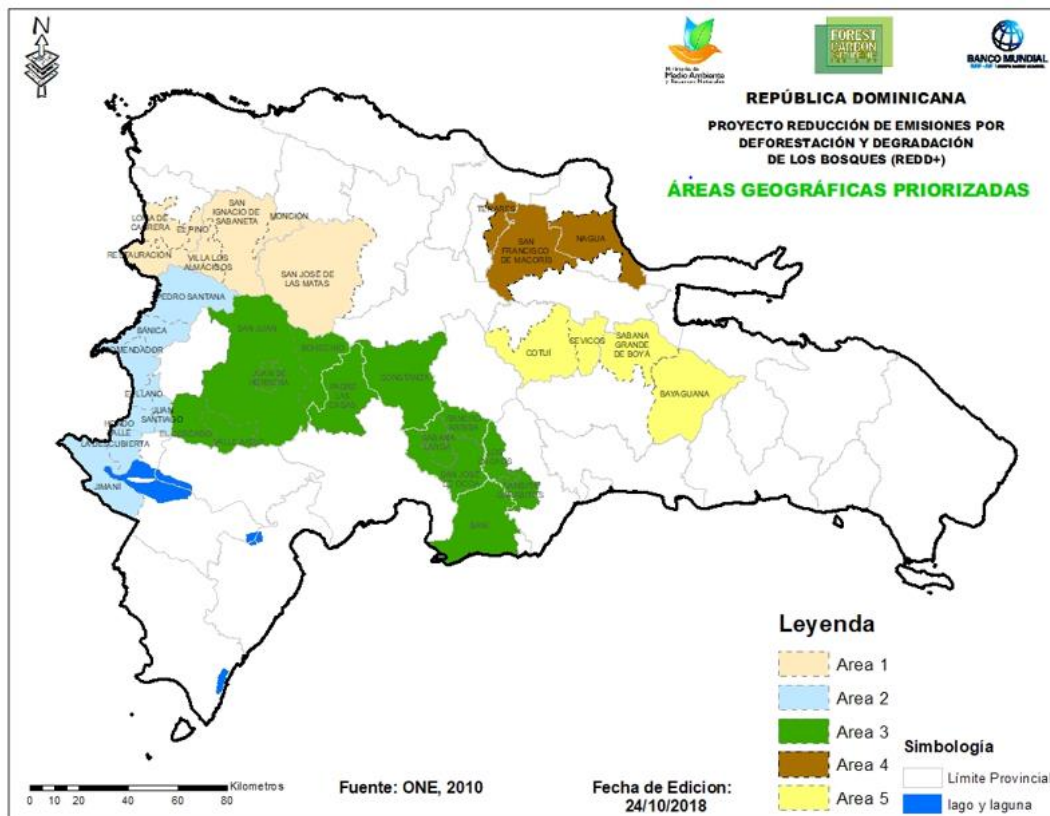


Table A1.1. Priority geographical areas and their municipalities.

Prioritized Geographical Area	Municipalities
1	Loma de Cabrera, El Pino, San Ignacio de Sabaneta, Monción, San José de Las Matas, Restauración, Villa Los Almáigicos
2	Pedro Santana, Bánica, El Llano, Juan Santiago, Hondo Valle, La Descubierta, Jimaní, Comendador
5	San Cristóbal, Baní, Cambita Garabito, San José de Ocoa, Los Cacaos, Sabana Larga, Rancho Arriba. Constanza, Padre Las Casas, Bohechío, San Juan, Juan de Herrera, El Cercado, Vallejuelo
4	Nagua. San Francisco de Macorís, Tenares
5	Cotuí, Cevicos, Sabana Grande de Boyá, Bayaguana

76.15% of the accounting area demonstrates potential for capturing emissions through the following land uses (Obando, 2018):

- Forests: Conservation, sustainable use, planting.
- Shrubland: Forest development and restoration.
- Subsistence crops: Establishing agroforestry systems and forest plantations.
- Pasture: Interior forest conservation and establishing silvopastoral systems.

The ER Program is not only directed towards decreasing or halting deforestation and forest degradation; it is also important to address the agriculture and livestock production systems, which are putting pressure on forest resources. The ER Program will particularly be supported by agricultural and livestock projects that have nationwide objectives and actions and a sustainable development approach, as is the case with shade-grown cocoa and coffee production and silvopastoral systems. Figure A1.2 shows the geolocation of the productive areas along with the priority areas (municipalities and protected natural areas).

Figure A.1.2. Cocoa, coffee, cattle ranching areas with silvopastoral systems, PES areas and areas with sustainable forest management, and their spatial relationship with priority areas.

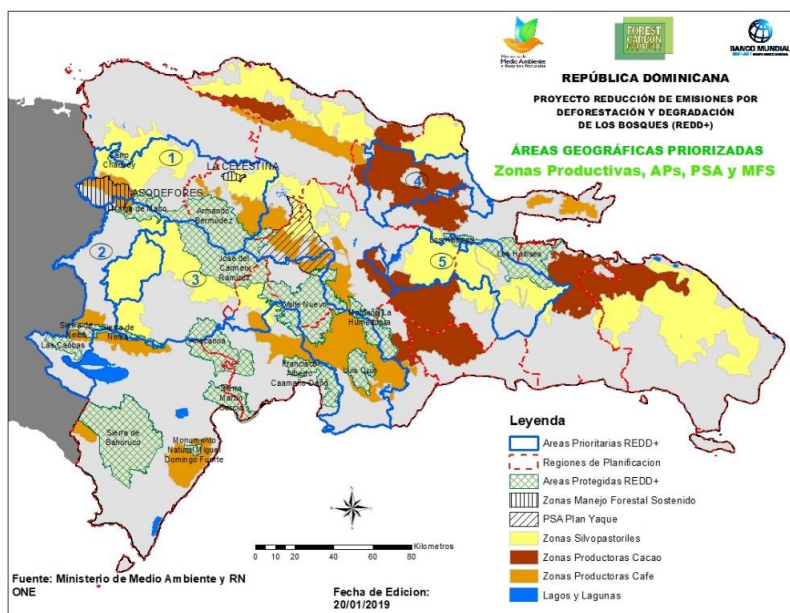


Table A.1.2. shows the strategic actions helping to prevent deforestation (D), forest degradation (FD) or increasing carbon reserves (ICR) in relation to their geographical scope, including priority geographical areas. Some of the direct actions for REDD+ will be implemented in one or several of the priority geographical areas, some will have an impact on both one or several of the priority geographical areas as well as in another part or parts of the country, while others will have an effect at national level.

