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Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC)

A USAID-funded project

Summary of Activities in Colombia

March 2014

The **Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) program**, funded by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and implemented by Tetra Tech and partners, is a global project supporting USAID's work on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+). FCMC has four task areas related to REDD+ capacity building: Social and Environmental Soundness (**SES**); Finance and Carbon Markets (**FCM**); Measurement, Reporting and Verification (**MRV**); and Low Emissions Development Strategies (**LEDS**). There is also staff dedicated to cross-cutting coordination and integration between the key thematic areas.

FCMC is assisting to develop a comprehensive climate change action plan in the Huila Province of Colombia, underpinned by LEDS and REDD+ strategies. In Colombia, FCMC is working with the government on two complementary areas, MRV and SES, for REDD+ Readiness. FCMC has also undertaken a Finance and Carbon Markets Analysis. All activities are identified and jointly implemented in partnership with the Colombian government on national and provincial levels, including the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), and the Corporacion de Alto Magdalena (CAM) in Huila; in addition, FCMC partners Conservation International (CI) and Terra Global Capital are contributing on relevant activities, as well as several local government and non-government partners. The following is a brief summary of activities in progress or in a design phase:

- FCMC supports the development of a low emission development strategy in the Huila Province in collaboration with CAM and other local and international partners. The local organization coordinating FCMC's activities in Huila is Colombian Consulting firm Grupo E3 – Ecología, Economía, Ética, led by Claudia Martinez. FCMC's focus in Huila is supporting the provincial government in the development and implementation of an action plan for a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change and development challenges. The strategy to achieve this outcome integrates LEDS, REDD+ and land-use approaches under the framework of the Huila 2050 Vision for Climate Change. Activities include: generating information on land-use practices and trends; studying drivers of deforestation and degradation; and undertaking detailed vulnerability assessments for all municipalities in the province, resulting in a comprehensive climate change action plan for Huila. The action plan will be informed by existing information, as well as new data generated by Abt Associates and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) on hydrologic and land-use mapping in three watersheds with additional USAID funds.
- FCMC completed an assessment of Colombia's REDD+ finance and carbon markets readiness under the FCM Task. The assessment focused on Colombia's preparedness for attracting private finance and participation in pay-for-performance and market-based mechanisms for REDD+. It assessed the country against key readiness requirements including; law and policy to support REDD+ mitigation activities and private capital; institutional arrangements to manage REDD+ activities in a transparent and auditable manner; carbon accounting standards and their ability to measure credits; benefits distribution and rights holder protections; sources of REDD+ funds; current mitigation activities; and domestic market development and international engagement. The report includes an assessment of the current status of these issues and recommendations for future work and is available in English and Spanish. Additional support following on from the report is currently being planned.

- FCMC plans to support an alert systems activity for use in Community-based MRV that would provide technical and financial support to the implementation of near-real time alerts for deforestation and fire. The activity would transfer technology on satellite-based systems that can indicate forest impacts on a daily to bi-weekly basis. These can be linked to automated delivery of email or text-message notifications to community representatives, land managers and local officials. The process would first be implemented by IDEAM and then tested for implementation by one Corporación Autónoma Regional (CAR), currently planned to be CorpoAmazonia. This would serve as a first model for coordination between the national and regional entities in Colombia, as well as local communities and other REDD+ related audience members. The activity would also include a workshop to present the experience and explain similar options to other CARs.
- FCMC is assisting with constructing a National REDD+ Safeguards System for the National REDD+ Strategy as support to FCPF REDD+ Readiness in Colombia. Colombia's national REDD+ program kicked off with work in two regions – the Amazon region and the Pacific Choco region where USAID/Colombia's Biodiversity Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (BIOREDD) project is assisting communities to prepare projects for the Voluntary Carbon Market. This activity began with an FCMC and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) funded MADS workshop on safeguards systems for key stakeholders in December 2013, and will run through August 2014. The National REDD+ Safeguards System will be built on existing laws and policies, and recommendations for filling any gaps will be developed through a bi-directional (national-local) participatory process of meetings and workshops in the Amazon and Pacific regions. Lessons learned from this development process will be documented for sharing with other countries. Stephen Kelleher, FCMC SES Focal Point, is the activity lead. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through a subcontract will be supporting FCMC in this effort. Javier Sabogal is the WWF project manager, and Andrea Camacho is the WWF REDD+ technical specialist managing community participation. Dr. Aura Robayo Castaneda and Dr. Ruben Dario Guerrero Useda are the MADS project leads. MADS is coordinating this activity with the FCPF Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and leveraging GIZ funding for workshops.

FCMC implements these activities in order to make a significant contribution to REDD+ capacity in Colombia, as well as deliver on both USAID's and FCMC's goals in this country. In addition, FCMC seeks close coordination with other related efforts supported by the US Government, such as those of SilvaCarbon on MRV and USAID BIOREDD, as well as those of other donors and partners including the FCPF, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), the World Bank and multi- and bi-lateral development partners.

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FCMC is implemented by Prime Contractor Tetra Tech, along with core partners, including Conservation International, Terra Global Capital, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, and World Resources Institute.