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FOREST CARBON, MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES (FCMC) PROGRAM

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (OCTOBER 2013 – APRIL 2014)

APRIL 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech.

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The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program to provide its missions, partner governments, local and international stakeholders with assistance in developing and implementing REDD+ initiatives. FCMC services include analysis, evaluation, tools and guidance for program design support; training materials; and meeting and workshop development and facilitation that support US Government contributions to international REDD+ architecture.

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGRC	Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity
CAM	<i>Corporación Autónoma de Alto Magdalena</i>
CBMRV	Community-based MRV
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COP	Conference of the Parties (in reference to the UNFCCC)
COP	Chief of Party (in reference to FCMC staff)
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DCA	Development Credit Authority
FCM	Finance and Carbon Markets
FCMC	Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities Program
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHGMI	Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDEAM	Colombian Institute for Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
IR	Intermediate Result
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
MADS	Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MINAG	Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture
MINAM	Peruvian Ministry of Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
OTCA	Organization of Amazon Cooperation Treaty
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation "Plus"

REDD+ SES	REDD+ Social and Environmental Soundness Initiative
SES	Social and Environmental Soundness
SOW	Scope of Work
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
UMD	University of Maryland
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	US Forest Service
USG	United States Government
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard

I.0 INTRODUCTION

Tetra Tech was awarded the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in late March 2011. The USAID FCMC Program supports the implementation of the United States National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation “Plus” (REDD+) Strategy by building capacity of USAID/Washington and USAID Mission staff to design and implement REDD+ activities, through capacity building of host country governments and civil society, and through implementation of pilot activities in USAID REDD+ priority countries.

The FCMC Program has two major intermediate results (IR). The first IR aims at building shared understanding and technical capacities on tools, methodologies, and approaches that contribute to the international REDD+ architecture. This consists both of building capacity of international stakeholders and building capacity of USAID staff. The second IR focuses on working with countries on REDD+ readiness activities to undertake actions at a scale that will help them to meet their national commitments. Under this work, local capacity will be built and tools and methodologies will be field-tested. Actions and deliverables under these two IRs focus on four technical areas:

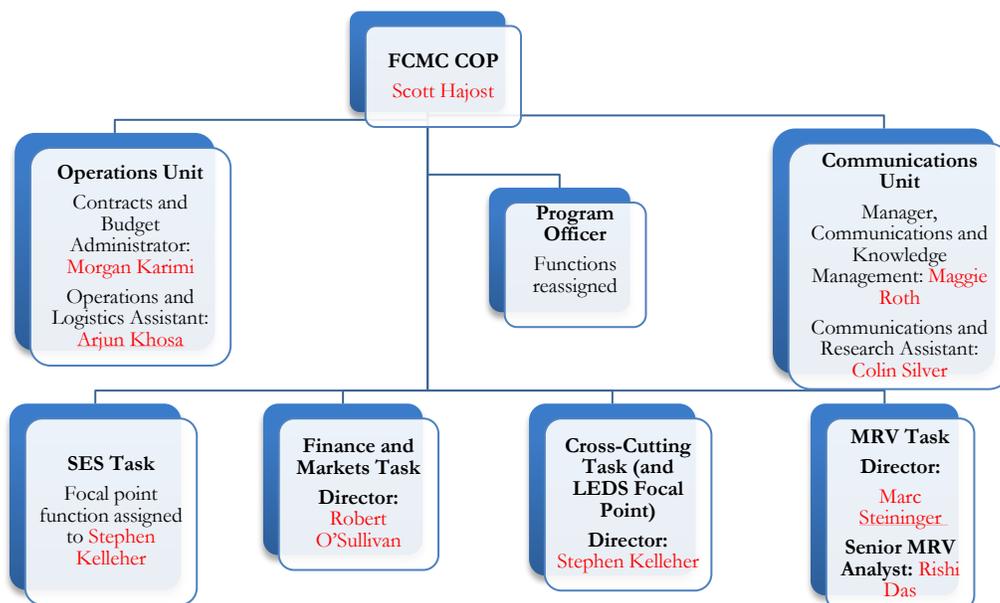
- 1) Social and Environmental Soundness (SES) for REDD+;
- 2) Finance and Carbon Markets (FCM);
- 3) Forest and Terrestrial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV); and
- 4) Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS).

In addition to these technical areas a fifth element was introduced in April 2012 titled “Cross-Cutting,” with the objective of making links and integrating work, where appropriate, between the thematic areas and undertaking activities that are clearly cross-cutting in nature.

This semi-annual report discusses activities and achievements from October 16, 2013 through April 15, 2014, the second half of the FCMC Program’s third year.