Table A.1.2. REDD+ actions in relationship to the different ER Programs and their geographical scope.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES ER-PD	PLANS /PROGRAMS/PROJECTS									GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	
		PNQV:	SINAP:	PAP	COCOA	COFFEE	SSP	RAIWRM	SFM	PSA:		
2.4 Enhancing programs for ecological management and restoration in river basins	<i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	National	
3.1. Enhancing reforestation and agroforestry plans and programs such as the National Quisqueya Verde Plan and the Agroforestry Program <i>Includes Reforestation, Agroforestry Systems (cocoa and coffee AFS), Sustainable Forestry Management</i>	<i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>	x		x	x	x				x	x	National
3.2. Promoting the incorporation of agroforestry systems for managing agricultural and cattle farms. <i>Consists of forest pasture systems and agroforestry systems (Cocoa, Coffee AFS)</i>	<i>Deforestation</i> <i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			National
3.3. Developing of programs for awareness-raising and sensitization of key stakeholders on subjects such as environmental education and sustainable forest management. <i>Involves training in the form of courses, workshops, field days, interchange of experiences and publicity campaigns</i>	<i>Deforestation</i> <i>Degradation</i>	x	x					X		x		National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3.4. Reducing and/or halting deforestation and degradation in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources. <i>Includes Agroforestry systems (coffee, cocoa AFS), Plantations for wood energy, Diversification of income-</i>	<i>Deforestation</i> <i>Degradation</i>		x									+National/SINAP

<i>generating methods for local users, Creation of green jobs</i>								x			
3.5. Enhancing the program for protection and surveillance in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources. <i>Includes staffing at an adequate level, monitoring tasks, restocking with tree species and conservation of natural regeneration</i>	<i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>		x								
3.6. Rehabilitating forest ecosystems in fragile areas relevant for facilitating connectivity between forest fragments. <i>Includes the restocking of tree species, conservation of natural regeneration, protection of forest cover</i>	<i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>	x	x	x			x	XX	x	x	National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3.8. Encouraging owners of private farms and community organizations to manage the natural regeneration of tree species. <i>Tackles Regeneration of degraded natural areas, Sustainable forest management</i>	<i>Deforestation Degradation</i>						x		x	x	National. Priority areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3.9. Defining and putting into practice financial instruments and mechanisms for developing activities associated with production, conservation and restoration of forestry ecosystems. <i>Involves economic analyses, definition and adoption of financial alternatives</i>	<i>Deforestation Degradation</i>		x				x		x	x	Priority areas 1, 2, 3
3.10. Updating and applying the National Strategy for Fire Management in the Dominican Republic. <i>Involves revising and adapting the strategy, as well as the required equipment</i>	<i>Degradation</i>								x		National
3.11. Developing the program for restoring post-fire affected ecosystems. <i>Involves restructuring, restocking with tree species, conservation of natural regeneration and protection of plant cover</i>	<i>Increase of Carbon Stock</i>		x						x		National

NQVP = National Quisqueya Verde Plan (Vice Ministry for Forest Resources); SINAP = National System of Protected Areas – SINAP (Vice Ministry for Protected Areas and Biodiversity); PAP = Agroforestry Program (Inter-ministerial structure). CACAO = Agroforestry System with shade-grown cocoa (Department for Cocoa, Ministry of Agriculture); CAFÉ = Agroforestry System with shade-grown coffee (Dominican Coffee Institute- INDOCAFE); SSP = Silvopastoral system and conservation of forest in livestock farms (Directorate for Livestock Farming and National Council for the Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry –CONALECHE, RAIWRM = RD Resilient Agriculture and Integrated Water Resources Management (IBRD), SFfoM = Sustainable Forest Management (Vice Ministry for Forest Resources, Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration-ASODEFOREST, San Ramón Forest Owner Association), PES = Payment for Environmental Services in the Yaque del Norte River Basin (Vice Ministry for Forest Resources).

Social aspects of prioritized areas

A brief summary of the social aspects of the Priority Areas is presented below, covering: the size and growth of the population, gender and urban-rural distribution, predominant economic activities, level of general and extreme poverty, Human Development Index, and employment.

Priority Area 1

In terms of all the indicators analyzed, one of the three provinces that make up the Priority Area 1 had the most predominant values with respect to the others. Santiago is the third-most populated province in the country, while the other two provinces, Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez, are much less populated. The area in general has low or negative population growth. The percentage of men and women varies little around 50 percent, while there is a concentration of the priority population in urban areas. In terms of priority economic sector, the main cluster in the area is agriculture, with a weight of over 27 percent in the Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez provinces. The level of general and extreme poverty in 2010 varies among the three provinces that make up Priority Area 1, with Dajabón presenting a significantly higher percentage than the national average. According to the Human Development Index (HDI), which reports the level of a population's development, two of the three provinces exhibit Medium-Low development, while the province of Santiago (the most populated) exhibits Medium-High HDI. The unemployment rate affects women significantly more, particularly in the two less populated provinces of Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez, with rates close to or higher than the national average (15 percent).

Priority Area 2

Priority Area 2 generally registers low population numbers and density and low or negative population growth. The percentage men and women vary little around 50%, while there is a concentration of the priority population in urban areas. The predominant economic activity is agriculture. **The level of general and extreme poverty in 2010 was significantly higher than the national average.** The area exhibits unemployment rates close to the national average (15 percent), with much higher percentages in the case of women (close to 30 percent).

Priority Area 3

Two of the country's five most populated provinces are located in Priority Area 3, while the other four provinces have a smaller population and generally negative or very little growth. The proportion of men and women are equal in the most populated areas, with a greater share of men in less populated areas. The population is mostly concentrated in urban areas. The predominant economic activity is agriculture. Overall, the area exhibits general and extreme poverty above national levels, although lower than those

reported in 2002. According to the Human Development Index, the provinces with the highest concentration of the population have indices closer to the national level (0.513) while the less populated provinces are further away. The unemployment rate in the area varies between 11 percent and 23 percent on average, affecting women more significantly.

Priority Area 4

The area has a very low population density compared to the other Priority Areas, with the urban population in the most populated areas and the rural population in the least. Gender distribution is close to 50 percent in the most populated areas and predominantly male in the less populated ones. There is low agricultural activity, several mining concessions and higher levels in the service industry. The available data indicate significantly lower levels of poverty than the national average and also with respect to other Priority Areas. The Human Development Index corresponds to a Medium-High HDI, and the unemployment rate is well below the national average, although with higher values for women.

