

Forestry OBSERVER

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CONAFOR collaborate with the Woods Hole Research Center

WHRC scientist participated in a meeting with the Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation Project, to initiate collaboration in the development of the MRV system for México and de building of capacity.

The National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), through the Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation Project and the Alliance Mexico REDD+ through the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), work together on common for developing inputs that allow moving forward in the building of the national system of Measurement, Report and Verification (MRV).

According to Joseph Kellendorfer, WHRC Scientist, Mexico is doing a fantastic job in the development of the MRV system, because there are very big challenges, like the great biodiversity of the country. "I think it's very exciting to see all these different needs coming to fruition in bringing people together with different expertise. This project that you are working, I think it's great to integrate these different research needs and these different development for building MRV system".

To the WHRC expert, the greatest challenges in the construction of the MRV system is the integration of the National Forest and Soil Inventory, with the other components, like the remote sensor data, that they fit biodiversity and safeguard needs. "Bringing all this together is a task ahead, we learn that we can improve in many ways some of the measurement protocols, and we learn where we can focused to understand the country as a hole better", expressed.



Foto: Fernando Reyes.

Joseph Kellendorfer.

In these sense Kellendorfer affirm that the WHRC can contribute significantly with their expertise in biomass mapping. "So right away I think that the collaboration on designing the airborne transects with LIDAR it is an immediate step, the integration of the biodiversity safeguard measurement, or design measurements in our early actions sites in the MREDD Project are important", said.

Thus, collaboration between the Alliance and CONAFOR MREDD + will narrow in the coming weeks.

Woods Hole Research Center is a

private, non-profit research organization focusing on environmental sciences. Their scientists combine analysis of satellite images of the Earth with field studies to measure, model, and map changes in the world's ecosystems.

They work locally and regionally, with in-depth expertise and collaborations in North and South America and Africa; and they also work globally, focusing on how humans are changing global cycles of carbon, nitrogen, and water. WHRC is one of partners of Mexico REDD+ Program financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). 

Monitoring based on communities, an opportunity window and new challenges

The role of the ejidos and communities in the development of a national measurement, report and verification system can be of great importance, some of the conclusions of the Workshop experiences of participatory monitoring.

The participation of ejidatarios and comuneros through the community monitoring of the forest resources, can be an opportunity window for the implementation of the measurement, report and verification system (MRV), that is necessary to develop in the frame of a national strategy for reduction of emissions for deforestation and degradation (REDD+), however it raises challenges and should define its scope for its possible inclusion will be successful.

This issue was addressed in the Workshop experiences of participatory monitoring of the local forest resources on a local level, organized by the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), altogether with the Mexican Fund for the Nature Conservancy (MFNC), and the Project Implementation of Early REDD Actions in Priority Watersheds of México through the build of Governance Mechanisms on a local level, funded by the Latin America Investment Fund, on March 7th and 8th 2013 in Guadalajara, Jalisco; in which participate experts on the subject, as well representatives of ejidos and comunidades that already have monitoring of their resources.

José María Michel Fuentes, Official MRV by FAO in the Project Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation, explained that the vision of México about REDD+ goes through the implementation of actions in the forest and forestry landscapes, with a strong component of communities development, strengthening their organization and the sustainable management of their

resources, coordinating policies with adaptation and mitigation activities in the rural sector.

“If we are going to have this implementation approach, I think that’s where community monitoring can help us to start making that evaluation. The model of implementation of REDD+ in México suppose a management of the territory in different levels. The ability to management the territory has to do with the information that is available to handle it properly. Community monitoring can go forward with a down-up focus”, said Michel Fuentes.

For Juan Manuel Frausto Leyva,

CEO of the Forest and Watersheds Program of MFNC, community monitoring is the observation that the habitants of an area of their own natural resources, forest included, to realize what they have in stock and to know which are the best decisions they can take to achieving the sustainability, have better incomes and a higher life quality.

Meanwhile Enrique Jardel Pelaez, Researcher at the South Coast University Center of the University of Guadalajara, make emphasis in the need of first have more clarity in the reasons to do a monitoring. 

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Foto: Fernando Reyes.



Ejidos and communities: potential partners for MRV.



The workshop took place in Guadalajara, Jalisco, on March 7th and 8th.

Agenda

Open Foris



The team of the Project Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation and staff of the National Forestry Commission will receive training on Open Foris tool, which will support the activities of satellite image processing for forest monitoring.

The subjects will be taught by staff of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and provide address issues such as capacity strengthening FRA 2015; introduction to image processing methods in the context of satellite monitoring and MRV activities REDD+; introduction to Linux, Bash and GDAL utilities (gdalinfo, merge GDAL, GDAL translate, gdalwarp) and exercises command lines OpenForis Geospatial Toolkit, among others.

National and foreign experts advise MRV system development in Mexico

Academics and scientists participate from Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Canada, United States, Norway and the Netherlands.

On April 29th and 30th will be the second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Project Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation, of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR).

TAC's main function is to collaborate in scientific and technical consistency of the project and externalize recommendations that contribute to the fulfillment of its objectives, review the reports of the work plan, analyze and offer suggestions to help solve problems, among others.

The Committee is comprised of twelve academics and national and foreign scientists. National experts are: Julia Carabias Lillo, professor at the College of Mexico, Gerardo Bocco Verdinelli, of the Centre for Research in Environmental Geography of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Omar Masera Cerutti, the Ecosystems Research Center, UNAM, Elsa Esquivel Bazan, the Cooperative AMBIO AC; Adrian Fernandez Bremauntz, adviser to the United Nations on climate change issues, and Jorge Soberon Mainer, of the University of Kansas.

Foreign specialists are Martin

Herold, University of Wageningen, Netherlands; Erik Naesset, of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences; Werner Kurtz, Canadian Forest Service; David Kaimowitz, Director of Sustainable Development at the Ford Foundation; Thelma Krug, National Institute of Space Research of Brazil; and German Vargas Obando, scientist at the Earth University of Costa Rica.

12

Experts and scientist integrates the Technical Advisory Committee, from different nations.

During the next meeting, to be held in Mexico City, will review the progress of the project in relation to the operating system of remote sensing; the protocol biomass carbon; as well as capacity building at national and state gas inventories greenhouse effect; the test design concept with the Canadian model carbon estimation at the subnational scale, besides the requirements for calibration and validation; and discuss current trends in measuring, reporting and verification (MRV), the negotiations and the value of MRV for sustainable development in the countries.

The TAC meets twice a year to provide input and best practices that contribute to achieving the goals of the project and analyze the performance indicators and progress thereof.



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