2.0 ADMINISTRATION

The most significant administrative change during this reporting period was the departure of both the SES Task Director, Paula Williams, and the Deputy Director, Janis Alcorn. Much effort has been devoted to ensure full coverage of the broad range of FCMC SES activities. The Cross-cutting and FCM Task Leads have taken on the majority of the responsibilities, with the former assuming the role of SES Focal Point as notified to USAID. Additional support from the Communications and Operations teams and the Chief of Party (COP) have been helpful in keeping ongoing activities moving forward and finalizing deliverables.



3.0 SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3.1 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDNESS (SES)

SES activities made a number of advancements throughout this reporting period, including finalization of the suite of Community Forestry papers, preparations for regional SES trainings in Africa and Latin America, support for a national safeguards process in Colombia, final drafts of the biodiversity standards studies, the analysis of legal literacy and advocacy for REDD+, and support for nested REDD+ safeguards in San Martin, Peru.

The comprehensive studies on *Lessons Learned from Community Forestry and Their Relevance for REDD+* for Africa, Asia and Latin America were finalized during the reporting period. The three regional reports and their associated briefs approved and released for public dissemination. The brief on Africa has been translated with support from the UF Forest Service (USFS) into French, with the full report's translation pending. The brief and full report for Latin America are in the process of being translated into Spanish. The final synthesis report has been finalized and sent to USAID for final approval and clearance. Its associated brief has been agreed on. FCMC and colleagues from The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as USAID, The Nature Conservancy, and others, met at the IDB in late March to discuss community forestry in Latin America, including a special presentation by the paper's author. In addition, FCMC is exploring options to present the outcomes and findings from the analyses and global synthesis at various fora, including in a workshop setting in Washington.

Preparations for the SES regional training workshop to be held in Africa continued during this period. The Cross Cutting Task Lead has assumed overall responsibility for managing the workshop preparations as part of his role as FCMC SES focal point. In addition, Dr. Paula Williams, former SES Task Lead and Tom Blomley, the author of the Africa Community Forestry and REDD+ study will serve as resource persons for the development of the training workshop, with plans to participate and present. A survey was sent to key informants for their feedback on the workshop topics and possible participants, and the initial selection of participants has been completed and 'Save the Date' notices sent out. Dr. Williams travelled to Ghana from November 30 to December 7 to participate in a Forest Dialogue meeting and scope out potential meeting venues, and the Cross-Cutting Task Lead was in Ghana for follow-up from December 10-12. These trips allowed for discussions with the USAID Regional and Bilateral Missions, and with the local partner, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Ghana, as well as for visiting potential venues, hotels, and field sites.

The SES in West and Central Africa training workshop was initially postponed from February until May and then October 2014, pending formal USAID conference approval. The conference approval was withheld pending a request to lower the overall costs and cost per person. As a result, this activity was postponed and re-configured to reduce costs as much as possible. The workshop may be divided into separate events to coincide with other planned pre-COP workshops to economize overall participant costs. In the meantime, the SES Focal Point will work with USAID colleagues to reconfigure the approach to the workshop. Regardless of the timing, preparations for the workshop and a review of the scope are continuing with a view toward refining budget and substantive content.

It has been agreed that there will be a Latin American SES regional training workshop to be held in Peru. USAID/Peru and FCMC have had discussion on workshop organization and defining the roles and

responsibilities of various partners (USAID, Peru's Ministry of Environment (MINAM), FCMC, etc.), as well as focusing the content of the workshop on biodiversity standards and links to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) in Peru later this year. An early September timeframe has been selected with exact dates to be determined. In the meantime, FCMC has been in contact with Conservation International (CI) Peru to explore possible collaboration, and will engage a Tetra Tech colleague fluent in Spanish and familiar with the region to assist with workshop preparation and implementation. It has been decided that any such training workshop must be budgeted under the USAID \$100,000 workshop approval ceiling.

The Colombia National REDD+ Safeguards project, led by the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Colombia, has produced a summary of key safeguards themes of concern to communities, and a draft baseline document on existing laws and policies related to REDD+ safeguards, with FCMC support. A draft document describing the national Safeguards Advisory Committee was produced and next steps continue under discussion with MADS. The work has faced delays during this reporting period because MADS and civil society are focused on completing the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and have put a "hold" on the safeguards work. However the work has continued smoothly in recent months, and a revised baseline document and minutes and outcomes from the second meeting of the Advisory Committee were received and approved.

