

Technical Assistance under the “REDD Early Movers” (REM) Programme – Colombia

REDD Early Movers (REM)

The REDD Early Movers (REM) Programme is a cornerstone of Germany's bilateral REDD+ engagement (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks). Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly implemented by KfW Development Bank and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), REM supports countries and large-scale jurisdictions that have already taken action and made progress towards mitigating climate change by protecting forests – so called Early Movers. Within REM, KfW implements the financial cooperation through a results-based finance scheme, while GIZ provides targeted technical support to partners to address readiness gaps. REM operates within the framework of official development assistance (ODA).

REM in Colombia

Colombia is highly committed to reduce deforestation in the Amazon, which harbors one of the world's most precious rainforests. The Government has set the ambitious goal of zero net deforestation by 2020. As a core policy the Government launched the Amazon Vision Programme, a progressive strategy to promote sustainable development in the region and tackle deforestation.

Recognizing the commitment towards forest protection, the governments of Colombia, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom formed a partnership to support the goal of zero net deforestation. As a key element, the three donor countries have committed to provide up to approximately 120 M USD in results-based finance. This commitment is complemented by 1.6 M Euros in targeted technical assistance. Both components are implemented through Germany's REM Programme.

Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
German contribution (REM TA)	Up to 1.600.000 Euro
Political Partner	Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia)
Counterpart	Ministry for the Environment and sustainable Development (MADS)
Project region	Colombian Amazon
Duration (REM TA)	February 2016 to June 2018

REM Technical Assistance in Colombia

REM technical assistance supports the Ministry for the Environment (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, MADS). It is part of the GIZ assistance to the environmental sector as a whole and is embedded in the GIZ programme Forest and Climate Protection (REDD+). Thus, alignment of objectives and close cooperation on implementation has been ensured. Colombia's Amazon Vision is the strategic framework for the cooperation. Specific lines of work were agreed with MADS complementing the other ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive REDD+ strategy in Colombia.

MADS and REM TA agreed upon the following three areas of support:

- Assist the participatory development of a benefit sharing programme for indigenous communities
- Work on an interim REDD+ registry
- Support to the Safeguards for REDD+ and the grievance mechanism

In addition, there will be some targeted support to foster intersectoral cooperation especially with agriculture, the transport sector and strengthening forest governance.



Impressions from the Colombian Amazon Region. Guaviare (left), Guainía (right).

Key results

Interim REDD+ registry

The REDD+ registry is just a small component in the overall REDD+ framework but critical to ensure transparency and to avoid double counting of emission reductions. Together with MADS and the monitoring unit IDEAM, REM TA helped to establish an operational interim system which allows results based payments to be made even though the final registry is still in development.

First Safeguards report and interim grievance mechanism

Colombia elaborated its first Safeguards report with direct contributions by the United Nations Collaborative Programme on REDD (UN-REDD) and REM TA. The report provides detailed information on progress in developing the national Safeguards framework and the respective Safeguards information system, especially how to integrate it into the Amazon Vision in order to reduce possible risks caused by implementation of the programme, promoting multiple benefits. After the public consultation period the report will be submitted to UNFCCC.

REM TA also assisted the development of an interim grievance mechanism to be used during initial implementation of the Amazon Vision until the Safeguards framework is operational.

Participatory development of the indigenous pillar of the Amazon Vision

The inclusion of the indigenous communities is a cornerstone of the Amazon Vision. More than half of the Colombian Amazon has collective landtitles that belong to indigenous communities. To facilitate the participatory process, REM TA helped MADS to organize 17 workshops in the Amazon region and six in Bogota.

More than 900 participants from 60 different ethnic groups prioritized the work for each of the Amazonian regions (departamentos). Indigenous representatives voiced their expectation toward the Amazon Vision based on their profound knowledge of the region. Thus, eligibility criteria were selected for projects to be implemented. Communities identified territorial integrity, strengthening self-governance as well as productive measures to improve local livelihoods as most important. Given the remoteness of vast parts of the

Amazon, the organization of the process posed serious logistical challenges. Lack of electricity, no access to communication and long journeys via rivers or by foot made close cooperation

with the indigenous organization OPIAC (Organización Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonia Colombiana) invaluable for a successful process.

The guidance elaborated in the consultation will be the basis for a more detailed implementation plan for the indigenous pillar of the Amazon Vision. Together with indigenous representatives, REM TA will support the concrete formulation of projects through 2017.



Conclusions

- REM TA helps to address Readiness gaps without much red tape and this strengthens the basis for results-based payments through KfW. Being imbedded in already existing lines of work helps the effectiveness of REM TA.
- REM TA is a flexible form of cooperation which can be adapted quickly to partner needs and changing circumstances. New institutions, processes and changes in personnel often require changes in the workplan. REM TA is complementary to other German programmes and multilateral programmes like UN-REDD or the FCPF Readiness Fund.
- Political ownership and the involvement of key sectors are crucial for the long-term success of any REDD+ strategy. Maintaining a close working relationship with MADS and other stakeholders like OPIAC helped to facilitate processes and reduce implementation barriers. Additional expertise was particularly helpful for structuring participatory processes and benefit sharing.

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