

Independent Evaluation Unit:

Special Study on REDD+ results based-payment projects in the Latin America and Caribbean region

Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of the GCF's Investments in the Latin American and Caribbean States

August 2024



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Independent
Evaluation
Unit





GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Independent
Evaluation
Unit



08 2024

Special Study on REDD+ results based-payment projects in the Latin America and Caribbean region



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Tables	2
List of Figures	2
Abbreviations	3
I. Purpose and scope of the assessment	1
II. Background and context	1
2.1 Overview	1
2.2 Financing for forestry sector in Green Climate Fund	2
2.3 The GCF REDD+ results-based payment pilot programme	4
III. Methodology	5
IV. Analysis	6
4.4 Design of REDD+ RBP Programme (GCF corporate level)	6
4.5 Management structure, flow of proceeds and use of proceeds (country level)	12
4.6 Non-carbon benefits (beneficiary level)	21
Appendix: Consulted stakeholders	24
References	28

List of Tables

Table 1: Project Portfolio of the REDD+ RBP pilote programme	4
Table 2: Project portfolio of the REDD+ RBP pilot programme by region and results	10

List of Figures

Figure 1: Forest and land use by financial instrument	3
Figure 2: Share of REDD+ RBPs in forest and land use financing by region	3
Figure 3: Funding amount in USD by country project	4
Figure 4: Roadmap by country project	18



Abbreviations

AE	Accredited entity
AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry, and other land use
ART-TREES	Architecture for REDD+ transactions - the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CO₂	Carbon dioxide
CONAF	National Forestry Corporation (Chile)
CSO	Civil society organization
DAE	Direct access entity
DIM	Direct implementation modality
EE	Executing entity
ENCCRV	National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (Chile)
ER	Emission reductions
ESMP	Environmental and social management plan (Colombia)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest emission reduction contract
FNCC	Forest Investment Program
FPIC	Free, prior, and informed consent
FONAFIFO	National Fund for Forestry Financing (Costa Rica)
FREL	Forest reference emission level
FRL	Forest reference level



GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IAE	International accredited entity
IP	Indigenous peoples
ITAP	Independent Technical Advisory Panel
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LEAF	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance
LC	Local Communities
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ecuador)
MAATE	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (Ecuador)
MtCO₂e	Metric Tons of CO ₂ equivalent
NAP	National adaptation plan
NDA	National designated authority
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OPIM	Operational Partners Implementation Modality
PAP	Project approval process
PES	Payments for environmental services
PPF	Project Preparation Facility
RBP	Results-based payments
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and fostering conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RFP	Request for proposals
RPSP	Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals



SIS	Sustainable Information System
TOR	Terms of reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
WFR	Warsaw Framework for REDD+
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



I. Purpose and scope of the assessment

1. During the 37th session of GCF Board in October 2023, in the document GCF/B.37/21, IEU presented its proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024. In this document, IEU committed to undertaking an Independent Evaluation of Relevance and Effectiveness of GCF's Investments in the Latin America and Caribbean States. In the deliberations on work programme and budget, IEU was asked to consider projects approved under the REDD+ Results-Based Payment (REDD+ RBP) pilot programme in Latin America and Caribbean region as one of the focus areas of the evaluation. IEU committed to such focus and undertook a Special Study on REDD+ results-based payment projects in the Latin America and Caribbean region as a part of the ongoing evaluation. This special study brings forward common findings and lessons across relevant projects and is expected to feed into the ongoing deliberations and redesign of the REDD+ RBP programme.

2. The scope of this study includes the seven projects (please refer to Table 1) which approved under the REDD+ RBP Pilot Programme of GCF. This study is not a project evaluation of individual projects. Instead, it attempts to bring forward common findings and lessons from the REDD+ RBP projects in LAC. These projects are at different stages of implementation, and hence, the lessons drawn from each project are relevant to their stage in the project life cycle. In addition, the special study includes an analysis of the TORs of the pilot programme. The special study has undertaken the analysis and presented it at three levels as follows:

- (a) Corporate level – This part predominantly looks at Terms of Reference (TOR) of the pilot programme and its alignment with relevant international frameworks and its role in ensuring alignment of relevant projects with national priorities and its role in ensuring access to RBP financing. This part also looks at the characteristics of the REDD+ RBP portfolio in LAC region and extracts findings and lessons from such portfolio.
- (b) Country level – This part covers, inter alia, the structures and institutional mechanisms at the national level for management of REDD+ RBP projects, involvement of different international and local stakeholders, coherence and complementarity at national level and country ownership.
- (c) Beneficiary level – This part predominantly covers how non-carbon benefits are being implemented within projects at the community level.

II. Background and context

2.1 Overview

3. The projected pathways consistent with limiting average global warming to 1.5°C require halving global emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero global emissions by 2050. Achieving net zero CO₂ and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions requires systems transformations across all sectors and contexts, including scaling up renewable energy while phasing out all unabated fossil fuel usage, ending deforestation, reducing non-CO₂ emissions, and implementing both supply- and demand-side measures (United Nations, 2023).

4. There is growing evidence and a consensus indicating that 30 per cent of the GHG emission reductions needed by 2030 could be achieved through nature-based solutions (NbS). Half of the NbS potential comes from forests: 4.1-6.5 GtCO₂e/year. Essentially, forests represent the largest NbS solution.



5. According to recent estimates, forest solutions in developing countries receive insufficient funding: (i) it is disproportionate to their mitigation potential, being more than 70 times less than the global average for climate change development financing; and (ii) it is 40 times less than the grey financing for the agricultural sector, which is a key driver of deforestation.
6. The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed that the Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt, and reverse forest cover and carbon loss in accordance with national circumstances, and consistent with the ultimate objective of the convention. The COP encouraged the parties from developing countries to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector through REDD+ activities¹. The activities undertaken by the countries should progress in three closely related phases (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2011).
7. Phase I of REDD+ includes the design of the Warsaw Framework elements, namely national strategies or action plans, specific policies and measures, and capacity-building activities. Prior to implementing REDD+, countries are requested to develop (i) a REDD+ strategy or action plan; (ii) a national forest reference emission level; (iii) a national forest monitoring system; and (iv) a safeguards information system.
8. Phase II of REDD+ focuses on implementing national policies, measures, strategies and action plans. During this phase, countries are expected to see a reduction in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation compared to the forest reference (emissions) level defined during Phase I. The private sector may play a role in contributing to emission reductions from forests during this phase.
9. In phase III, countries that have completed the first two phases of REDD+ and achieved emission reductions verified by the UNFCCC and/or third parties are eligible for Phase III of REDD+, namely results-based payments (RBP). These may be provided from public funds, private funds or a blend of the two.

2.2 Financing for forestry sector in Green Climate Fund

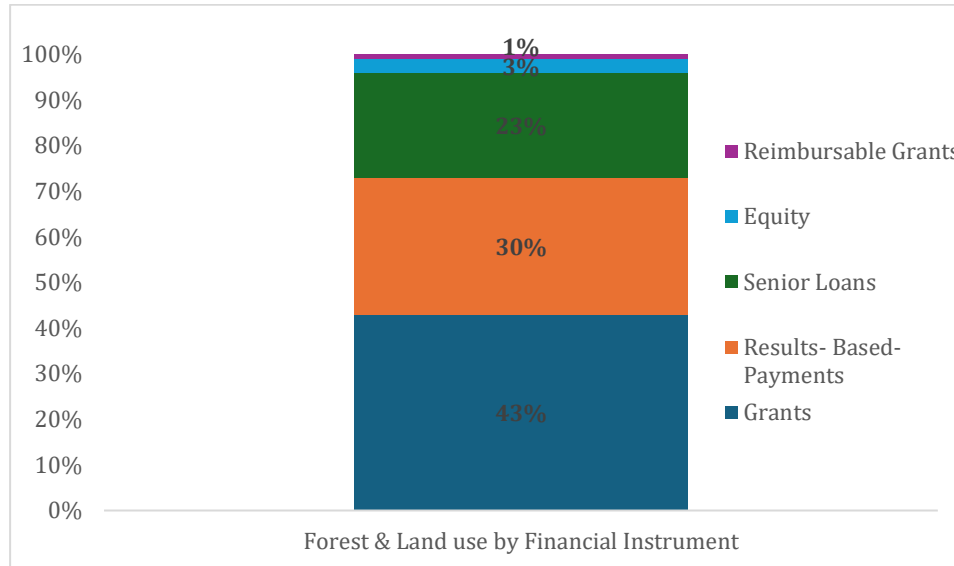
10. In light of the importance of forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation, forests and land use constitute one of the eight result areas of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). GCF financing is channelled through the following windows:
 - (a) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme: of the 592 grants approved as of June 2022, totalling USD 417.96 million, 175 grants (totalling USD 104.79 million) included forest-related activities. This category is hereinafter referred to as “forest-related readiness financing”.
 - (b) The project cycle, which is composed of the Project Approval Process (PAP) and the Simplified Approval Process (SAP), has 46 projects (excluding RBP) that include forests and land use as a result area, totalling USD 2.86 billion, of which USD 984.6 million corresponds solely to the forest and land use result area.
 - (c) The total financing awarded by the GCF’s forest and land use result area reached a total of USD 1.66 billion approved, which is distributed by type of financing mechanism used, as

¹ REDD+ includes activities of (i) reducing emissions from deforestation; (ii) reducing emissions from forest degradation; (iii) conservation of forest carbon stocks; (iv) sustainable management of forests; and (v) enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



shown in Figure 1 below. Among the types of financial instruments used by the GCF, the RBP modality represents 30 per cent of the funds (UNFCCC, 2014).