Final drafts were finished for all three reports on national and project-level approaches to generating and monitoring biodiversity benefits from REDD+. The three reports are; *A review of the biodiversity goals, monitoring methods, and short-term impacts of forest carbon projects*, *A review of the biodiversity goals and proposed monitoring methods in national REDD+ programs*, and *REDD+ and Biodiversity Conservation: approaches, experiences, and opportunities for improved outcomes*. The third report was sent out for external peer review last quarter (including to FCMC and USAID) and the comments were received in January. CI, the FCMC partner implementing this activity, addressed the peer review comments and final versions of all three reports were completed and sent to USAID in early March for review. FCMC finalized some additional research on the Convention on Biological Diversity that has been added to the synthesis paper, and all three reports have been submitted to USAID for approval and clearance for dissemination. Training materials from this work are being prepared by Terra Global Capital due to capacity constraints within CI. Drafts of a PowerPoint presentation and briefing document are being reviewed and will be finalized in the next quarter. These are expected to be used for the Peru SES training mentioned above.

FCMC continued support to upscale the safeguards work in San Martin region, led by FCMC consortium member CI in coordination with the Nested REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) initiative. A workshop entitled "Technical Workshop: Developing information systems on safeguards for REDD+" was convened by MINAM and the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador and held in Lima on October 24-25. The workshop aimed to create a platform for dialogue and learning between experts from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, State of Acre (Brazil), Honduras, Mexico and Peru. San Martin, Peru was also a central case study at the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw in November. The event featured presentations about ways REDD+ can contribute to broader sustainable development goals. FCMC provided background and updates of its work on Peru's safeguards development for CI's presentation at the side event. In early 2013, a facilitation of the REDD+ SES Initiative worked to design capacity building modules for indicators. FCMC also agreed to a no-cost extension of the project for another three months and is discussing with CI Peru how to communicate the outcomes of the project at the UNFCCC COP in Peru later this year.

It was agreed with USAID that the Scope of Work (SOW) on 'Piloting Social Assessment Methods for REDD+' will be reviewed. The SES focal point had initial discussions with the partners at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) in terms of how to proceed, if at all.

The consultant Kristen Hite completed the final draft of the report and power point for the SOW on Legal Literacy and Advocacy vis-à-vis REDD+. The report – entitled *Tenure Rights, Human Rights, and REDD+*:

Knowledge, Skills, and Tools for Effective Results and accompanying power point presentation are currently being finalized in response to comments from USAID. The power point will be used at the aforementioned SES regional training workshop in Ghana and potentially Peru. The report was submitted to USAID for review and comment. FCMC is addressing USAID comments and will submit a final version for clearance later in April. Ms. Hite has also prepared a brief of the report, which is currently under internal FCMC review.

3.2 FINANCE AND CARBON MARKETS (FCM)

The FCM task made a number of advancements on deliverables and activities during this reporting period. Accomplishments included the public release of the paper on results-based finance, the execution of a new loan guarantee product for USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA), a new web page as part of support to the REDD Desk, and support to the FCPF Carbon Fund's Methodological Framework. New work to develop a guidance document on land use accounting was initiated and is progressing well. Ongoing work saw progress this period as well, including an analysis of safeguards and bilateral finance, support for the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) 2020, a guidance document on jurisdictional REDD+ for the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), and follow-up work on the Colombia Finance Assessment. The FCM task lead also contributed to two additional pieces of work – an options assessment on incorporating land use in a future climate agreement, and work on REDD+ safeguards in bilateral finance.

The report on US experience with results-based finance prepared in the last quarter was revised for public release. It was approved for public release in early December, disseminated among FCMC's target audience, and is now available on the FCMC website.

A third round of support to DCA to develop its new loan guarantee product for a portfolio of REDD+ projects was requested by DCA. This third round of support is to develop template Loan and Agency (brokerage) agreements. DCA described the support funded by FCMC as "pivotal in moving this transaction along and finding solutions to difficult issues that arose throughout the process." The loan guarantee was executed in March.

A new SOW to develop *A Policymaker's Guide to Land Use under the UNFCCC* was approved and work commenced. The policy makers' guide will increase the technical understanding of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) reporting and accounting amongst a broader set of key stakeholders, and explain the background and context of the current REDD+ decisions. It is expected that this will increase the likelihood of negotiators agreeing on a more pragmatic solution for how to manage land use in a future climate agreement. A first draft of the guide is expected to be completed for peer review next quarter. A request for a rebranding waiver for this primer was approved by the Contracting Officer during this reporting period.