Priority Area 5

According to the scarce information available for the jurisdictions that make up Priority Area 5, it has the lowest population density in comparison to the other Priority Areas, which generally have a higher percentage of urban populations. The distribution of men and women is close to 50 percent. The predominant economic activity is agriculture, particularly subsistence agriculture in the area near Los Haitises National Park. The Human Development Index is below the national level, with a Low-Medium HDI. The unemployment rate is around the national average, but significantly higher for women than for men.

ANNEX 2. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Dominican Republic

With regard to quantifying land use change for the DR, a multi-temporal analysis was conducted using remote detection tools and Geographic Information Systems to estimate *gains and losses* of plant cover for the 2005-2015 period. For 2005 it is estimated that the Dominican Republic had a forested area of 2,153,519 ha (including coffee and cocoa agroforestry systems). For 2015, the estimated forested area was 2,435,932 ha, which was a net positive change, or *total forest gain*, of 282,412 ha in the 10 years analyzed.

On analyzing the dynamics of the change using the method of non-biased sampling (see methodology in the ER Program Document), estimates refer to a gross gain in forest cover (woody vegetation which becomes forested lands and non-woody vegetation which becomes forested land) of 467,263.75 ha of forest over 10 years, while losses (forested land which becomes woody and non-woody vegetation) amounted to 184,851.39 ha for the 10 years analyzed. On the basis of these figures, the Dominican Republic showed an *annual net positive change* of 28,241 ha of forest on average in the 2005-2015 period (Table A.2.1).

Table A.2.1. Changes in forest cover during the 2005-2015 period.

IPCC transition category	Change category	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Land that remained as forest land	Broadleaf forest	1,020,197.65	21.35
	Dry forest	372,137.03	7.79
	Coniferous Forest	266,872.55	5.59
	Tree-shaded crops	309,460.87	6.48
Subtotal		1,968,668.10	41.21
Forest land converted to non-forest land (deforestation)	Broadleaf forest to vegetation	41,128.34	0.86
	Broadleaf forest to non-woody veg.	88,183.87	1.85
	Dry forest to vegetation	22,157.69	0.46
	Dry forest to non-woody veg.	19,892.86	0.42
	Pine forest to vegetation	4,758.96	0.10
	Pine forest with non-woody veg.	8,729.67	0.18
Subtotal		184,851.39	3.87
Non-forest land converted into forest land	Woody veg. to broadleaf forest	135,988.50	2.85
	Woody veg. to dry forest	98,969.23	2.07
	Woody veg. to pine forest	23,605.18	0.49
	Non-woody veg. to broadleaf forest	138,618.35	2.90
	Non-woody veg. to dry forest	34,823.72	0.73
	Non-woody veg. to pine forest	12,433.13	0.26
	Non-woody veg. to Tree-shaded crops	22,825.64	0.48

Subtotal		467,263.75	9.78
Non-forest land	Non-forest land	1,986,187.34	41.57
Transitions not considered		170,409.06	3.54
National territory without satellite information		42,420.36	0.88
Subtotal		2,199,016.76	45.6
Total		4,819,800.00	100.00

The principal *cause of deforestation* in quantitative terms is the *conversion of forests into non-woody vegetation* (pastureland and annual farming). This type of dynamic entailed the loss of approximately 116,806 ha of forest in 10 years. This is followed by the conversion of the forests into woody vegetation in the order of 68,015 ha. In terms of loss, the most significant conversion involves the broadleaf forests, with losses of 129,312 ha between 2005 and 2015, followed by dry forest, with losses of 42,051 ha, and pine forest with losses of 13,489 ha in the same period.

Prioritized at national level, the *principal direct causal factors of deforestation* are: commercial livestock farming and the illegal logging of the natural forest, both identified as extremely high priority, followed by commercial and shifting/subsistence agriculture, catalogued as high priority causal factors. Prioritized at national level, the very high priority *principal direct causal factors of forest degradation* are: i) grazing of livestock in the forest, ii) the extraction of timber/firewood/charcoal, iii) badly organized/badly implemented management plans, iv) medium and low-intensity forest fires and v) the introduction of exotic/invasive species.

The very high priority *main indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation* at a national level are: i) deficiency of public policies, ii) deficiency in relation to the institutional status of the forestry sector, iii) lack of relevant education, and iv) informality in the firewood/charcoal market, v) migration dynamics and vi) low economic valuation of forests, identified as being of high priority.

Using the results obtained from the standardized and prioritized causal factors, the essential inputs needed to propose strategic ER Program options and actions and to formulate the REDD+ National Strategy for the Dominican Republic were generated. Table A.2.2 lists the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the GoDR ENREDD+ proposed interventions to address them.

Table A.2.2. Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and GoDR ENREDD+ proposed interventions.

Driver	Impact	Type of Driver	Description of driver	ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions
Low level of harmonization between agricultural production, infrastructure development and forest conservation policies	Deforestation	Direct	Legislation does not directly consider its relationship with deforestation and forest degradation nor its impact on forests.	2.3 Strengthen land zoning programs for crops, livestock and infrastructure that are compatible with the conservation of forests
			Traditional government programs for promoting agriculture, livestock farming, and forestry still do not have a policy framework for forest conservation that is aligned at the local and national level	2.4 Strengthen watersheds and ecological restoration programs
		Direct	Forests are managed without any consideration for the ecosystems and the	3.3 Develop awareness programs for key actors on

Driver	Impact	Type of Driver	Description of driver	ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions
Poor and unsustainable use of forests lands	Deforestation and forest degradation		ecological requirements necessary for their conservation. Degradation and deforestation are closely related to human activity, either due to carelessness, indifference and/or lack of skill in using fire.	environmental and forest management
				3.6 Rehabilitation of forest ecosystems to facilitate connectivity between fragmented forests
				3.9 Define and implement financial instruments to promote transformation, conservation and restoration activities
				3.10 Update and implement the National Fire Management Strategy
				3.11 Restore ecosystems affected by fires
				3.12 Strengthen the phytosanitary program in priority forest areas
Unsustainable management of agricultural and livestock lands	Deforestation and forest degradation	Direct	Farmers lack incentives and the technical capacity to properly manage lands to make them more productive.	3.1 Strengthen agroforestry and reforestation plans and programs
				3.6 Rehabilitation of forest ecosystems to facilitate connectivity between fragmented forests
Expansion of livestock production	Deforestation	Direct	Extensive livestock farming is the land use system that has permanently replaced forest cover in the country. Traditionally, livestock farmers have taken advantage of small “conuqueros” farmers to fell forest areas and transform them into pasture after years of cultivation.	3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms
Expansion of grazing in forests	Deforestation	Direct	Extensive livestock farming occupies large grazing areas and the livestock is regularly moved from one place to another in search of new forage.	3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms
Weak forest legislation and other norms associated with the management of the forest sector	Deforestation and forest degradation	Underlying	Lack of a policy framework for forest conservation and sustainable forest management that is well aligned with other land use sector policies.	1.1 Promote the Forestry and Payment for Ecosystem Services Law
				1.2 Revise, elaborate and apply regulations related to the sustainable management of forests
				2.1 Strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms of conservation