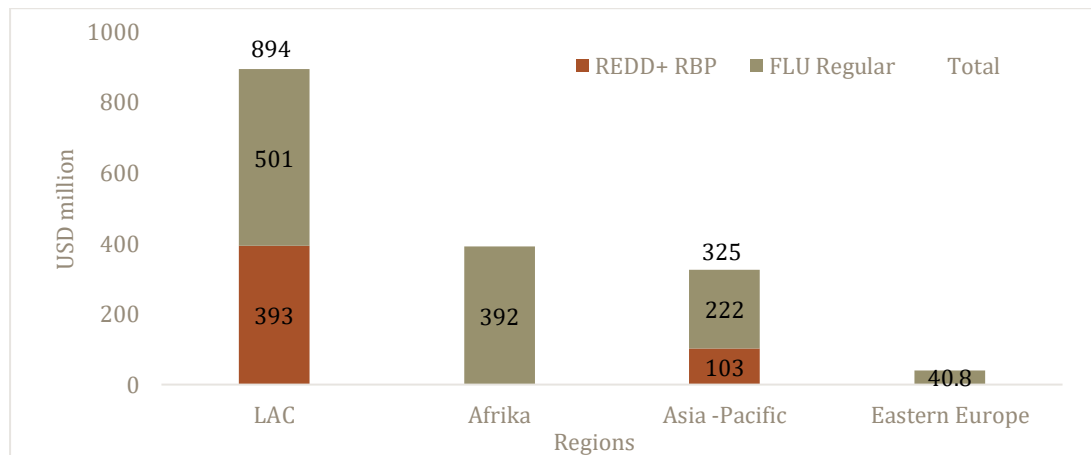
Figure 1: Forest and land use by financial instrument



Source: Green Climate Fund (2023)

The distribution of funds for the GCF’s forest and land use theme by region showed that, in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), 44 per cent of the funds were delivered under the RBP modality, as shown in Figure 2. In the Asia-Pacific region, this percentage reached 31 per cent, with no presence of this programme in the other regions where the GCF operates.

Figure 2: Share of REDD+ RBPs in forest and land use financing by region

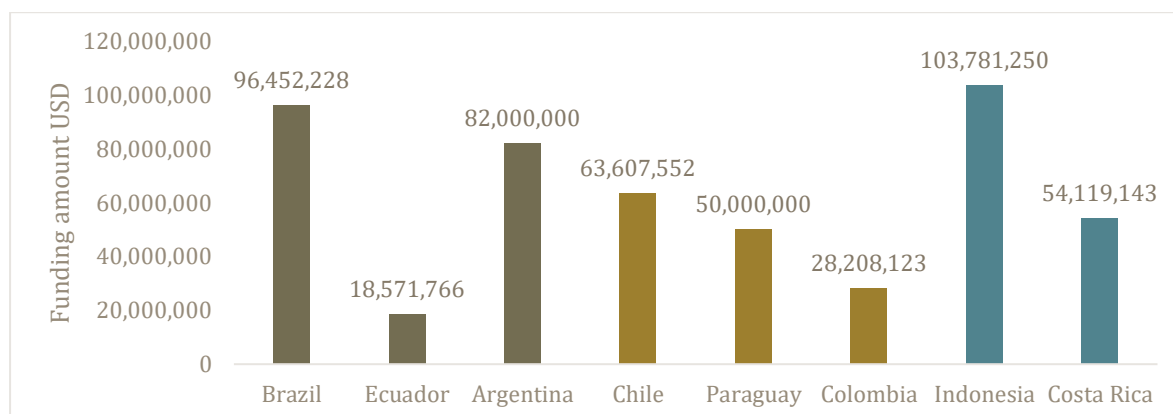


Source: Green Climate Fund (2023)

The REDD+ RBP pilot programme: eight projects have been approved, totalling USD 496.7 million, as shown in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3: Funding amount in USD by country project



Source: Green Climate Fund (2023)

2.3 The GCF REDD+ results-based payment pilot programme

11. In decision 9/CP.19 of the UNFCCC, the COP encourages entities funding REDD+, including the GCF in a key role, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based financing in a fair and balanced manner (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2014)

12. In response to these requests from the COP, the GCF Board, through decision B.18/07 approved the establishment of a REDD+ RBP pilot programme (from now on referred to as the pilot programme), allocating up to USD 500 million and authorizing a request for proposals (RFP) to operationalize the programme (Green Climate Fund, 2017a). The pilot phase of the REDD+ RBP lasted from 2017 until 2022. Funding for this pilot phase however was depleted by the end of 2020, demonstrating significant interest from a large number of countries.

13. At the time of the creation of the pilot programme, it was estimated that, given the allowed timeframe for proposals, 8-10 countries could participate in the pilot programme. By September 2017, 25 countries had submitted their Forest Reference Levels (FRL) or Forest Reference Emissions Levels (FREL), of which the UNFCCC Secretariat had assessed 12. Finally, eight funding proposals were approved in the pilot programme, as shown in Table 1, with another four proposals submitted within the established deadline (Laos, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and Uganda) but unable to access funds due to resource depletion. Peru also submitted a concept note but did not have eligible results at the time of submission.

Table 1: Project Portfolio of the REDD+ RBP pilote programme

FP #	BOARD MEETING	AE ²	COUNTRY	REGION	SCALE ³	YEARS COVERED	DISBURSEMENT	EXPECTED END DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
FP100	B.22-2019	UNDP	Brazil	LAC	Subnational (Amazon biome)	2014–2015	28 April 2020	14 January 2026
FP110	B.23-2019	UNDP	Ecuador	LAC	National	2014	28 September 2020	26 February 2026

² Among others, because the RBP projects build on the experience of the UN-REDD programme, several RBP projects are being implemented together with one or two of the other AEs (e.g. in Ecuador, UNDP implements and FAO collaborates; in Paraguay, UNEP implements and FAO and UNDP collaborate; in Argentina, FAO implements and UNEP collaborates; in Colombia, FAO implements and UNDP collaborates).

³ In relation to the FREL/FRL.



FP #	BOARD MEETING	AE ²	COUNTRY	REGION	SCALE ³	YEARS COVERED	DISBURSEMENT	EXPECTED END DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
FP142	B.24-2019	FAO	Argentina	LAC	Subnational (4 regions – Parque Chaqueño, Selva Paranaense, Yungas and Espinal (Caldén and Ñandubay districts))	2014–2017	7 February 2022	5 November 2027
FP120	B.24-2019	FAO	Chile	LAC	Subnational (5 regions - Maule, Bio Bio, Los Lagos, Los Ríos, Araucanía)	2014–2016	21 September 2020	7 August 2026
FP121	B.24-2019	UNEP	Paraguay	LAC	National	2015–2017	27 November 2020	13 November 2026
FP134	B.26-2020	FAO	Colombia	LAC	Subnational (Amazon region)	2015–2016	27 October 2021	21 July 2026
FP130	B.26-2020	UNDP	Indonesia	Asia-Pacific	Subnational	2014–2017	12 July 2021	26 May 2025
FP144	B.27-2020	UNDP	Costa Rica	LAC	National	2014–2015	5 April 2021	10 February 2026

Source: Green Climate Fund (2024)

I. Methodology

12. The special study on REDD+ RBP projects in the LAC region adopts a utilization-focused approach, ensuring it is useful to its intended users to provide learning opportunities, inform decision-making processes, and improve the performance of initiatives funded under the GCF's RBP mechanism. Following the overall utilization-focused framework, the evaluation team worked closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure the exercise was highly participatory and that insights and findings are timely and useful to all, while fostering ownership and endorsement.

13. The special study was conducted using a mixed approach that included reviewing of key documents, analyzing GCF REDD+ projects in Latin America, and interviews with stakeholders, including internal and external GCF members, accredited entities (AEs), national authorities, and civil society organizations, among others.

14. **Review of GCF Board and UNFCCC decisions:** A comprehensive review was undertaken of the GCF Board and the UNFCCC decisions that are relevant to GCF REDD+ operations in Latin America. This included reviewing resolutions and guidelines that impact the REDD+ RBP pilot in the region.

15. **Review of terms of reference from REDD+ RBP pilot:** An analysis was conducted of the terms of reference (TOR) of the pilot programme, as well as of the documents from the GCF and other stakeholders that have analysed the TOR and their implications for the REDD+ projects funded by GCF.



16. **Analysis of assessments and strategy documents:** The team conducted a detailed analysis of assessments and strategy documents related to REDD+ initiatives in the region. This encompassed both internal GCF documents and those produced by comparable climate finance institutions and other development partners. The objective was to identify lessons learned, best practices and areas for improvement.

17. **Interviews and focus group discussions:** In-person (field missions in Argentina, Ecuador and Costa Rica) and virtual interviews were conducted with the national designated authorities (NDAs) and AEs responsible for implementing all REDD+ RBP projects in the region. Additionally, key stakeholders, such as civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in the design and implementation processes of the funding proposals, were interviewed. This provided additional perspectives and direct feedback on GCF operations in the region along with potential opportunities and challenges. During this special study, 92 people were interviewed through one-on-one interviews or focus group discussions.

II. Analysis

2.1 Design of REDD+ RBP Programme (GCF corporate level)

18. This section assesses the design of REDD+ RBP projects in the LAC region, analysing their alignment with the fundamental pillars of the Warsaw Framework and the TOR of the REDD+ RBP pilot. Additionally, it explores the main features of project design and the major challenges encountered during this phase.