FCMC continued to contribute to a project on REDD+ safeguards and bilateral finance primarily funded by the Climate and Land Use Alliance and led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Climate Focus. A revised version of the background paper prepared for closed door donor meeting held in London in September was released by Climate Focus. FCMC contributed to the background paper, which is also posted on the FCMC website. The first draft of a paper *REDD+ Safeguards and Results-based payments: Options for Bilateral Donors* was completed by the FCM Task Lead and Consultant Donna Lee. The paper was originally going to be presented at a meeting in Washington, DC in February. This was changed to follow the timing and location of the next FCPF meeting, so was presented at a meeting at IUCN's offices in Brussels on April 8th. FCMC facilitated securing the venue of the meeting. A meeting summary will be prepared and circulated in the coming weeks. A total of three background papers were prepared for the Brussels meeting, with the other two drafted by Climate Focus and WRI. The three papers will be compiled into a single report and published, subject to any additional input received from the attendees.

The REDD Desk task to expand the REDD Desk website to include new information on REDD+ markets and standards was launched ahead of the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw as planned. The REDD Desk also

hosted an event on the new web pages at the Warsaw COP that was well attended. Work began on an additional page on market analysis that will include visualizations of the projected supply and demand for REDD+ credits until 2020 based on data from FCMC's report *Emerging compliance markets for REDD+: an assessment of supply and demand*. The new pages are expected to be completed by the end of April 2014.

The work to support the US Government (USG)'s involvement in the TFA 2020 started. Kick-off meetings were held with USAID and FCMC consortium partners leading the work under the task. The work was also presented to the USG's inter-agency work group for the TFA 2020 for input and a follow up meeting held with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff. A field trip to Colombia was also held in late February as part of this activity. The outline of the Indonesia paper was completed and a field trip to Indonesia and Singapore was initially scheduled for late March but the Indonesia mission requested this to be postponed. This was re-scheduled for late April. USAID staff from the Indonesia mission will accompany CI to their meetings in Singapore. Initial work to determine the location for the Africa paper also commenced.

Terra Global Capital contributed to another background paper for the FCPF Carbon Fund's Methodological Framework. The paper was on the use of buffers to mitigate accounting and other risks. The Methodological Framework was finalized and released on 20 December 2013. The final Methodological Framework contained a set of 37 criteria and related indicators that will be used by Carbon Fund Participants (amongst other selection criteria) to select Emission Reductions Programs into the Carbon Fund portfolio. As such, Emission Reductions Programs proposed by REDD+ Countries to the Carbon Fund are expected to demonstrate conformity with the Framework's criteria. The release of the Methodological Framework is an important milestone for the Carbon Fund and for advancing large scale REDD+ methodologies generally. The FCPF Fund Management Team appreciated the "immense help and insight in preparing papers for the Methodological Framework" provided by FCMC.

The FCM Task Lead was invited to co-author a new report *Options Assessment of Land Use in a Future Climate Agreement* funded by the Department of State. This included travel to Mexico in mid-March. A draft of the report was completed in early April.

Follow-on work on finance and market readiness in Colombia continued to move slower than anticipated due to long time lags in obtaining direction from the Government of Colombia. The follow on work is being re-focused to support the USAID mission in Colombia. A description of this follow on work has been prepared and submitted to USAID for comment and signoff.

A final draft of the guidance document for jurisdictional and nested REDD+ accounting was completed and submitted to the VCS for comment on October 1. The SOW for the activity was updated to reflect a change in staffing and revised timeline. This included adding more time and limiting translation of the final guidance to Spanish only. The VCS provided its remaining comments on the first draft and a revised draft was submitted to VCS for comment in early March. The draft was revised again and sent out for peer review in mid-March, including to USAID.

A new SOW to explore the development of a municipal bond in Acre, Brazil has been initiated and a new SOW to update the *Emerging Compliance Markets for REDD+: An Assessment of Supply and Demand* paper is being considered.

3.3 MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION (MRV)

This reporting period saw progress on a number of important deliverables within the MRV task, including finalization and dissemination of the MRV Manual Version 1.1, planning for Version 2.0, completion of the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) online course, as well as in-country capacity building activities in Peru and Colombia. Work also began on the new deforestation comparison study.

The MRV Task completed and released the first public version of the FCMC MRV Manual. This is a comprehensive manual intended for technicians and staff leading various aspects of national MRV systems.

The Manual has technical specifics in some key areas, and also provides a broad overview of the needs for a national system, including aspects such as institutional arrangements. In conjunction was the release of the Summary for Policymakers and a one page brief highlighting the Manual and Summary. All of the affiliated MRV Manual documents are posted on both the FCMC and Conservation International websites, and announcements were sent to Climate-L and other venues. The MRV Task lead exhibited the manual and other materials at the Global Landscapes Forum weekend at the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw, Poland in November. This was a two-day booth exhibit of various FCMC materials, highlighting the MRV Manual and the Summary for Policymakers. Reports, fact sheets and cards with links to online FCMC products were distributed. Last year's UNFCCC COP in Warsaw was particularly relevant since REDD+ and MRV were among the specific issues discussed in negotiations. The exhibits were well attended, and many materials were disseminated. In addition, FCMC provided slides to the State Department for inclusion in an overall presentation at the USG center at the UNFCCC COP itself.