Driver	Impact	Type of Driver	Description of driver	ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions
				and sustainable forest management policies 3.7 Establish a forest evaluation and monitoring system
Institutional weakness for sustainable forest management	Deforestation and forest degradation	Underlying	Lack of effectiveness and complementarity in public policies within the agro-silvopastoral and forestry sectors.	1.2 Revise, elaborate and apply regulations related to the sustainable management of forests
				1.3 Promote governance structures for the conservation of natural national heritage
				1.5 Strengthen control mechanisms for forest and forest by-products
				1.6 Strengthen institutional capacities of entities responsible for implementing REDD+ actions
				2.1 Strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms of conservation and sustainable forest management policies
				3.7 Establish a forest evaluation and monitoring system
Weakness associated with the rural land tenure regime	Deforestation and forest degradation	Underlying	Without a guarantee that the land will continue to belong to farmers, farmers have little incentive or motivation to invest in the land to make it more productive long-term.	1.4 Define and apply legal mechanisms related to land tenure and PES in relation to REDD+
Low economic valuation of forests	Deforestation	Underlying	Perceived economic value of forests is low. Forests are not perceived as a valuable asset.	1.4 Define and apply legal mechanisms related to land tenure and PES in relation to REDD+
				3.9 Define and implement financial instruments to promote transformation, conservation and restoration activities
High level of rural poverty and unemployment	Deforestation and forest degradation	Underlying	Poverty restricts economic options, reduces income-generating opportunities, and is an underlying cause of deforestation. Limited employment and low incomes, together with demographic pressures, contribute to deforestation.	2.2 Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, protection of watersheds, biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services derived from forest ecosystems
				2.4 Strengthen watershed and ecological restoration programs

Driver	Impact	Type of Driver	Description of driver	ENREDD+ Proposed Interventions
				3.1 Strengthen agroforestry and reforestation plans and programs
				3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms
High pressure on forests due to population growth	Deforestation	Underlying	Horizontal expansion has been observed in the main cities in the country, which reduces both the agricultural area available and natural plant cover in the areas adjacent to cities.	2.2 Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, watershed protection, biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services derived from forest ecosystems
				3.2 Promote the incorporation of agroforestry systems for the management of farms
				3.4 Decrease and stop deforestation and forest degradation in relevant protected areas
				3.5 Strengthen surveillance programs in relevant natural protected areas

ANNEX 3. Dominican Republic’s Program Measures

The Emissions Reduction Program is currently the most significant component in the Dominican Republic’s REDD+ Strategy, which will be implemented on a national scale. The main objective of the Program is to significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation and to substantially increase carbon reservoirs by implementing strategic actions aiming to boost coverage regeneration in degraded areas, sustainable forest management and the creation of coffee, cocoa and silvopastoral systems. At the same time, the Program aims to improve the quality of life in Dominican rural communities and increase the resilience of the natural ecosystems against climate change.

Through a participatory program with key stakeholders, Strategic Options and Strategic Actions were identified and agreed upon to offset or mitigate factors that: i) drive deforestation and forest degradation, ii) restrict conservation and sustainable forest management and iii) hinder growth of the forest charcoal stock. The participative process entailed several consultation workshops, internal consultations in the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and an analysis and technical discussion with the organisations that make up the REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee.

Based on the participatory process, the ER Program includes fulfilling and implementing three *Strategic Options* and 22 *Strategic Actions*, which will comply with the core part of the National REDD+ Strategy. The Strategic Options are:

1. To strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources. Includes 6 actions.
2. To establish, strengthen and apply public policies in order to limit and/or contain the expansion of agricultural and livestock frontiers and of infrastructure in forest areas. Includes 4 actions.
3. To promote natural resource management models that contribute to forest conservation and sustainable use and to the increase of forest coverage. Comprises a total of 12 actions.

The first two options will generate legal and institutional conditions in order to meet the established reduction goals, while the third includes actions to be carried out in the field through successful plans, programs and projects being developed by the country. Table A.3.1 contains a summary of the main Strategic Options and their corresponding Strategic Actions.

Table A.3.1. REDD+ Strategic Options and Corresponding Strategic Actions, Scope, and Scale.

STRATEGIC OPTIONS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	SCOPE:	SPHERE
1. Strengthening the legal and institutional framework to preserve natural heritage and promote the	1.1 To promote the enactment and application of the Forestry Law and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) regulations.	Enabling Environment Activity: To support the formulation, approval, and enactment of forestry law and PSA operational instruments.	National
	1.2 Review, create and apply rules concerning sustainable forest management.	Enabling Environment Activity: Review forest management laws and codes, adapting them and drafting new ones as required.	National

STRATEGIC OPTIONS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	SCOPE:	SPHERE
<p>sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Scope: To promote the application of different laws and standards relating to the management and conservation of natural heritage, and to encourage governance structures at different levels.</p>	1.3 To drive effective governance structures for the preservation of natural heritage in the context of REDD+.	Enabling Environment Activity: Establishment of the Management Committee, REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee, Central Work Groups and Local Coordination Groups. Review and strengthen their operating rules.	National
	1.4 To define and apply legal mechanisms relating to the tenure of land and payments for environmental services in the context of REDD+.	Enabling Environment Activity: Application of mechanisms for recognition of land tenure rights. Approval and dissemination of profit-sharing mechanisms for emissions reduction.	National
	1.5 To strengthen mechanisms of forest control and supervision including the determination of the legal origin, exploitation and sale of forest products and sub-products.	Enabling Environment Activity: Revise, update and implement existing mechanisms for traceability of forest products.	National
	1.6 To strengthen the institutional capacities of the organizations responsible for implementing REDD+ actions.	Enabling Environment Activity: Review, establish and assign human and logistical resources for implementation of REDD+ at an institutional level. Establish a training program at central and local level in all REDD+ governance structures.	National
<p>2. Establish, strengthen and apply public policies to limit and/or contain the expansion of agricultural, livestock and infrastructure borders in forested areas</p> <p>Scope: To strengthen inter-institutional coordination and collaboration mechanisms to reach a harmony between productive activities and forest conversation.</p>	2.1 To strengthen effective mechanisms of inter-institutional coordination for consistency of public conservation policies, sustainable use and restoration of forests.	Enabling Environment Activity: Establish inter-institutional agreements; joint implementation agreements; definition of joint standards and protocols.	National
	2.2 Establish new areas for forest management, reforestation, clean-up, protection of water basins, conservation of biodiversity and for other environmental services derived from forest ecosystems.	Enabling Environment Activity: Integrate and expand on existing national programs with REDD+ focus (actions considered in strategic option 3).	National
	2.3 To develop programs for the zonation of crops, livestock and infrastructure compatible with forest conservation.	Enabling Environment Activity: Update productive zoning and conservation of the landscape and propose this to the Management Committee, to reinstate this among the REDD+ agreements.	National
	2.4 To strengthen the focus on drainage basins in ecological management and restoration programs.	Enabling Environment Activity To promote a basin management approach among the REDD+ Program Executing Entities.	National