2.1.1. REDD+ RBP and the Warsaw Framework

GCF and the Warsaw Framework

19. The GCF has historically played a role in the first two phases of REDD+. In decision 9/CP.19 of the UNFCCC, the COP encourages entities funding REDD+, including the GCF in a key role, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based financing in a fair and balanced manner. This financing is expected to consider different policy approaches while working towards increasing the number of countries able to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions. In the same decision, the COP requested the GCF, when providing results-based financing, to apply the methodological guidance provided by the COP in some of its other decisions. These decisions include those agreed upon in COP19 collectively known as the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR), aimed at improving the effectiveness and coordination of results-based financing.

20. WFR by the UNFCCC establishes principles and guidelines for implementing of REDD+. It addresses key issues such as the participation of indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs), safeguarding of traditional rights and knowledge, transparency, and accountability in the implementation of REDD+ activities.

Funding proposals and alignment with the Warsaw Framework

21. As part of the specific eligibility criteria for the REDD+ RBP RFP process, compliance with the pillars of the Warsaw Framework was required (Green Climate Fund, 2021) For this reason, financing proposals in the pilot programme had to describe how measures taken to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks and impacts during the results period were consistent with the requirements of the applicable GCF environmental and social safeguards (ESS) standards.

22. Regarding usage of proceeds, the TOR requests that recipient countries of REDD+ RBP pilot funds reinvest the proceeds in activities aligned with their NDCs, REDD+ strategies, or low-carbon



development plans. Consequently, the provisions and procedures for using these proceeds involve additional steps not addressed in the methodological guidance under the WFR for ex-post REDD+ RBPs, thereby creating an additional challenge for accessing RBPs under the GCF pilot programme (Independent Evaluation Unit, 2020e).

23. Accordingly, provisions and procedures applicable to the use of proceeds entail steps that had not been considered in the methodological guidance under the Warsaw Framework for ex-post REDD+ RBPs but were agreed upon by the board for the pilot programme. The stipulation of reinvestment of proceeds also contradicts the ex-post nature of REDD RBPs by laying conditions on the “use of proceeds” for reinvesting RBPs. On the one hand, with the need for reinvestment of proceeds, the GCF demonstrated that RBP projects are not just subsidies for generating results (unlike projects in the regular GCF window), but payments for positive past results that are to be reinvested in continued good forest management in the future, in accordance with the countries’ own needs, policies, and decisions.

2.1.2. Alignment and access of REDD+ RBP to countries

Role of TOR in ensuring alignment of REDD+ RBP programming with NDCs and national REDD+ strategies

24. The objective of the REDD+ RBP RFP pilot programme was to operationalise RBP for REDD+ and to gather experience to further improve procedural and technical elements of RBPs using GCF resources in the learning phase (Green Climate Fund, 2017b).

25. The REDD+ RBP pilot proposal submission process comprised two stages: an initial stage during which concept notes were received, and a subsequent stage during which countries were required to submit a funding proposal. This window remained open from October 2017 until the last Board meeting in 2022, providing a reasonable timeframe given that all available resources for the pilot had been allocated by the end of 2020.

26. The eligibility criteria for concept notes, as per the TOR, included information related to UNFCCC requirements, including elements reflected in paragraph 1 of decision 1/CP.16: (1) National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan; (2) FREL/FRL applicable to the results period for which payments are requested, submitted to the UNFCCC and subjected to Convention technical review and assessment; (3) National Forest Monitoring System; (4) Safeguard Information System (SIS) to report on how Cancun safeguards are implemented.

27. The GCF Secretariat and the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) assessed financing proposals based on a scoring card, compliance with existing GCF policies and procedures, and other technical criteria. The relevance of the scorecard for use in assessing concept notes and financing proposals, including the FREL/FRL and results submitted to the UNFCCC by the country, is valued. The scoring card contains quantitative elements with a points system and qualitative elements rated as pass or fail. A country must receive approval on all criteria to be eligible for RBP.

28. The payable emission reductions (‘GCF ERs volume’) are calculated by dividing the total score obtained by the maximum possible score (48 points) and multiplying this by the emission reductions offered by a country. An additional 2.5 per cent of the resulting value was included in the final payment for any country that: (i) provided information consistent with GCF policies and aligned with the country’s NDC, REDD+ national strategy or action plan, and low-carbon development plans and policies; and (ii) provided details on the nature, scale, and significance of non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability of REDD+ activities (Green Climate Fund, 2017b).



29. As a result, there was a proper alignment of the funding proposals submitted with the NDCs and REDD+ National Strategies/Action Plans, as all countries under the REDD+ RBP pilot complied with the provisions described in the preceding paragraph and qualified to receive an additional 2.5 per cent in the calculation of the value of payable emission reductions (Green Climate Fund 2017b, Section 3.4).

30. Another lesson learned from the design of the pilot programme is that the active participation of Board members, country representatives, and stakeholders, including experts and CSOs, was crucial in ensuring a robust and legitimate inception process (Green Climate Fund, 2017b).

2.1.3. Ease of access to REDD+ financing

31. In general, Latin American countries accessing GCF financing do not mention difficulties in designing and accessing the REDD+ RBP pilot, largely due to accumulated experience from previous processes with UN-REDD or other bilateral initiatives pertaining to REDD+ and forestry sector at large. Additionally, the GCF has supported countries through the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) for preparing the RBP financing proposal in line with decision B.13/21 (Green Climate Fund, 2017a).

32. The TOR provide a key solution for addressing challenges in REDD+ RBP projects. By clearly defining what to pay for, establishing guidelines for reference levels, and determining who to pay, the TOR helped mitigate biases and risks, such as data selection and lack of clarity in payment criteria⁴. This clarity facilitated the improvement of environmental integrity and the efficiency of the pilot programme.

33. Several challenges emerged in the process of determining emission levels against which payments are eligible to be made⁵. For the REDD+ RBP pilot, some of these challenges were identified by the GCF. Therefore, to drive improvements that enable a deeper understanding of the TOR and that can be considered in future GCF initiatives, the Fund conducted a call for public inputs for the continuation of the GCF REDD+ results-based payments programme throughout 2021, to receive inputs⁶.

34. Within these consultations, topics related to reference levels were addressed, such as the permitted duration for reference periods and their assessment in the scorecard scoring. The need to establish criteria for linking the reference period with the declared results period was also discussed and clarified.

⁴ In connection with this, in Angelsen et al. (2018), specific examples can be found of countries that could receive RBP even though the deforestation rate is positive, as a result of extrapolating deforestation levels from previous periods that were too high.

⁵ The FRLs or FRELs are measured according to the methodological guidance of the UNFCCC and documents must be published on the REDD+ web platform (see REDD+ (n.d.1)). These reference levels are a mandatory requirement for accessing the REDD+ RBP mechanism under the UNFCCC. While there are agreed methodologies around FRLs/FRELs, countries face various challenges in constructing reference levels that meet standards and basic attributes such as completeness, transparency, coherence, and accuracy of information, allowing the determination of confidence in the presented reference level. Among the challenges, Angelsen et al. (2018) identify: i) Generating a national FRL/FREL or, temporarily, a subnational one that is representative and whose aggregation allows for the creation of a national reference level; ii) Availability of data for the same temporal period in each of the subnational levels that make up the reference level; iii) Availability of measurements for the most factors considered for the measurement. In an FREL, consider: deforestation, degradation, increase in carbon stocks, conservation, and sustainable forest management. In an FRL, consider: removals for conservation of carbon reserves; removals for reforestation; removals for forest restoration; balancing the period with available information and the period for which the reference level will be used; and aiming to avoid extrapolating past trends that are not compatible with current events. In connection with this, in Angelsen et al. (2018), specific examples can be found of countries that could receive results-based payments even though the deforestation rate is positive; as a result of extrapolating deforestation levels from previous periods that were too high.

⁶ In addition to specific questions, the public was allowed to provide input on whether they believed that other aspects of the TOR are unclear, not included, or inadequately covered (see REDD+ (n.d.)).



Accessing REDD+ RBP financing through Accredited Entities

35. As is required in the GCF, projects funded by the GCF require AEs to act as intermediaries to distribute and execute funds in recipient countries. Although collaborating with AEs provides flexibility and technical expertise in project execution for REDD+ projects, countries declare that it may also entail additional costs in the form of administrative fees or overheads, which in some cases are perceived to be high.

36. In some countries, the working modality of REDD+ RBP through an AE was not clear, leading some public institutions to believe that, as the resources corresponded to the country as payment for past results, the funds could be accessed and managed directly by the entities responsible for implementing national REDD+ strategies. The TOR was not seen to have been clearly communicated or understood at the country level that the REDD+ RBP would also use AEs as a conduit for accessing such financing.

37. GCF's mid-term evaluation of the 2020 REDD+ RBP highlighted the importance of AEs in meeting the requirements of the TORs. However, both countries and AEs mentioned discussions related to transparency and standardisation of AE fees, financing costs, and project management. From the country's end, this concern stemmed from the perception that IAEs have high operating costs and management fees. It is important to note that, according to the approved terms of reference, the determination of AE fees is delegated to the Executive Director of the Secretariat, and it was negotiated to be half of the usual AE fees in the case of REDD+ RBP projects. In this regard, AE fees are approved considering differences in AE obligations to the GCF for RBP compared to prospective investment. Therefore, AEs and countries agreed on project management costs for the implementation of initiatives financed through the proceeds (Green Climate Fund, 2020a).

38. Countries view payments for results as recognition of long-term efforts to reduce emissions and prepare institutional mechanisms to support the UNFCCC process and efforts to protect or restore forests in compliance with the elements of the Warsaw Framework. The REDD+ RBP pilot has been, in most countries, the first scheme that has allowed the implementation and testing of the structures generated during the previous phases of REDD+.