FCMC submitted the SOW for the MRV Manual version 2.0 to USAID for comment during this period. FCMC addressed these comments and submitted a revised SOW for approval shortly before submission of this report. Version 2.0 will include updates, revisions, and modifications to included topics, and incorporate outcomes resulting from UNFCCC COP 19, as well as user feedback resulting from the communication strategy under implementation. Additional contributors from TerraCarbon and Terra Global Capital have also been recruited to facilitate specific updates and address key revisions in selected sections. In addition, the format for version 2.0 will be modified to incorporate three levels. The three levels will reflect a wide audience base, and each level will provide increasing technical depth. The three levels will include: i) an updated executive summary; ii) a new mid-level document describing the entire process and major steps required for developing a MRV system for REDD+; and iii) updated methodological modules, based on the main chapters of version 1.1, incorporating the outcomes of COP19 as well as a suite of additional key revisions. Version 1.1 contributors will continue their collaboration for version 2.0.

The MRV Task completed the production of the Spanish version of the course on Forest Projects in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector web course. This was translated during the summer, and is now online through GHGMI's e-learning site. Following this upload FCMC will be communicating its availability and supporting 35 participants in the Andean region as well as in Central America to take the course. Participants are scheduled to take the course in April, and will complete the course over the following month

The Peru MRV activity continues to progress, including completion and validation of the national deforestation map for the period 2000-2011. The product has been formally selected by the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) to be the national product for national and international communication. Copies were received of the communications between MINAM and MINAG, reporting that these data were submitted to the Organization of Amazon Cooperation Treaty (OTCA) as well as the PowerPoint presentation made by the Peruvian Round Table to OTCA on the study and results. The data are now available for public use. Two reports are now in preparation by the partners: a national report on national deforestation rates and patterns produced by MINAM, over 100 pp long with thorough descriptions of the process and ample graphics of the process and results; and a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, led by the University of Maryland (UMD), with MINAM co-authors. Peru now has one of the most thorough and accurate national maps of deforestation and this will be well reported through the year and at the 2014 UNFCCC COP in Peru. FCMC is preparing a revised SOW for the Peru MRV activity, mainly to allow the activity to extend to the end of the calendar year, making use of the FCMC extension and allowing the activity to continue our work with Peru up to the COP.

The FCMC team, in collaboration with UMD and SilvaCarbon, traveled to Lima in late March to participate in a suite of meetings with key MINAM staff and review accomplishments to-date as well as timing for the remaining activities. Three upcoming regional workshops are also planned by the FCMC MRV team, in

collaboration with MINAM, and will provide capacity building to regional government representatives as well as participants from other institutions. These workshops will cover a range of MRV-related topics including general MRV overview considerations, basic and advanced topics in remote sensing, map validation, and near-real time monitoring. During this trip the MRV team also meet with the Latin America SilvaCarbon lead and had a conference call with the Mission on ideas for communication of both FCMC and SilvaCarbon work at the COP. The Mission is supportive and recommends submission of a proposal to the State Department for a possible combined session at the USG Center, as well as one to the “Jockey Club” off-site venue across from the COP site itself. Finally, the team also met with Jorgen Seifert-Granzin, a German consultant who will be advising the German government in priority capacitation needs as Germany begins to ramp up their work in Peru while the Moore Foundation winds down their work. He requested written notes on recommended priorities. These will be provided in the coming weeks, along with the Executive Summary from the Peru National Assessment conducted in the first year of FCMC.

The Reference Levels activity in Colombia was canceled due to changes in the team from the Institute for Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), and the departure of several staff. Since data improvements and modeling work had not made sufficient progress, the MRV team decided to focus on other priorities in working with IDEAM. A SOW is near completion on the community-based MRV (CBMRV) activity working with IDEAM to develop and test an early-warning system of fire and deforestation alerts that will be deployed in the Colombian Amazon region, one of the deforestation hotspots in the country. IDEAM will work with one of the *Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales* (CARs) in the Amazon region as well as a small group of community members to test the early-warning system for MRV-related work. This activity is intended to demonstrate and develop local and national government systems for broader CBMRV work across the country.

The remote sensing-based deforestation monitoring methods comparison study SOW was approved by USAID in February, and the MRV team held an inception meeting with study partners at FCMC on March 20-21. Participants from UMD and Boston University, as well as SilvaCarbon attended the inception meeting. Contributions from the other study partners, including IDEAM and IMAZON (a non-profit research institute based in Brazil), were also captured. The study design is currently being finalized and will include two manuscripts for submission to peer reviewed journals as well a FCMC report that will focus on lessons learned for individual countries.