STRATEGIC OPTIONS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	SCOPE:	SPHERE
<p>3. To promote management models for natural resources that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forests and an increase in forest coverage.</p> <p>Scope: To promote activity in sustainable productive systems based on agroforestry and natural resource management and conservation.</p>	<p>3.1 To strengthen plans and programs for reforestation and agroforestry such as the Green Quisqueya National Plan and the Agroforestry Program.</p>	<p>Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks: Identify areas of intervention: involve the community and organisations in reforestation and agro-forestry actions (Social Forestry, SAF cocoa and coffee), sustainable Forestry Management.</p>	National
	<p>3.2 Promoting the incorporation of agroforestry systems for managing agricultural and cattle farms.</p>	<p>Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks and deforestation. Intensification of livestock by means of silvopastoral systems.</p>	National
		<p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Intensification of agriculture through agro-forestry systems (SAF cocoa, coffee). Incorporation of trees in livestock estates (silvopastoral systems).</p>	National
	<p>3.3 To develop programs to raise awareness among key players regarding the subjects of environmental management and sustainable forest management.</p>	<p>Enabling Environment Activity Deforestation-degradation Establish a program to train and raise awareness of environmental management and sustainable forest management. Training courses, workshops, sharing experiences, field days, dissemination campaigns.</p>	Priority areas I, II and III
	<p>3.4 To reduce and/or slow down deforestation and degradation in major protected areas for the conservation of forest resources.</p>	<p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Formulate and implement sustainable production actions in PA buffer zones (Dendroenergy plantations, agro-forest systems). Apply resolution N 0010/2018 Management of buffer areas of SINAP conservation units. Reduce dependency on use of resources within PAS (creation of green jobs).</p>	SINAP
	<p>3.5 Enhancing the program for protection and surveillance in protected areas relevant to the conservation of forest resources.</p>	<p>Direct activity Deforestation-degradation: Strengthen definition of the PAs. Draft and implement management plans in priority protected areas with social stakeholders. Restrict use and access to PA resources in accordance with management plans Strengthening and application of the Sanctions Regulation in the NPAs, in accordance with the management plans.</p>	SINAP

STRATEGIC OPTIONS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	SCOPE:	SPHERE
		Strengthen the protection and surveillance program in the core area of the NPAs through the National Park Guards Corps, administrators and local participating communities.	
	3.6 Rehabilitating forest ecosystems in fragile areas relevant for facilitating connectivity between forest fragments.	Direct activity Improve existing Carbon stocks Include repopulation of tree species, conservation of natural regeneration, forest cover protection (Reforestation, Regeneration of degraded natural areas, Agro-forestry systems, Silviculture, Sustainable forest management).	National
	3.7 To establish a system for evaluating and monitoring forest management.	Enabling Environment Activity: Generation of technical skills and technological infrastructure for integral forest management monitoring (GHG, Fires, Traceability, products, species, etc.).	National
	3.8 To promote forest management and the natural regeneration of tree species between owners of private farms and community organizations.	Direct activity Deforestation and degradation: Recovery of degraded land through natural regeneration Increased the area under sustainable forest management and silviculture activities.	Priority area V
	3.9 To define and put into practice financial instruments and mechanisms to develop productive conservation and restoration activities for forest and agroforest ecosystem.	Direct activity Deforestation and degradation: Review, assessment and broadening the scope of existing incentives.	Priority area III
	3.10 Updating and applying the National Strategy for Fire Management in the Dominican Republic.	Direct activity Degradation: Strengthen institutional capacity for coordination, collaboration for application of the National Fire Management Strategy. Detect needs for Strengthening (RH, Surveillance Equipment, Protocols, early alerts). Update and apply the fire reporting system.	National
	3.11 Developing the program for restoring post-fire affected ecosystems.	Direct activity Improve Carbon stocks: Cover the SINAP, basins, and all national programs that incorporate the REDD+ Strategy.	National
	3.12 To develop a phytosanitary plan in priority forest areas.	Enabling Environment activity: Develop a plant health protection	National

STRATEGIC OPTIONS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	SCOPE:	SPHERE
		<p>plan that includes using and managing pesticides, integrated pest management, preventive, control and permanent plant health monitoring of native forest resources.</p> <p>Train professionals and technical personnel in surveying, detection, registration, prevention and pest control at a central and local level, including customs.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of National Plant Pathology laboratories.</p>	

ANNEX 4. Expected Emissions Reductions

The emissions in the forest sector with reference to the historical data (2006-2015) were estimated to average 662,545 tCO₂e/year, including annual emissions of 3.2 MtCO₂e from deforestation, 0.57 MtCO₂e from forest degradation, and annual removals of -2.1 MtCO₂e from reforestation and -0.97 MtCO₂e from recovering forest stocks. Table A.4.1 illustrates the ER Program Reference Level. The calculation report can be accessed at the following link: <https://app.box.com/s/297c6wkhw3crh7itx9zy0acachzv2x0f>.