2.1.4. REDD+ RBP and concentration of portfolio

Regional concentration

39. By the end of 2020 (the time when the pilot window was exhausted), the UNFCCC had received 18 submissions of REDD+ results from 14 countries (57 per cent from LAC countries). The reported results amounted to 8.94 billion tons of CO₂e emission reductions achieved between 2006 and 2018. The vast majority of these emission reductions came from one country: Brazil (77.1 per cent) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2019).

40. In total, through the pilot, eight funding proposals have been approved, one in Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia), and seven in LAC (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Paraguay), resulting in a total financial disbursement of USD 496.7 million in RBP. The estimated mitigation potential amounted to 101 MtCO₂e.

41. The final outcome indicates a significant concentration of approved funding proposals from Latin American countries (88 per cent of the projects and 79 per cent of the funds disbursed by the pilot). This regional imbalance in the GCF's portfolio was due to the institutional, political, and financial capacity of the region, as a result of over 10 years of experience working with REDD+ projects promoted by various entities such as UN-REDD, REDD+ partnership, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), World Bank's Forest Investment Programme (FIP), GEF, GCF, and



bilateral funding from Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan as the main donors.

Table 2: Project portfolio of the REDD+ RBP pilot programme by region and results

COUNTRY	REGION	VOLUME OF ERS THE GCF PAID FOR (TCO ₂ EQ)	FUNDING AMOUNT (USD)	PERCENTAGE OF REDD+ RBP
Brazil	LAC	18,819,946	96,452,228	19%
Ecuador	LAC	3,623,759	18,571,766	4%
Argentina	LAC	13,740,771	82,000,000	17%
Chile	LAC	12,411,229	63,607,552	13%
Paraguay	LAC	9,756,098	50,000,000	10%
Colombia	LAC	6,952,451	28,208,123	6%
Indonesia	Asia-Pacific	20,000,000	103,781,250	21%
Costa Rica	LAC	10,559,833	54,119,143	11%

Source: Green Climate Fund (2024).

42. Since 2011/2012, countries in LAC have experienced significant progress in developing technical skills related to REDD+ initiatives. Specifically, Brazil, with the Amazon Fund, its vast natural potential, and the institutional capacity and skills developed to attract resources and funds from the green carbon market, has emerged as a global leader, playing a pivotal role in the maturity of such initiatives. Countries like Colombia have also made significant strides in forest monitoring, strengthening their capacity to undertake REDD+ projects.

43. An emblematic case in this regard is Costa Rica, which since 1997 (*Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación*, 1997) has had conservation-promotion policies through payments for environmental services (PES) that helped reverse the marked increasing trend in the deforestation rate of the country, turning it negative for years. Chile, on the other hand, has implemented incentives aimed at commercial forest plantations, which have led to a considerable increase in planted area, substantially boosting timber forest production and making it competitive internationally (Sanhueza and Antonissen, 2014).

44. Countries were poised to receive funds from the GCF's REDD+ results-based payment mechanism due to a series of key factors demonstrating their commitment and capacity to address deforestation and promote sustainable forest management. Firstly, each country in the special study had established its national climate change strategy before 2014, providing a comprehensive framework for addressing environmental challenges. Additionally, they had solid regulatory frameworks to regulate deforestation, including forest laws and specific regulations for REDD+ processes.⁷ These laws and frameworks not only established measures for forest protection but also promoted active participation of LCs in their management, thus strengthening forest governance and protecting communities' rights to their lands and making it easy to comply with Environmental and Social Safeguard requirements under REDD+ RBP (and Cancun Safeguards). Lastly, countries had established forest cover monitoring systems and developed forest inventories, providing fundamental data for effective access to REDD+ RBP funding and implementation of REDD+ initiatives. Given that the TOR of REDD+ RBP were to provide financing based on a first come first served basis, the original design of the TOR privileged those countries and proposals which were most ready to meet

⁷ Notable examples include Brazil's Public Forest Management Law in 2006, Chile's Native Forest Recovery and Forestry Promotion Law in 2008, and Colombia's Forest Law in 2006.



all the compliance requirements of REDD+ RBP TOR in the timeframe of the pilot and for the time the financing of USD 500 million lasted. The substantial past experience of LAC states in REDD+ and forestry-related interventions, including payment for environmental services, combined with the strong existing policy and institutional framework, meant that most of the successful proposals originated from LAC states.

Concentration of accredited entities

45. Another particular characteristic of the REDD+ RBP project portfolio in LAC is that three United Nations agencies implement these initiatives. These are:

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This United Nations agency is responsible for the execution of projects FP120 (Chile), FP134 (Colombia), and FP142 (Argentina). These three projects accumulate 35 per cent (USD 173,815,675) of the funds granted by the REDD+ RBP Pilot and 44 per cent of the funds allocated to the LAC region by the pilot.
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), operates projects FP100 (Brazil), FP110 (Ecuador), FP144 (Costa Rica), and FP130 (Indonesia). These four projects accumulated 55 per cent (USD 272,924,387) of the total funds granted by the REDD+ RBP pilot and 43 per cent of the funds allocated to the LAC region by the pilot.
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) operates project FP121 (Paraguay), which has a total amount of USD 50,000,000 and represents 13 per cent of the funds granted by the REDD+ RBP pilot and 100 per cent of the funds allocated to the LAC region by the pilot.

46. The UN-REDD⁸ Programme, launched in 2008, has been instrumental in assisting participating countries in developing REDD+ strategies and promoting the involvement of key stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, in this process. Led by FAO, UNDP, and UNEP, this programme has been crucial in creating the enabling conditions for the implementation of REDD+ pilot projects in seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

47. The relevance of UN-REDD lies in its technical and financial support to countries, which has facilitated the involvement of other international actors in building REDD+ strategies (González, 2020). This has been particularly important given the complexity of designing measures that have social, economic, and cultural impacts, involving a variety of actors beyond the state. FAO, UNDP, and UNEP have contributed substantially to such efforts in numerous countries by assisting in putting relevant mechanisms, policies, strategies and capacities in place under REDD+ framework. Thus, when the GCF's REDD+ RBP pilot programme was opened these organisations became natural partners for countries through which to access the financing.

48. REDD+ RBP programmes are complex to prepare given the technical and ESS requirements and the need for reconciling UNFCCC requirements with those of countries. This favours the concentration of AEs, as there are few institutions globally that have the necessary requisite capacity and experience to meet such requirements. UNDP, UNEP and FAO, given their previous experience working on REDD+ at the country level, also had close ties with countries in the region, especially with regard to their previous work on REDD+, which facilitated their nomination for access to the REDD+ RBP window. Their involvement in leading the UN-REDD+ programme also meant that they were well versed with UNFCCC requirements. In addition, these institutions have also been key delivery partners and AEs of GCF even prior to the REDD+ RBP projects, and hence possessed key experience of GCF's review processes. All of these factors combined with the low number of AEs in the region with the requisite type of accreditation, ESS standards and requisite experience in

⁸ See UN-REDD (2021).



designing REDD+ RBP projects make the concentration of programming in a few AEs more obvious.

Knowledge management and exchange

49. Despite the concentration of projects in one region and in the hands of three AEs, the REDD+ RBP pilot has not promoted continuous exchange and learning among countries, which represents a missed opportunity for the region and for the RBP experience. The only formal exchange instance that has taken place was in August 2023 within the framework of Costa Rica's Project FP144 (Regional Forum on Climate Finance and Forests: Achievements and Lessons Learned in Latin America) (United Nations Development Programme, 2023). This meeting was the first of its kind where 10 countries in the region reflected on the state of climate finance, their achievements, and challenges, with a view to charting new horizons. In addition to this instance, there are some informal channels of communication and exchange between the regional divisions of the AEs in practice. More organized and formal exchanges might have allowed countries and projects to benefit from lessons learned and experiences of each other.

2.2 Management structure, flow of proceeds and use of proceeds (country level)

50. The TOR established that countries receiving RBP for REDD+ under the GCF's pilot programme must reinvest the revenue in activities aligned with their current or future NDCs established under the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC, their REDD+ strategies, or low-carbon development plans. This section looks at various dimensions of REDD+ RBP projects at the country level.

2.2.5 Stakeholders in the management of structure of REDD+ RBP

Selection and involvement of international partners

51. The three international accredited entities (IAEs) responsible for the REDD+ RBP projects played a crucial role due to their extensive experience in REDD+ issues. They served as the conduit through which countries could access GCF funds. In the case of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Chile, the IAEs also took on the role of the executing entity (EE). In the case of Ecuador and Paraguay, the EEs were the respective environment ministries of each country. This promotes greater empowerment of national stakeholders in these countries.

52. In six of the seven countries analysed in the special study, AEs were directly invited to participate in the design and implementation of the projects due to their extensive technical expertise and involvement in previous processes before the pilot phase, which typically includes participation in the development of the countries' REDD+ national strategies as has been discussed in detail in the earlier section when discussing the reasons for the concentration of REDD+ RBP programming with specific AEs. Brazil, a notable exception to this norm was Brazil conducted a five-stage selection process for AEs (REDD+ Brazil, 2018). In this process, 13 AEs or those in the accreditation process with the GCF submitted their applications, of which only four were selected for interviews. Ultimately, the UNDP was chosen after demonstrating alignment with the country's objectives. This process was adopted in Brazil because, unlike in other countries, Brazil didn't need to collaborate with international organizations in the preparatory phases of REDD+, hence, there was no pre-existing partnership in the framework of REDD+ for the country to leverage readily.