3.4 LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LEDS)

The LEDS portfolio maintains its two focal areas of support to Huila, Colombia in their preparation of a climate change action plan and development of an analysis of government capacity for LEDS in Guatemala.

On December 10 the project team attended a meeting with Erik Postel (Assistant Administrator, USAID E3 Bureau), Rolf Anderson (Director, Global Climate Change Office/USAID), and Evan Notman (FCMC’s Deputy Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) and USAID focal point for LEDS, MRV and FCM), and presented the work being done in Huila. They were all very interested and pleased with what is being carried out. USAID Colombia is exploring the possibility of providing support to implement the Action Plan once it is completed. A recent development is the expression of interest by Ecopetrol, a private-public petroleum and gas company, which has expressed interest in supporting the implementation of the Plan.

Several meetings and workshops were organized including a meeting with CENICAFÉ (the National Center for Coffee Research), Huila coffee growers committee, and Huila cattle ranchers committee at CAM (the Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Upper Magdalena Basin), to discuss the involvement of these sectors in the project, and the Plan in particular; the Water Dialogue, a large event in the municipality of Garzón, Huila; a workshop for municipal mayors to present the Municipal Vulnerability Fact Sheets developed in the framework of the project; the fourth meeting of the Departmental Council on Climate

Change; and two technical meetings with members of the project's Technical Committee. A second workshop for municipal mayors, organized with the Governor's office and hosted at the regional government's headquarter, took place on December 16. Additional meetings were held with the Secretary of the Environment in Neiva, The Mayor of Neiva and representatives of the of the Ministry of Environment, including the Director of Climate Change, all of whom expressed support for the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, and provided direct comments on drafts. This is a strong indicator of interest and engagement.

Building on the meetings of the mayors of Huila and the finalization and distribution of the vulnerability factsheets at the end of the last quarter, a webstory was developed and posted in the FCMC web page, along with an example of one of the vulnerability factsheets. The webstory included a number of informative videos about the project in Spanish with English subtitles, including interviews with key officials and stakeholders. In addition, ONF Andina has delivered its products, which are important inputs for the Climate Change Action Plan (quantification and analysis of GHG emissions by sectors and subsectors in the Department of Huila [based on secondary information]; evolution of forest cover in the Department of Huila for the period 2005-2010, analyzing the causes of deforestation; systematization of current policies that have an impact on GHG emissions in the Department of Huila and results of a participatory process analyzing the effectiveness of these policies). 4D Elements, for its part, delivered a first version of the Municipal Vulnerability Fact Sheets, presented in the workshop for municipal mayors.

Several videos about the project were produced and delivered to FCMC. These are:

- An overall video about Huila 2050: Preparing for Climate Change activity
- A video about the Workshop with Municipal Mayors carried out on November 26, to present the vulnerability assessment and the municipal vulnerability factsheets
- Various video interviews with:
 - The Governor of Huila
 - Former Director of CAM, Rey Ariel Borbón
 - The majors of the municipalities of Aipe and Tesalia
 - Christopher Abrams (USAID/Colombia)
 - Claudia Martínez
 - Bastiaan Louman

The videos turned out very well and the idea is to use them to spread knowledge about the work that has been done in the framework of the project. Amongst others the videos will be disseminated to USAID/Colombia and Washington, MADS, the National Planning Department (DNP, for its initials in Spanish), IDEAM, CAM, and the regional government of Huila. E3 has shown the video about the project in several events and meetings. The video has been posted on both the CAM and FCMC websites.

An important action related to Huila was the review and agreement on a no-cost extension proposal for the E3 partner contract in Colombia that will extend the current suite of activities from March 31, 2014 through August 31st to ensure the delivery of all final technical and financial reports. The extension was required as a result of key deliverables, notably the final climate change vulnerability assessment and the Climate Change Action Plan itself, taking longer than anticipated due to illness and the extent of the time required. In addition, to be of most value it is critical that these final documents benefit from the full collaboration with other agencies and ministries in government, and building trust and relationships as to the use of information can take time.

The agreement with FCMC partner and Tetra Tech subsidiary ENE for Phase 2 of the Guatemala LEDS activity was finalized and modified to take into account a changing timeline. ENE is in active discussions with the Mission to have an updated, finalized and implementable schedule by the end of April. This activity has been delayed due to the time lag in selecting Guatemalan LEDS consultant counterparts.

3.5 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND COORDINATION

The most noteworthy accomplishment for Cross-Cutting activities this quarter was the finalization and release of the REDD+ Competencies Framework in coordination with the Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity (AGRC). In addition, several Cross-Cutting tasks advanced during this reporting period, including the East Africa Re-greening Study, , preparations for the Mangroves and Climate Change workshop in West Africa and the study on Shifting Cultivation, REDD+ and Gender in Central Africa.