Table A.4.1. ER Program Reference Level.

year <i>t</i>	Average annual historical emissions from deforestation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr.)	Average annual historical emissions from forest degradation over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e})	Average annual historical removals by sinks over the Reference Period (tCO _{2-e} /yr)		Reference level (tCO _{2-e} /yr)
			Lands converted to forest lands	Lands that remain as forest	
1	3,203,463	567,240	-214,007	-968,088	2,588,608
2	3,203,463	567,240	-642,021	-968,088	2,160,594
3	3,203,463	567,240	-1,070,035	-968,088	1,732,580
4	3,203,463	567,240	-1,498,049	-968,088	1,304,566
5	3,203,463	567,240	-1,926,064	-968,088	876,552
6	3,203,463	567,240	-2,354,078	-968,088	448,538
7	3,203,463	567,240	-2,782,092	-968,088	20,523
8	3,203,463	567,240	-3,210,106	-968,088	-407,491
9	3,203,463	567,240	-3,638,120	-968,088	-835,505
10	3,203,463	567,240	-4,066,134	-968,088	-1,263,519
Average 2006-2015	3,203,463	567,240	-2,140,071	-968,088	662,545

Based on the results of the 2006-2015 reference period, the Reference Level for the ER Program Period between 2020 and 2024 totals 3,312,725 tCO₂e. The RL includes emissions from deforestation, degradation and removals from the enhancement of carbon stocks from afforestation/reforestation activities. With the implementation of the activities planned for the Emissions Reduction Program, the emissions and removals during the ER Program Period will account for 6,321,442 tCO₂e total. This implies that with the ER Program, the country will be a net carbon sink. Table A.4.2 depicts the ex-ante estimation of the ERs expected from the ER Program.

Table A.4.2. Ex-ante estimation of the ERs expected from the ER Program.

ER Program term year t	Reference level (tCO _{2-e} /yr)					Estimation of expected emissions / removals under the ER Program (tCO _{2-e} /yr)					Emission Reduction	Expected ERs after discounting uncertainty	Estimation of expected set-aside to reflect the risk of reversal and level of uncertainty associated with the estimation of ERs during the Term of the ER PROGRAMA (tCO _{2-e} /yr)	Estimated Emission Reductions (tCO _{2-e} /yr)
	Annual Emission (t CO _{2-e} /yr)		Annual Removals (t CO _{2-e} /yr)		FREL	Annual Emissions (t CO _{2-e} /yr)		Annual Removals (t CO _{2-e} /yr)		FREL projected				
	Forest lands converted to croplands / pastures	Lands that remain as forest	Lands converted to forest lands	Lands that remain as forest		Forest lands converted to croplands / pastures	Lands that remain as forest	Lands converted to forest lands	Lands that remain as forest					
2020	3,203,463	567,240	(2,140,071)	(968.088)	662,545	3,020,604	561,641	(2,333,882)	(968.088)	280,275	382,270	343,543	57,257	286,286
2021	3,203,463	567,240	(2,140,071)	(968.088)	662,545	2,520,187	540,041	(2,527,694)	(968.088)	(435.554)	1,098,099	992,841	165,474	827,368
2022	3,203,463	567,240	(2,140,071)	(968.088)	662,545	2,452,745	517,962	(2,721,505)	(968.088)	(718.886)	1,381,431	1,244,209	207,368	1,036,841
2023	3,203,463	567,240	(2,140,071)	(968.088)	662,545	2,432,048	495,883	(2,915,317)	(968.088)	(955.474)	1,618,019	1,452,572	242,095	1,210,476
2024	3,203,463	567,240	(2,140,071)	(968.088)	662,545	2,424,334	473,804	(3,109,129)	(968.088)	(1,179,079)	1,841,624	1,648,990	274,832	1,374,159
Total										(3,008,718)	6,321,443	5,682,155	947,026	4,735,129

According to the Monte Carlo analysis, the uncertainty of estimations of for the RL was estimated at 37.05% for deforestation, which represent a conservative factor of 8%, the estimated uncertainty of stock enhancement from reforestation was estimated at 68%, which represents a conservative factor of 12%, whereas the uncertainty of degradation and forest recovering were both >100%, representing a conservative factor of 15% (Table A.4.3).

Table A.4.3. Forest Reference Emissions Levels (in tCO_{2e}/year) with the respective uncertainty and conservativeness factor per activity.

FREL	Emissions	Standard Deviation	Lower Limit (5%)	Upper Limit (95%)	Error	Conservativeness Factor
RL Deforestation	3,773,493	852,097	2,460,578	5,256,427	37.05%	8%
RL Removals	-2,294,122	-1,017,527	-4,067,560	-723,310	68.47%	12%
RL Degradation	570,327	587,393	-347,955	1,529,069	164.6%	15%
RL Forest Recovering	-973,192	1,013,651	-2,676,477	+662,518	171.6%	15%

As a result of the uncertainty analysis, the corresponding buffer is 8% for deforestation, 12% for removal and 15% for degradation and forest recovery and according to the reversal analysis the corresponding buffer is 20%. As such, the quantity of reductions, which must be set aside to reflect the uncertainty level and the risk of reversals, is 1,586,314 tCO_{2e}. Total emission reductions for the ER PROGRAMA are then 4,735,125 tCO_{2e} (Table A.4.4).

Table A.4.4. Total expected net ERs (tCO₂e).

Year	Gross ER	Reductions set aside to reflect uncertainty level and risk of reversals	Net ER
2020	382,271	57,257	286,286
2021	1,098,098	165,474	827,368
2022	1,381,431	207,368	1,036,841
2023	1,618,019	242,095	1,210,476
2024	1,841,623	274,832	1,374,159
ER PROGRAM Period	6,321,442	947,026	4,735,129

Annex 5. Programs and EE participating of the ER Program and potential universe of beneficiaries, location, and potential types of support that will be offered.

Program	Executing Entity	Type of Beneficiary				Location and Scope	Type of Activities	Type of Benefits	Description of Benefits
		Individual and Family Land-Owners	Informal Tenure	Forest and Agroforestry Producers	Associations and/or Federations				
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Cocoa (CACAO)	Cocoa Department - Vice Ministry of Agricultural Production and Marketing - MAG	X		X	X	Cocoa producers located throughout the national territory	- Agroforestry systems (cocoa)	Non-monetary	Provision of quality hybrid cocoa plants which will be delivered to the producers, subsidized at cost. Technical assistance.
La Celestina Sustainable Management Project	Association of Foresters in San Ramón, La Celestina			X		71 associates and 340 small non-associate producers located in the municipality of San José de las Matas	- Sustainable Forest Management - Dendroenergetic plantations	Non-Monetary	Expand and strengthen the capacity of the Association to provide facilities (equipment, machinery, etc.) to current and new partners to ensure the intervention area and boost its growth, which has been limited by existing shortcomings.
National System of Protected Areas (SINAP)	Protected Areas Directorate - Vice Ministry of AAPP and Biodiversity - MARN	X	X			Proprietary individuals and families and suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) on land located within and in the buffer zones of Protected Areas	- Natural regeneration in degraded areas - Forest conservation in priority protected areas with social actors	Non-Monetary	For the owners and informal holders, the benefits received will be used to finance land use change actions favorable to the conservation and restoration of AAPP. The actions would include technical assistance according to the management plans of each PA to reduce its vulnerability.
National Reforestation Program (Quisqueya Verde)	Reforestation Directorate, Vice Ministry of Forest Resources- MARN	X		X	X	1,140 individual forest producers and 279 producer associations located throughout the national territory 303 tree-	- Reforestation	Non-Monetary	Includes the delivery of seeds, planting of seedlings and technical assistance.