53. While REDD+ RBP projects in the region are led by only three AEs, in some cases such as Paraguay and Argentina, the design and implementation also involve the support of other United Nations agencies (collaborating partners) like FAO, UNDP, and United Nations Office for Project



Services (UNOPS), for specific issues such as safeguards, and engagement with the private sector and markets.

54. REDD+ RBP projects implemented through the FAO's Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM) and the UNDP's Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) have been effective in countries like Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Chile. These agreements between the EEs and international organizations like FAO and UNDP are backed by specific regulatory frameworks and established procedures, ensuring the technical and administrative capacity necessary to achieve the expected outcomes in REDD+ projects and to direct partnerships with local partners.

2.2.6. Involvement of local stakeholders

55. Regarding the participation of other stakeholders, such as CSOs, LCs, IPs, and academia in REDD+ RBP projects in the region, it can be said that the design and implementation process of national REDD strategies, safeguards, reference levels, and forest monitoring involved a variety of actors and geographical scope. This was achieved through a strategy to promote stakeholder participation in consultation processes, working groups, and establishing REDD+ steering committees in each country. The overarching force driving the consultations was the national REDD+ Strategies. An example is Argentina, which incorporated multiple actors in its dialogue and policy-building processes with native communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the agricultural sector, academics, and the government, aiming for a cross-cutting, coordinated, and effective implementation to avoid conflicting policies and regulations. Similarly, Brazil facilitated access to information on the REDD+ process by launching a website where stakeholders can access a guide to information and data used for all REDD+ technical presentations for the Amazon biome (Green Climate Fund 2019d).

56. In Costa Rica, an extensive stakeholder participation process for REDD+ took place between 2008 and 2019, including discussions on social and environmental safeguards involving multiple sectors, including small and medium producers, IPs, the academic sector, NGOs, the forestry and timber industry, international organizations, and the Government, among others. Similarly, Colombia and Chile, with the premise that implementing REDD+ initiatives must ensure the effective, free, full, and informed participation of stakeholders, have developed appropriate participation mechanisms through the REDD+ RBP project board, which recognizes the participation structures of local organizations.

57. By actively involving these actors in different stages of the projects, from the initial consultation to implementation and decision-making, greater legitimacy and acceptance of forestry interventions were achieved. The consultation process, working groups, participatory safeguards development, and inclusion of these actors in steering committees are measures that promote co-management of forest resources.

58. The steering committees of the REDD+ RBP pilot projects act as the main governance bodies at the national level, providing guidance and strategic direction to the project. These committees are led by the EE, in close coordination with the NDA and other key project team members. Typically, the steering committees convene meetings at least once a year, upon request of their members, who represent the NDAs, public sectoral entities, and, in some cases, the direct beneficiaries of the projects. These beneficiaries include, at the national level, representatives of IPs, LCs, small and large producers in the agricultural and forestry sectors, and in some cases, actors from the private sector and NGOs. Generally, the institutions that are part of the steering committees are often some of the same institutions that comprise the national REDD+ strategy.

59. In the design stage, the governance structures of REDD+ RBP projects considered actors from multiple sectors; however, in practice, decision-making is largely centred on the AEs due to their role in leadership, financial management, and implementation of REDD+ RBP projects. This



centralization carries disadvantages, as the direct connection between AEs and the GCF means that national institutions are less connected to the GCF. Some stakeholders have been vocal about the need for more direct contact with the GCF without needing the intermediation of an AE. In addition, in some consultations at the country level, some members of the REDD+ steering committees complain that the government and the AEs did not seriously consider their inputs during the design and implementation stages of REDD+ RBP projects.

2.2.7. Reinvestment of proceeds

Flexibility of deploying proceeds

60. The REDD+ RBP pilot is based on the premise that REDD+ is a national strategy, and countries have the autonomy to determine how to use the funds to incentivize emission reductions. The funding proposals explicitly aligned the intended use of the proceeds with established policies and measures in the national REDD+ strategies or respective action plans. This alignment ensures that the funds allocated for results-based payments are reinvested specifically to achieve new net GHG emission reductions or for non-carbon benefits, thereby maintaining a virtuous cycle of climate change mitigation through the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors.

61. A notable aspect is that the pilot programme provides countries with high flexibility in determining the allocation of funds. The funding proposals did not require a detailed logical framework or specific indicators; instead, the funds were expected to be invested in activities aligned with the national REDD+ strategies. This highlights a unique opportunity⁹ for tailor-made solutions to each country's specific needs and priorities in mitigation and adaptation.

62. Nevertheless, the absence of a defined logical framework in the projects presents significant risks and potential challenges. The lack of a clear logical framework can result in poor planning and disorganized implementation of activities, leading to duplication of efforts, wastage of resources, and misalignment with strategic objectives and the specific needs of beneficiaries. The lack of clarity regarding indicators and expected outcomes can also hinder accountability and transparency in the use of funds, eroding the trust of donors, governments, and other stakeholders. It can also complicate the proper evaluation of the performance and impact of projects, limiting the ability to understand their effectiveness and efficiency fully. In most cases, the AEs addressed this challenge by developing logical frameworks or equivalent tools to guide project execution.

Use of proceeds

63. The REDD+ RBP pilot projects in Latin America show a notable convergence in allocating funds and the specific activities supported. A common focus is on native vegetation conservation, local capacity building, and forest fire prevention. All countries specifically support forest management by IPs and LCs, as well as the promotion of gender equity and social inclusion (GESI). Thus, the projects under REDD+ RBP encompass a very wide variety of activities.

64. The primary uses of funds in the REDD+ RBP pilot projects are concentrated on reducing deforestation and forest degradation. To achieve this, they focus on activities such as:

- (a) **Forest cover conservation:** In Costa Rica, this takes place through the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) programme, with a significant emphasis on the conservation of indigenous territories and forest fire prevention (Green Climate Fund, 2020d). In Argentina,

⁹ The NDAs indicate that projects funded by the GCF (not just the REDD+ RBP projects) are generally designed by the AEs and do not necessarily address the country's climate priorities.



the FP142 project plans to sustainably manage 4.5 million hectares of native forests, representing 8.5 per cent of the country's total forest area (Green Climate Fund, 2020b).

- (b) **Promotion of reforestation and restoration activities:** A prominent example is Chile, which allocates a considerable percentage of funds to both activities to promote forestry sector actions that contribute to the implementation of the country's NDC (Green Climate Fund, 2019b).¹⁰
- (c) **Promotion of alternative productive activities to forests:** In Argentina, the project plans to allocate a significant portion of its funds to implement integrated forest management models for livestock, benefiting small and medium-sized livestock farmers (Green Climate Fund, 2020b). In Ecuador, 6 per cent of the project's funds are allocated to the transition to sustainable agricultural production systems (Green Climate Fund, 2019b).
- (d) **Forest fire prevention:** The REDD+ RBP projects in Chile, Argentina, and Costa Rica specify specific percentages in their funding proposals to promote activities aimed at preventing forest fires (Green Climate Fund, 2019a).
- (e) **Strengthening technical and institutional capacities (national and local):** Capacity building enhances the likelihood of continuity of forest conservation activities even after REDD+ projects end, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of environmental and social benefits. In Colombia, the resources allocated to strengthening institutional capacity aim to enhance the monitoring and control of both national and local efforts, positively impacting the distribution of funds and the reach of local governance (Green Climate Fund, 2020c).
- (f) **Support for indigenous and local communities:** In Colombia, the FP134 project works closely with indigenous communities to strengthen their forest governance and sustainable forest management capacities. It focuses on optimising coordination between ethnic groups and institutions, strengthening self-governance systems and traditional knowledge, consolidating territorial rights in critical areas, and promoting indigenous conservation and restoration systems. Additionally, the project plans to empower and encourage the participation of Indigenous women in these activities (Green Climate Fund, 2020c).
- (g) Another example is Ecuador and Costa Rica, where respective projects direct funds to indigenous communities through regular economic incentives based on a formula considering the conserved area. These funds are conditional on the conservation and protection of ecosystems under the agreement (Green Climate Fund, 2019b).
- (h) **Support in land use planning and management:** In Ecuador, funds were allocated to implement institutional management policies and actions for REDD+ in communities and local governments that implement land use plans and improve land rights management within protective forests and national protected areas. Additionally, funds were allocated for the transition to sustainable agricultural production systems for farmers and businesses. In Argentina, the project supports compliance with the Forest Law, assisting in developing 95 comprehensive community management plans and 92 integrated forest and livestock management plans (Green Climate Fund, 2020b).

65. The main beneficiaries of the REDD+ RBP pilot projects can be classified as follows:

¹⁰ This project aims to reach 7,690 hectares of native species forested, 4,270 hectares of forests restored, 3,840 hectares managed through preventive silviculture against forest fires, and 9,740 hectares of native forest under sustainable forest management by 2026, supporting actions of the dendroenergy programme of the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) (Green Climate Fund, 2019a).



- (a) Depending on the country and its resource distribution policies, rural landowners and users, both individually and in associations, receive support through monetary funds or non-monetary benefits.
- (b) Indigenous communities in the regions involved in REDD+ strategy actions are identified as beneficiaries in all projects.
- (c) Public institutions or agencies involved in implementing the REDD+ strategy also receive financial support to strengthen their institutional capacity.
- (d) Depending on specific inclusion criteria established in each project, agricultural producers and businesses may benefit from the funds.
- (e) Women, especially those working in rural areas, are considered beneficiaries to promote their integration into activities related to REDD+.