The REDD+ Competencies Framework, developed by members of AGRC and led by CI, was reviewed by USAID, AGRC and FCMC staff, revised and submitted to USAID, and cleared for public dissemination at the end of the March. The FCMC Communications Team and the Chief of Party (COP) worked to disseminate the document to a wide audience, and the seminal work has already been well received by a wide variety of REDD+ stakeholders. Although the final Framework was not yet approved for the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw, the FCMC Communications Team worked with CI to prepare a brief and a postcard to raise awareness about the Framework, both of which were distributed at the UNFCCC COP in November.

A final technical review of the 'East Africa Re-greening Study' was prepared based on comments received from USAID, FCMC and in-country project partners in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. The key findings were presented by the Team Leader, Ian Deshmukh, at a USAID debriefing held in Washington in January 2014. Following this presentation, the full stakeholder report was submitted to USAID and is awaiting clearance with a view to making the document public. In addition, a summary document of key findings, lessons and recommendations with a focus on future USAID programming, called 'Programmatic lessons from four forest carbon projects in East Africa' was prepared and submitted to USAID for approval as an internal document. A draft brief on the study has also been prepared and submitted for comment.

The Cross-cutting Task Lead travelled to Doula, Cameroon, to participate in a workshop on REDD+ and Mangroves in Central Africa organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society. The workshop provided the opportunity to meet experts and potential resource people and participants for the West Africa Mangroves and Climate Change workshop.

Planning for the workshop continued with a participants list refined based on the final workshop survey, budget availability and further discussions with USAID and USFS during December planning meetings with the workshop facilitator. The planning meetings were held to develop a draft agenda based on the objectives developed at Douala with USAID, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), USFS and FCMC. The workshop was postponed due to USAID approval processes, and the FCMC workshop team worked with USAID to prepare approval memos for USAID management. In the anticipation of eventual workshop approval, a planning contract was issued to IUCN's Ghana office to lay the groundwork for the workshop in that country and 'Save the Date' notices were sent to participants. The workshop has now been approved, and will be held in Ghana (outside Accra) May 18-22.

Informant review on the Shifting Cultivation, REDD+ and Gender report took place in November 2013. A consultant was identified to work with the Task Lead to finalize the report this spring. The report will be an input to USAID's Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) as it evolves and takes into account issues related to larger forest landscapes, including agricultural ones. It will also serve as an input/compliment to ongoing work by CIFOR and UMD.

Dr. Claudio Schneider, a FCMC colleague who works with core partner CI, delivered a presentation on FCMC's work in Latin America to a USAID climate change training in Lima, Peru in late March. FCMC prepared a poster that displayed ongoing work in the region, and the presentation was well received by USAID colleagues.

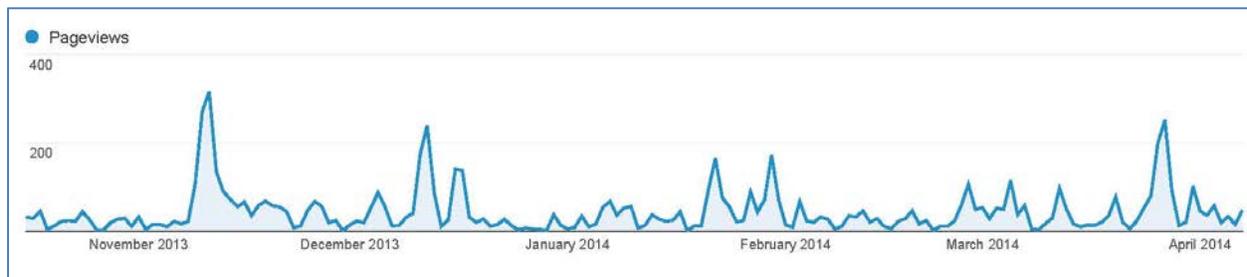
3.6 COMMUNICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

FCMC’s strategic communications continued to find successful results during this reporting period. Over the last six months, 11 new web stories and 12 new documents have been posted to the FCMC website. Targeted mailings continue to be sent to the FCMC distribution list (which currently contains over 340 members), including two quarterly newsletters and four messages advertising newly available resources. Early incorporation of communications planning into SOW development and implementation has continued, especially for activities and products that demand active outreach, such as workshops and major written deliverables. The FCMC website has been continually updated and improved, and has seen constant growth during the reporting period, with increases in new traffic from direct online searches, as well as links from other organizations.