Program	Executing Entity	Type of Beneficiary				Location and Scope	Type of Activities	Type of Benefits	Description of Benefits
		Individual and Family Land-Owners	Informal Tenure	Forest and Agroforestry Producers	Associations and/or Federations				
						planting brigades 195 Associations			
Agroforestry System with Shade-Grown Coffee (CAFÉ)	Dominican Institute of Coffee (INDOCAFÉ)			X	X	28,000 small and medium-sized associated coffee producers located throughout the national territory	- Agroforestry systems (coffee)	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others.
Sustainable Forest Management Plan	Association for the Sustainable Development of Forest Restoration (ASODEFOREST)			X		64 associated forest producers and 546 non-associate forest producers located in the province of Dajabón	- Sustainable Forest Management - Dendroenergetic plantations	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others.
Agroforestry Development Project of the Presidency (PAP)	Technical Implementing Unit for Agroforestry Development Projects (UTEFDA)			X		11,000 small and medium forestry and agricultural producers located in the upper basins of the provinces of Elías Piña, Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana, Independencia, Azua,	- Agroforestry systems (coffee, cocoa)	Monetary	Monetary payments to beneficiaries.

Program	Executing Entity	Type of Beneficiary				Location and Scope	Type of Activities	Type of Benefits	Description of Benefits
		Individual and Family Land-Owners	Informal Tenure	Forest and Agroforestry Producers	Associations and/or Federations				
						Bahoruco and Pedernales			
Payments for Environmental Services Program - Yaque del Norte Basin	Steering Committee PSA EGEHID, CORAASAN and MARN	X	X	X		Proprietary individuals and families, suppliers (legal or legitimate usufructuaries) and forestry and agricultural producers located in the North Yaque Basin	- Payment for Environmental Services - Forest conservation in priority protected areas with social actors	Monetary	Monetary payments to beneficiaries.
MEGALECHE Program (silvopastoral system and forest conservation on livestock farms)	General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA)			X		Small and medium milk producers located throughout the national territory	- Silvopastoral systems - Forest conservation	Non-Monetary	Non-monetary benefits include technical support, the purchase of machinery, infrastructure projects to support sustainable production, among others.
Silvopastoral Systems and Forest Conservation in Livestock Farms	National Council for Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry – CONALECHE			X	X	1,747 small and medium milk producers and associations and federations of producers located throughout the national territory	- Silvopastoral systems - Forest conservation	Monetary	Credit financing at preferential/subsidized rates.

Annex 6. Criteria for the selection of activities established in the ESMF

A.6.1. Exclusion List

The following activities are considered environmentally or socially high risk or contravene the Operational Policies of the WB and cannot be selected as part of the REDD+ Strategy.

Table A.6.1. List of excluded activities

List of Excluded Activities	
1	Activities that require the large-scale ¹⁸ involuntary acquisition of land or subsequent land-use change that produces losses or irreversible damage to the assets or income of local residents.
2	Activities that significantly affect ¹⁹ vulnerable populations, or where populations have not given their support.
3	Activities that irreversibly affect archaeological or historical sites (including sites with archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious or unique natural values).
4	Activities that cause irreversible degradation, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources or place a large quantity of scarce resources at risk.
5	Conversion, deforestation or degradation or any other alteration of natural forests or critical habitats.
6	Activities related to illegal logging and unauthorized extraction of non-timber products for their sale.
7	Acquisition of agrochemical product formulations that belong to categories Ia (extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous) of the World Health Organization or product formulations from Category II (moderately hazardous), if it is likely that they will be used by inexperienced personnel, farmers or other people without training, or without the equipment and installations for handling, storing and applying these products correctly ²⁰ , as well as those established in the Forestry Health catalogue ²¹ .
8	Funding elections or electoral campaigns.
9	Construction and/or restoration of religious buildings.
10	Activities and crops implemented and/or cultivated with the general purpose of producing and/or selling alcohol and/or tobacco.
11	Purchasing tobacco, alcoholic beverages and other drugs.
12	Purchasing arms or munitions.
13	Those that do not comply with the established documentation in the legal framework for each eligible activity.

The EEs must apply the list of excluded activities as the first filter. Any *specific activity* that includes one or several of the listed activities will be rejected from selection as activities eligible for REDD+.

¹⁸ More than 200 cases of involuntary acquisition are considered significant.

¹⁹ Situations considered to have significant negative impacts on vulnerable populations and therefore considered “non-eligible”, including the following: a) significant cultural disruptions that seriously affect practices and ways of life, such as physical displacement of these vulnerable populations without their free, prior and informed consent and without them benefiting in a fair and equitable way from the sub-project; b) impacts on common-use land and traditionally used natural resources irreversibly affecting the livelihoods of vulnerable populations; and c) severe and/or irreversible effects on cultural resources or practices.

²⁰ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44271/9789241547963_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

²¹ http://www.reddccadgiz.org/documentos/doc_1417514524.pdf

A.6.2. General selection criteria for activities

The specific activities must prove that they align with the selected REDD+ activity types²², and that they promote some of the criteria set out below:

- Improving the livelihoods of the local population.
- Enhancing the participation of local communities in the management of the forest landscape.
- Tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Offering environmental benefits in addition to ERs, such as biodiversity and hydrological services.
- Avoiding deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management.
- Protecting environmental services.
- Increasing carbon stocks in the forest landscape.
- Promoting activities with a low environmental impact that promote sustainable use and agroforestry for timber and non-timber products.
- Incorporation of low carbon production systems in agriculture.
- Strengthening of community forestry companies.
- Aligning with the central objectives of the Program or National Project and with the NS REDD+.
- Their social, environmental and economic feasibility and sustainability are justified.
- Exchange of experiences between men, women, and youth, as well as between different production systems. Give visibility to different groups.