2.2.8. Country ownership

66. Many of the findings and lessons highlighted so far and other findings elaborated later in this special study point to a high level of country ownership. The REDD+ RBP projects directly operationalize the priorities set out in the national level REDD+ strategies and action plans, and the REDD+ RBP TOR provides countries with the flexibility to deploy the proceeds as per respective countries' priorities, as has been covered earlier in this report. In addition, the design and implementation of the projects have significant involvement and buy-in from numerous stakeholders at all levels, as has also been covered earlier in this report. National-level structures such as REDD+ steering committees and similar bodies drive the projects at the national level.

67. These REDD+ strategies and priorities are implemented by the national public sector, but the resources in these projects are transferred to the AEs. During data collection, some public institutions have expressed the wish to play a more active role in managing these funds instead of intermediation by AEs. They allude that the complexity of the procedures in accessing funds from AEs, the lack of clarity on the interactions between the AEs and the Secretariat and the lack of more direct interaction between GCF and the national stakeholders can create confusion and frustration among national stakeholders. Furthermore, national institutions state that they have a deeper understanding of their own needs and priorities compared to the AEs and the requisite capacity to manage interventions in REDD+ and the forestry sector. Therefore, they wish to have greater decision-making power over how the allocated resources are used, as opposed to having an AE as a conduit to access the funding.

2.2.9. Progress of projects

Importance of existing national level structures for devolving financing

68. Most REDD+ RBP projects in LAC have a sub-national scope, except in Costa Rica and Argentina, where funds are invested or planned to be invested nationwide. Implementing projects of such scale has technical, administrative, and political challenges, requiring alignment with public policies and institutional consensus. Additionally, AEs must manage diverse local dynamics, such as land tenure and the needs of forest-dependent communities. Effective implementation demands substantial technical and administrative national and local capacity and structures, which is difficult in contexts with limited resources and infrastructure.

69. It is important to note that RBP mechanisms for REDD+ financing had not been previously tested in the region, making these initiatives novel for both countries and AEs. Four countries received resource disbursements at the end of 2020, while three did so during 2021, giving the projects between two and a half and three and a half years of execution so far. During this period,



projects have achieved varying levels of progress. In some cases, such as Costa Rica, execution exceeds 80 percent of the targets, while in other countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia, execution is delayed. Inter alia, a key determining factor has been the existence of suitable institutional mechanisms to deliver and devolve financing from the national level further downstream to local governments and communities. This is seen prominently in the cases of Costa Rica and Ecuador, where the REDD+ RBP projects plugged themselves into an existing institutional set-up to deliver the financing to local communities and their institutions. This has led to a more rapid disbursement of resources and underlined the importance of ability not just to bring RBP resources to the country level but then also deliver the financing to the sub-national and local levels.

70. Chile, Costa Rica and Ecuador have been cases where countries have either had a functioning system for the devolution of resources which were used in the past for similar nationally or externally funded programmes or have built such systems more recently in preparation for accessing GCF funding.¹¹ In other cases, the National REDD+ Strategy underpinning the RBP REDD+ projects were designed but had no prior implementation structures. In these cases, AEs had to allocate significant resources and time to create the initial conditions for investing the resources. In Argentina, for example, registering consents obtained within the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) actions framework with IPs delayed implementation by 12 months. In addition, national and subnational elections held in 2023 also affected project implementation.¹² Such action is necessitated because the AE in Argentina has to set up such structures to devolve resources to the local level, given the lack of well-functioning structures so far.¹³

71. So far, countries which have accessed REDD+ RBP have had all the prerequisites to mobilize the resources from global sources such as GCF and bring them to the country level. However, ensuring utilisation of the resources and devolution of the resources downstream require the existence of appropriate structures to enable the flow of such resources. This has been observed to be one of the key factors determining the ongoing progress of the projects.

2.2.10. Simplified access and management of REDD+ RBP projects

72. Flexibility in the use of funds, low monitoring and reporting requirements to GCF, and the possibility of having all resources in advance have positively influenced the implementation of the projects. The overarching consequence of such simplification is a low level of “interference” from GCF after the approval of the projects. NDAs, AEs, EEs, and beneficiaries emphasise the importance of the projects in providing funding to the National REDD+ Strategies and the necessity for these strategies to have the political support needed for implementation.

73. NDAs and AEs state that the approval and initiation period for RBP projects has been quicker than for projects in the regular GCF window. This is because most of the requirements to access financing under REDD+ RBP ToR are expressed in a binary manner. i.e. countries either meet the criteria or they don’t meet the criteria. Hence, the clear requirements, as outlined in the ToR and the scorecard, remove the need for some of the iterative design process that other projects face. On average, the period from the approval of the concept note to the first (and only) disbursement has been

¹¹ In Costa Rica, the project managed to advance rapidly in most of its components. For example, the project succeeded in delivering USD 9.9 million to FONAFIFO for PES during its first year of implementation, demonstrating effective utilization of pre-existing structures.

¹² In Argentina, the national elections took place from August 13th to November 19th, 2023. These typically become a government priority, diverting attention from other initiatives.

¹³ A programme of payment for environmental services called National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (abbreviated as FNECBN in Spanish) is being financed by Federal Council for the Environment (COFEMA) of Argentina through its national budgetary resources. But the flow of such resources has been below the expected levels. Hence, the structures for devolution under that programme are still evolving.

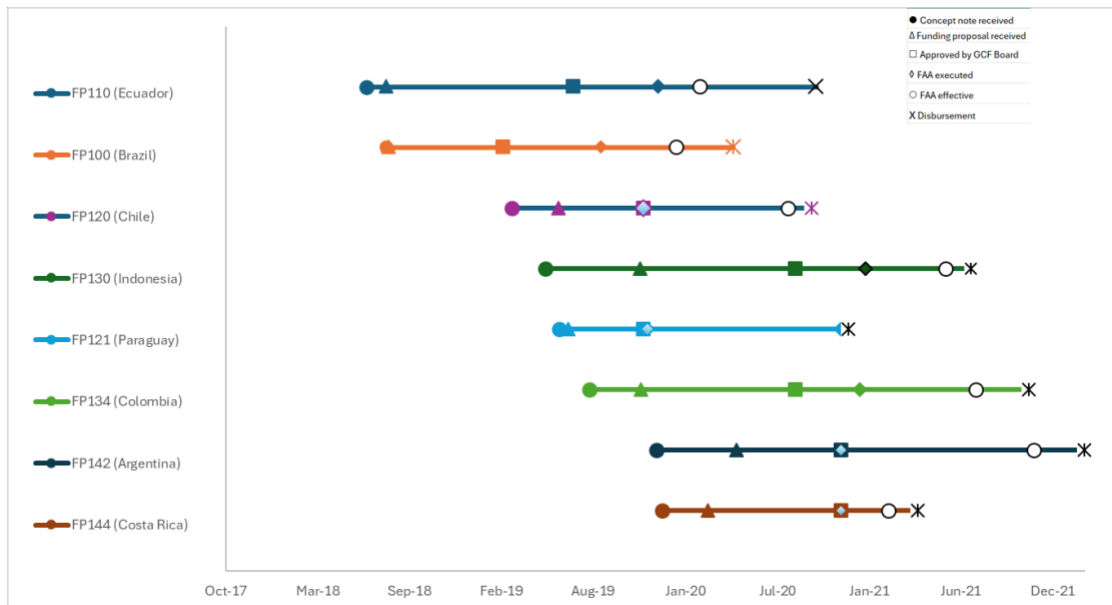


678 days, a significantly shorter time than needed for a regular GCF window project. In the case of Paraguay, the process took 473 days, while for Argentina, it took 832 days.

74. Compared to other GCF projects in the regular funding window, the lower administrative burden combined with flexibility in the use of funds improved national ownership of the initiative, allowing NDAs and AEs greater autonomy in decision-making.

75. While the projects may be simplified in terms of compliance and reporting requirements, the AEs still apply their internal control and reporting requirements to the projects. These include annual audits and, in some cases, mid-term and final evaluations commissioned by the AEs.

Figure 4: Roadmap by country project



Source: Green Climate Fund (2019b).

Note: FAA = funded activity agreement.

2.2.11. Potential for sustainability

Reinvestment of proceeds for sustainability of results

76. The stakeholders involved in REDD+ projects in Latin America and the Caribbean region have asked GCF to continue financing REDD+ RBP projects in the future. They argue that the projects have proven to be successful in effectively addressing factors that lead to a continuation of conservation and restoration of forest resources in the region, which in turn could potentially help them mobilize further RBPs in the future. They believe that a disruption in the provision of RBP by the GCF carries the risk of interrupting the virtuous cycle of results generation and payment and reinvesting revenues to generate more results. This is articulated through a demand for a second phase of the pilot programme that includes more countries.¹⁴

77. The countries that have participated in the REDD+ RBP pilot have made significant investments both before and during the implementation of the projects. However, as time progresses, they face growing uncertainty about the future of these efforts, as they do not have the assurance of

¹⁴ The countries that have participated in this pilot urge that they are not excluded from future REDD+ RBP opportunities, arguing that they have made the largest investments in REDD+ in the world, which has led them to be adequately prepared and eligible for these funds. Additionally, they point out that they should not be penalized for their success in preparing and implementing these instruments in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines



resources to maintain investments in the long term and have little fiscal space to sustain the investments from their own resources. The condition of reinvestment of resources in GCF's REDD+ RBP TOR is meant to address this aspect, but such a condition makes a strong implicit assumption that future resources for continued conservation of forest resources are available, accessible and timely from GCF as well as other sources. That being said, the REDD+ RBP projects have tried to build in measures for the potential sustainability of results in the future and factors potentially influencing the sustainability of results, as elaborated below.