During this reporting period, two major deliverables were finalized and approved, with associated communication efforts implemented for each. The first was the MRV Manual, which was released in advance of the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw in November 2013. A poster, information cards, and briefs were created to help disseminate the manual, all of which were displayed at a booth at the Global Landscapes Forum for a wide audience. In addition, materials that advertise and demonstrate a variety of other FCMC products and work were disseminated, all of which drove traffic back to the FCMC website. As a result of this outreach in Warsaw, the website saw a 700 percent increase over the average, with nearly 1,000 total visits in the week following the COP. The second major product, the Competencies Framework developed with partners from AGRC, was made public at the end of March 2014. The Framework was posted on the FCMC website, and was also publicly released via the websites of AGRC partners, including CI, IUCN and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC). Beyond utilizing the FCMC distribution list to disseminate the document, the Communications Team and the COP also sent the Framework to a wide variety of outlets, including the CANOPY and UN-REDD newsletter, Climate-L and Forests-L, and Ecosystem Marketplace’s website. FCMC staff used targeted communication to distribute the document to colleagues in several key organizations and partners, including the FCPF, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IDB, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The United Nations REDD+ Programme (UN-REDD), the World Bank and the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) and its partner Foundations. As a result of all of these efforts, the Framework has been downloaded from the FCMC website a total of 205 times in the two weeks since its release, and the associated two-page brief received 97 downloads.

Overall, the FCMC website has seen consistent growth during this reporting period, with over 2,500 unique visitors over six months, which represents a 98 percent increase over the previous period. This is due in large part to an increase in visitors from organic web searching and referrals from other websites, which grew 120 percent and 430 percent, respectively. The figure below demonstrates total page views throughout this reporting period. Each spike corresponds to a major mailing or distribution effort employed by the Communications Team.

Figure 1. FCMC website pageviews, October 2013 – April 2014.



FCMC continues to put all publicly approved documents on the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) platform, the largest online resource for USAID-funded technical and program documentation. Hinging on an important communications meeting with USAID in February, FCMC has

determined that it will pay particularly close attention to relevant events as opportunities for product dissemination as the program continues to progress. Additionally, the Communications Team will begin preparing a matrix of communications products and deliverables that will allow for more targeted strategies, taking full advantage of support from the communications pathways of USAID Climate Change Office. Moving forward, the team will continue to employ all of these approaches for future materials.

The Manager of Communications and Knowledge Management continues to maintain responsibility for the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) that evaluates FCMC success against agreed upon indicators. While it is not a formal deliverable, FCMC continues to keep track of its activities and view them with from a performance monitoring standpoint. A draft of the annual PMP report is currently underway.

4.0 ISSUES TO CONSIDER/ RESOLVE

The FCMC contract modification, including the budget realignment and final incremental obligation, remains to be completed and hopefully will be early in third quarter of the current fiscal year.

A primary area that remains to be resolved is the Africa SES training workshop. There is a need to review and reconfigure the training in order to develop a scope and a budget that will reduce costs. Additionally, a September alternative for the Latin America workshop has been agreed upon, and will require coordination to ensure proper overlap with the UNFCCC COP in December.

It will also be important to determine if the piloting of social assessment in Central Africa (Cameroon) activity will go forward and how (in terms of staffing and level of effort), along with the proposed study related to the outcomes of the activity.

The Guatemala LEDS follow-on activity being implemented by Tetra Tech partner ENE has been delayed several times since the initial start date of September 2013. ENE is in touch with the Mission and a revised and viable time frame is expected by the end of April based on ongoing discussions between ENE and the Mission. FCMC has raised this with the COR and FCMC USAID LEDS activity manager, noting that they might also like to touch base with the Mission on this.

After a thorough review of the FCMC budget, taking into account staff departures and elimination of one major activity, FCMC has resources that will need to be programmed. FCMC is rigorously tracking activities and expenditures and will need to be vigilant to ensure that activities will come online and be completed in a timely fashion.

5.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A number of significant deliverables were released during this reporting period, including the MRV Manual, the AGRC Competencies Framework, the three regional reports on community forestry and their associated briefs, and a paper on results-based finance. These products were disseminated to wide audiences and have been very well received throughout the various organizations and institutions involved in REDD+.

Other deliverables are nearing completion, including a report on legal literacy and advocacy for REDD+. Three papers that review and analyze biodiversity standards in relation to REDD+ were completed and submitted for clearance at the end of the reporting period. A review of forest carbon projects in East Africa and the synthesis report on community forestry have been submitted and are awaiting final clearance. Several activities were initiated during this period, including a guidance document on jurisdictional and nested REDD+ for the VCS, support to the USG's contribution to TFA 2020 and a comparison study on remote sensing-based forest monitoring methods.

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