A.6.3. Specific selection criteria that each activity must satisfy

After filtering for excluded activities and general criteria, the EE in charge of the proposed activities must apply the specific selection criteria related to the environmental and social compliance standards set by the national legal framework for each type of activity considered in each project or program.

The specific requirements by REDD+ activity type is presented below:

²² Sustainable Forest Management, reforestation, agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems, natural regeneration in degraded areas, dendroenergetic plantations, and management plans in protected areas.

Table A.6.1. Specific selection criteria for Sustainable Forest Management in the REDD+ framework

1. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
As a prerequisite, these operations must comply with national regulations in force on forest management plans and land registry regulations.
Letter from the rights holder declaring under oath that the proposed activities are considered within the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.
Present MARN authorization of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan in Forest.
Environmental Permit (Category B). Requires an Environmental Impact Statement to be drafted when performed on an area greater than 200 hectares.
Environmental Certificate (Category C). Only requires compliance with the environmental regulations in force when performed on area of up to 200 hectares.
Copy of the letter of authorization or, if applicable, authorization of the amendments to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan in print and digital PDF format.
Authorized and valid electronic file of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.
Letter of submission and electronic file of the execution, development and compliance report of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan corresponding to the immediately previous year exercised (ONLY FOR PROJECTS IN OPERATION)

Table A.6.2. Specific selection criteria for Reforestation in the REDD+ framework

2. Reforestation in the Context of REDD+
Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas. (The reforestation units or zones operate under the administration and responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources through the Provincial Directorates of the Environment and Natural Resources, responsible for operational work)
Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings.
Present a reforestation plan that contains: Aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the plantation and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.
Declaration of the human settlements in the intervention area (if there are people settled or making use of the intervention area, describe the number of people, activity and resource dependence). Inform whether the activity implies the displacement of activities or people or some type of use restriction.

Table A.6.3. Specific selection criteria for Agroforestry Systems in the REDD+ framework

3. Agroforestry Systems (shade-grown coffee, cocoa)
<p>Certification of Plantation with Right to Harvest (for New Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Permit for Harvest, Shade Control and Exploitation of Trees (for Existing Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Environmental Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment for projects categorized by Law 64-00 (Category C).</p>
<p>Present an agroforestry establishment plan including aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p>
<p>The proposal includes best practices such as activities with minimum tillage and not using slash-and-burn practices, good waste and pesticide handling and the establishment of forestry tree species in the same area.</p>

Table A.6.4. Specific selection criteria for Silvopastoral Systems in the REDD+ framework

4. Silvopastoral Systems
<p>Certification of Plantation with Right to Harvest (for New Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Permit for Harvest, Shade Control and Exploitation of Trees (for Existing Projects) issued by the Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Environmental Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment for projects categorized by Law 64-00 (Category C).</p>
<p>Present an agroforestry establishment plan including aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p>
<p>The proposal includes best practices such as activities with minimum tillage and not using slash-and-burn practices, good waste and pesticide handling and the establishment of forestry tree species in the same area.</p>

Table A.6.5. Specific selection criteria for Natural Regeneration in Degraded Areas in the REDD+ framework

5. Natural Regeneration in Degraded Areas
<p>Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas.</p>
<p>Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings.</p>
<p>Present a reforestation plan that contains aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.</p>
<p>Declaration of the human settlements in the intervention area (if there are people settled or making use of the intervention area, describe the number of people, activity and resource dependence). Inform whether the activity implies the displacement of activities or people or some type of use restriction.</p>

Table A.6.6. Specific selection criteria for Dendroenergetic Plantations in the REDD+ framework

6. Dendroenergetic Plantations
Approval from the Ministry of Environment through the Sub-Ministry of Forestry Resources to carry out reforestation actions and recovery of green natural areas.
Certificate of Plantation with Multiple-Use Right to Harvest (Corresponding to Environmental Certificates, Category C).
Authorization for Forestry Plantation Management (Certificate of Minimum Impact)
Demonstration of the origin of the pest-free seeds or seedlings.
Present a reforestation plan that contains aims, methods of seedling production, sowing, establishment and maintenance of the system and pest control methods, fire control and the necessary safety equipment for the activities, waste management, among others.
For the energy production process, a concession is required from the National Energy Commission, which initially grants a provisional concession followed by a definitive concession, and if production continues, an energy use agreement is established.

Table A.6.7. Specific selection criteria for Forest Conservation Activities in priority protected areas along with social stakeholders in the REDD+ framework

7. Forest Conservation Activities in Priority Protected Areas along with Social Stakeholders
Present a certificate issued by the director of the SINAP confirming that the activities to be performed in the Natural Protected Area are on the list of permitted activities established in the Management Program in effect based on its zoning.
If there is no specific Management Plan for the intervention area, it must comply with the provisions for the conservation of forests established in General Law No. 64-00 on Environment and Natural Resources; Law No. 202-04, Sectorial of Protected Areas; Law No. 57-18, Forest Sector of the Dominican Republic and those contained in the Forest Technical Standards and Forest Regulations.
Apply the criteria and comply with the objectives set forth in the Policies for the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP).
Comply with the legal criteria and procedures for the management of SINAP deriving from the provisions contained in the Constitution of the Republic; General Law No. 64-00 on Environment and Natural Resources; Law No. 202-04, Sectorial of Protected Areas; Law No. 105-05 on Real Estate Registration and Law No. 344-43 establishing the Expropriation Procedure.
Present proof of land tenure (for informal occupants) or Certificate Title and registration plan (owners).
Present an action plan with the requirements of the NS REDD+ Resettlement Policies Framework, drafted in a participatory fashion with the agreement of the social stakeholders present in the natural protected area.

Once EEs can demonstrate compliance with the specific criteria contemplated in the national legal framework, the activities may be selected for integration into the ER Program. Compliance with the environmental and social safeguards of the WB must be demonstrated during their implementation in order to qualify for the benefit distribution system.

Additionally, the following list is included, which offers guidance for identifying potentially compromising factors according to the scope of WB OP 4.12. To the extent that any proposed activity or action involves one or more of the factors included in the following list, the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework, included in Annex 2 of the ESMF, shall apply.

- Unintentional loss of land and / or partial or total impairment of assets (OP/BM 4.12).
- Loss of crops, walls, fences and other assets.
- Loss of livelihoods or access to assets.

- Involuntary displacement of communities/people linked to activities in protected areas and land use change.
- Involuntary (partial or total) economic displacement due to land use change.
- Limitation of access to resources linked to protected natural areas.
- Loss of access to land where there are resources that are sources of income for affected people.
- Displacement of uses or activities that potentially imply the loss of assets or reduction of income regardless of land ownership.