78. Setting up processes and instruments. In Colombia, the GCF-funded initiative supports the application of innovative financial mechanisms, ensuring that financing is deployed directly in 3 of the 22 deforestation hotspots identified by the Government, including IP territories. The programme hopes to generate adequate conditions to catalyse new financing through carbon markets under competitive conditions.

79. Institutional strengthening as a decisive factor for the future sustainability of actions is also notable in the case of Costa Rica. The application of strict auditing and monitoring processes for the use of funds by the executing institutions of the State contributes to a culture of verification and oversight, increasing confidence in the processes and institutions, a relevant aspect for accessing new financing to ensure the sustainability of actions. Thus, RBP proceeds are being used to enhance the ability of Costa Rica to access Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) financing, preparing for the LEAF standards, including certification according to ART-TREES: The country has also initiated the development of methodologies to measure, report and verify emissions and removals in the Soil Organic Carbon pool. The negotiations with LEAF coalition are ongoing as of the time of writing this special study.

80. National institutions and programmes. Chile has a stable institutional framework, while state agencies have a presence at the territorial level. The strategy promoted by the +Bosques project (FP120) was conceived to co-finance programmes already implemented at the institutional level, ensuring the synergy of different initiatives and the national interest in the continuity of actions and, potentially, results.

81. In Paraguay, the project plans to allocate close to USD 17 million to create the National Climate Change Fund (FNCC). The FNCC's objective is to become a recipient and promoter of climate finance for the country, contributing directly to the sustainability of present and future actions that may be implemented. The FNCC is being discussed in legislative bodies and is waiting to be operationalized.

82. Notwithstanding the above measures built in to ensure sustainability, continued political buy-in remains an important factor. Argentina and Brazil are currently examples of the intensity of the changes to which the region is exposed and how these can affect REDD+ strategies and REDD+ RBP projects. In the case of Brazil, during the administration of the previous government (2019–2022), the execution of the project was affected, with some difficulties in achieving implementation at the planned pace, thus affecting progress and sustainability. On the other hand, in the case of Argentina, although the initiative is being executed, the new Government has not yet appointed an NDA that can provide more details on the agenda of REDD+ actions in the country in the future.

2.2.12. Coherence and complementarity

83. GCF's funding for REDD+ RBP projects in Latin America has been used in a complementary manner by countries with other sources of climate finance. The projects demonstrate very good examples of coherence and complementarity with different sources of climate finance. This has taken place through two kinds of planned and actual coherence and complementarity: Amplification of resources through co-financing and financing complementary upstream and downstream interventions.



- (a) **Financing of complementary upstream and downstream interventions.** Countries have been able to link the funds received through RBP with other financial resources provided by other international and national organizations. In Paraguay, the FCPF provided support between 2017 and 2021 to complete the preparation phase for REDD+ and meet the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework (Dellavedova and Vaccotti, 2021). The project was implemented by UNEP and promoted landscape integrity and sustainable value chains for meat and soy in two key biomes in Paraguay: the Chaco and the Atlantic Forest of Alto Paraná (BAAPA), areas where the REDD+ RBP project operates.¹⁵ In Chile, the financing provided by REDD+ RBP presents synergies with FCPF. Support granted by the FCPF was used in building a system which enabled the capture and storage of emission reduction data in Chile, and this data was used to submit the RBP REDD+ proposal to GCF. A similar usage of FCPF financing was also observed in Costa Rica where a GIS-based monitoring, reporting and verification system financed by FCPF in National Fund for Forestry Financing (abbreviated as FONAFIFO in Spanish) is used to monitor and verify the results before payments are made for all ongoing payments for environmental services, including GCF's REDD+ RBP financing.
- b. **Amplification of resources through co-financing.** In Colombia, the funds provided by the GCF are complemented with resources from bilateral support that the country has obtained from Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente) under the REM Vision Amazon Program. In Costa Rica, the synergies and co-financing achieved with the FCPF have allowed the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) as delivered by FONAFIFO to reach a larger number of people through Contracts for Forest Emission Reductions (abbreviated as CREF in Spanish). The sum of the resources provided by the GCF and the FCPF allows FONAFIFO to pay a value of USD 18 per hectare of conserved forest to those who don't benefit from the existing national PES programme. In Ecuador, the PROAmazonía Program is a joint initiative financed by the GEF and the GCF through two main projects: (i) the GEF project "Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of multiple-use Landscapes and Forests of High value for Conservation", and (ii) the GCF project "Preparation of financial instruments and land use planning to reduce emissions derived from deforestation" (FP019). Ecuador REDD-plus RBP (FP110) also used the proceeds to invest in activities that support the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan alongside PROAmazonía.
- c. In terms of **potential complementarity**, in Argentina, the REDD+ RBP project is expected to be complemented by the public budget allocated to the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (FNECBN), managed in a complementary manner by the Federal Council for the Environment (COFEMA). Similarly, in Brazil, the Floresta+ initiative (FP100) is linked to the Amazon Fund, which constitutes a REDD+ mechanism created to raise funding for non-reimbursable financing in efforts to prevent, control, and combat deforestation, as well as to promote preservation and sustainable use in the Brazilian Amazon.¹⁶

84. Overall, two factors appear to determine the coherence and complementarity of REDD+ RBP projects in the region. First is the existence of the national level REDD+ policies and frameworks, also a pre-requisite for accessing GCF's REDD+ RBP funding, which provides a ready platform for countries as well as funders to direct funding towards REDD+ activities in line with priorities of countries. Second, as mentioned earlier, the region, especially countries which have accessed GCF's REDD+ RBP programme, have strong government capacities and long experience in the forestry sector, and they have managed to crowd funding for REDD+ sequentially and/or simultaneously from multiple sources. Similarly, the AEs that accessed GCF's REDD+ RBP have also had

¹⁵ See Folur (n.d.).

¹⁶ See Amazon Fund (n.d.).



experience in this sector in their respective countries. Thus, the planned and actual coherence and complementarity have been driven by the countries themselves and AEs to differing degrees.

2.3 Non-carbon benefits (beneficiary level)

2.3.13. Typology of non-carbon benefits of REDD+ projects

85. Forests are strongly linked to climate issues. Their loss is a central component of climate change, while their recovery, conservation, or proper management are part of the solution in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Beyond their relevance to the climate topic, forest ecosystems are a key element socially, culturally, and economically for a multitude of social actors (González, 2020).

86. The non-carbon benefits of REDD+ refer to the additional positive impacts that the initiatives generate on social, environmental, and other non-carbon benefits that go beyond merely reducing carbon emissions. These benefits are supported by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, the Cancun Safeguards, and the TOR of the GCF REDD+ RBP pilot programme.

87. The inclusion of socioeconomic, environmental, and non-carbon benefits, as well as those that promote the well-being and recognize the development aspirations of forest owners and the communities that depend on them, has been a strategy that has boosted the participation of local actors in the RBP REDD+ pilot programmes in recent years (Wong et al., 2016). In this regard, the TOR of the pilot program aimed to integrate and safeguard non-carbon benefits in result-based payment mechanisms. This was achieved by rewarding an additional 2.5 per cent of the resulting value to the final payment for countries that include non-carbon-related benefits in their project designs.

88. Thus, the seven countries in the REDD+ RBP case study have recognized non-carbon benefits in their funding proposals such as:

- (a) Soil erosion control: REDD+ helps prevent soil degradation and maintain its fertility, which is essential for agriculture and the prevention of natural disasters;
- (b) Biodiversity conservation: REDD+ actions protect and enhance biodiversity by conserving habitats for endangered species and maintaining healthy ecosystems;
- (c) Integrated forest management: Sustainably managed forests provide vital resources for LCs, such as food, timber, and other forest products;
- (d) Contributions to local livelihoods: REDD+ strengthens local economies by supporting activities such as sustainable forestry and ecotourism, which in turn can improve the quality of life for communities (Wong et al., 2016).

89. The consolidation of safeguard systems has been an opportunity for countries to learn about the use of appropriate indicators, data collection methods, and reporting frameworks to monitor and evaluate the performance of REDD+ in terms of non-carbon benefits (Wong et al., 2016).

90. In Chile (Green Climate Fund, 2019a), Ecuador (Green Climate Fund, 2019b), and Brazil (Green Climate Fund, 2019d), the REDD+ RBP initiatives plan to strengthen water provision, diversify rural livelihoods, and value native forests, which will likely benefit LCs and promote biodiversity. In Chile, this includes improving water sources and promoting economic activities such as rural tourism. In Ecuador, the project focuses on the conservation of Amazonian biodiversity and watershed management, while Brazil aims to integrate climate change mitigation with biodiversity conservation, aligning with international agreements and enhancing the REDD+ initiative to protect forests and biological diversity (Green Climate Fund, 2019a).



91. In Costa Rica, the REDD+ RBP project worked closely with indigenous communities to help pilot the concept of constructing Territorial, Forest, and Environmental Plans (abbreviated as PAFT in Spanish) so that indigenous communities can outline their development priorities which can then be financed by the project resources as well as any other financing received by them in the future. The Ministry of Planning (abbreviated as MIDEPLAN in Spanish) has decided to use PAFTs as the default instrument to channel financial resources to indigenous communities in the future. Meanwhile, Chile conducted a quantitative economic valuation of the benefits in its National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRIV), where the estimated non-carbon benefits are 1.2 times greater than the carbon benefits (valued at USD 32.5/tCO₂), which reinforces the focus on recognizing other non-carbon benefits not directly related to carbon (Green Climate Fund 2020d).

92. REDD+ projects are also helping countries export deforestation-free products to major markets, such as Europe, that value sustainability and environmental protection. This, in turn, is expected to promote forest conservation and sustainable economic development in these regions. This is the case of Costa Rica (United Nations Development Programme, 2024), where the project has promoted the first Costa Rican coffee harvest guaranteed to have been produced without causing deforestation, meeting the requirement that Europe will impose for market entry starting in 2025 (European Council and Council of the European Union, 2024). Ecuador is undertaking similar initiatives. In summary, REDD+ projects have activities that intend to promote sustainable land use practices and facilitate access to markets that value non-deforestation, which is in line with new global consumption trends.

2.3.14. Women, Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders

93. The inclusion of indigenous communities is generally due to their large forest holdings and their status as vulnerable groups located in areas significantly affected by climate change. This engagement with Indigenous communities makes REDD+ projects more complex but increases their impact and potential. In this regard, during the design and implementation stages of RBP REDD+ projects, the seven countries report the participation of IPs, LCs, women, and farmers, achieving (i) their recognition as key actors in the sustainability of REDD+; (ii) their historical involvement in project design and requirements; (iii) their inclusion in decision-making processes in project boards and in the implementation of forest and climate change strategies as part of mechanisms for effective participation.¹⁷

94. A crucial factor influencing the inclusion of IPs in RBP REDD+ projects in LAC is progress in consulting and recognising Indigenous rights in the countries of the region. In most of these countries, the rights of IPs and LCs are legally recognized, ensuring the protection, management, and sustainable use of natural resources in their territories. This context has been beneficial for the implementation of RBP REDD+ projects, not only because of the vast forested areas hosted by IPs, crucial as carbon reservoirs globally, but also because of the importance of empowering and involving IPs and LCs in conservation, reforestation, and restoration efforts, as they are considered as true guardians of these territories (Sanhueza and Antonissen, 2014).

95. In this sense, the flexibility of the funding offered by RBP REDD+ projects proved useful, especially because processes involving IPs and LCs are nonlinear and time-consuming due to inclusive decision-making processes, FPIC procedures, and the limited accessibility of some IP territories. Therefore, these processes may not always be able to follow the same operational standards as processes involving individual landowners or agricultural cooperatives. This flexibility has allowed IPs, LCs, and women to benefit from increased inclusion and recognition in forest management and conservation within the RBP REDD+ pilot programme in Latin America. In most countries, projects include specific activities to support IPs and the management of their territories.

¹⁷ Funding proposal analysis.



96. AEs and countries in the region report policies aligned with reducing inequalities and strategies for including women in decision-making spaces. In some more specific cases, such as Argentina, their REDD+ RBP directly considers women as beneficiaries through their Support Program for Rural Women in Forests. Another example is Costa Rica, which prioritizes access to its payments for environmental services programme for forests owned or co-owned by women.

97. In Colombia, the project promotes gender equality in environmental monitoring and has allocated resources to support indigenous women, strengthening their leadership and knowledge in forest management. Additionally, specific gender-related outreach materials have been designed as part of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). In Ecuador, the Botas Violeta campaign has promoted the visibility of women's contribution to the economy and raised awareness about gender inequality (PROAmazonia, 2024). This campaign highlights women's contribution to the economy (both paid and unpaid work). In Chile, the +Bosques project has integrated women and indigenous communities into forest restoration and sustainable management to improve their livelihoods.

2.3.15. Coherence between adaptation and mitigation activities of REDD+ RBP projects

98. The original designs of the REDD+ RBP projects encourage the inclusion of non-carbon benefits in the projects. Stakeholders – especially CSOs – interviewed have described the importance of more ambitious non-carbon benefits in the REDD RBP projects. The non-carbon benefits are expected to complement the carbon-related or mitigation benefits that the projects are expected to finance to further the sustainability of the original results, as described earlier in this report. However, two sequential challenges have been noted in realistically integrating adaptation and non-carbon benefits.

99. First, some of the most important non-carbon benefits pertain to working with IPs. However, interventions, especially those pertaining to IPs, require compliance with FPIC and other norms which takes time and requires conscious efforts to ensure meaningful achievement. Such timelines can often be out of sync with the more rapid advancements in conservation and carbon-related benefits, given the relatively simpler theory of change of such interventions. This can create two different paces of progress in the same project. Second, slower progress in adaptation and non-carbon benefits can result in an inability to complete the interventions and ensure the sustainability of the adaptation interventions. This is seen in the case of Costa Rica where interventions in conservation have progressed very rapidly while those pertaining to IPs are still in the process of being realized. The project is still in the process of constructing PAFTs for 22 of the 24 territories, and it is likely that by the time of closure of the project in April 2026, the process of preparation of all PAFTs will likely have just been completed. However, the project may not have the opportunity to handhold the communities through some parts of the implementation of PAFT and address any gaps in such processes.¹⁸ In Argentina, the registration of consents obtained within the FPIC framework with IPs is expected to take a further 12 months, affecting all project components. This points to a need for either more realistic timeframes for projects that aspire for ambitious adaptation non-carbon benefits or less complex adaptation/non-carbon benefits.

¹⁸ As has been noted in this report, the Ministry of Planning is expected to channelize future funding to the communities for fulfilling the priorities set out in the PAFTs.



Appendix: Consulted stakeholders

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION/TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Alvarado	Guillermo	MRV and PPI Specialist	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Andrade	Mónica	Coordinator of the Environment and Energy Area	UNDP (Ecuador)
Assis de Lucena Lopes	Luana	Program Officer	UNDP (Brazil)
Baioni	Maristela	Assistant Resident Representative of the Program	UNDP (Brazil)
Ballesteros	Maureen	Project coordinator	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Baltodano Vargas	Néstro	President	National Forestry Office (Costa Rica)
Benegas	Maricela	Communication team designer	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Bombim	Barbara	Carbon and Nature Based Solutions Specialist	WWF (Brazil)
Bonilla	Adriana	Climate Change Director	MINAE (Costa Rica)
Campos	Patricia	Cooperation Officer	MINAE (Costa Rica)
Carrea	Rigoberto	Ngabe Indigenous Representative	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Castillo Nuñez	Mauricio	Information Department	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Chacon	Natalia	Executive Director of the Forestry Chamber and Director	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Chaverri	Enid	Director of International Cooperation	MINAE (Costa Rica)
Cole	Jorge	Social Coordinator	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Coto Hidalgo	Mario	Technical Responsible	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Crowley	Eve	Representative in Chile	FAO (Chile)
Dubokovic	Paola	Specialist	Directorate of Forests - Undersecretariat of Environment (Argentina)
Echeverry	Maria Alejandra Chau	Senior Coordinator of the programmatic area of environmental management	FAO (Colombia)
Escuder	Maria Laura	Specialist	Chancellery (Argentina)
Espinoza	Consuelo	Regional Coordinator	IUCN
Gadea Quiñones	Oscar Rafael	Paraguay + Verde Project Coordinator UNDP component	UNDP (Paraguay)
Gallegos	Jessica	Mitigation Specialist	MAATE (Ecuador)
Garcia	Daniela	Technician	FAO (Argentina)



García	Cristina	Forest and Water Program Officer	WWF (Ecuador)
Giroto	Pascal	Board of Directors (Costa Rica)	REDD+ Costa Rica
Herrera	Maria Elena	National REDD+ Coordinator	FONAFIFO (Costa Rica)
Honeyman Lucchini	Pablo	Project Manager	FAO (Chile)
Jacob	Jessica	CEO of SURECO & Partners.	SURECO & Partners
Jaramillo	Manuel	General Director	Wildlife Foundation (Argentina)
Jimenez Espinoza	Juan José	Department of Citizen Participation and Governance	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Lopez Irala	Roberto	Project Manager	UNEP (Paraguay)
Lopez	Jessica	PdI-CONFENIAE Project Coordinator	WWF (Ecuador)
Madrigal	Sthefany	Specialist in knowledge management	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Malavasi	Andreina	MRV Specialist	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Malet-Bates	Geilan	NBS Finance	IUCN
Marco	Martinez	Geography Specialist	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Mejía	Kimberlly	Collaborator	MAATE (Ecuador)
Mena	Johnny	Director CEC	MAATE (Ecuador)
Mendoza	Maria Jose	Focal Point for Safeguards and Equality	MADES (Paraguay)
Mora Montero	Oscar	Fire management plan coordination	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Munoz Robles	Ruben	Technical Cooperation Department	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Navarrete Chacón	Gilmar	Director of Environmental Services	FONAFIFO (Costa Rica)
Pacheco Capella	Alberto	Director, Sub-Regional Office for Southern Cone of Latin America and Representative for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay	UNEP
Parra	Ángel	Technician	FAO (Argentina)
Perez	Brian	Representative of IP	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Pérez	Carlos Isaac	Vice Minister	Ministry of Environment and Strategic Management (Costa Rica)
Pérez-	Nielsen	Gender Specialist	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Perez Castillo	Juan Pablo	Head of the Limón Regional Office	FONAFIFO (Costa Rica)
Pérez Pardo	Octavio	Director	Directorate of Forests - Undersecretariat of Environment (Argentina)



Piedra	Mario	Director of FUNDECOR	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Pineiros	Araceli Araujo	Project Officer	IUCN
Portillo	Lilian	Directorate of Strategic Planning	MADES (Paraguay)
Prado	Alexandre	Green Economy Director	WWF (Brazil)
Quesada	Roberto	Representative of the academia	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Ramirez Molina	Henry	Department of conservation and sustainable use of diversity and ecosystem services	SINAC (Costa Rica)
Rebeca	Ribera	Safeguards and monitoring specialist	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Rodriguez	Jose Mario	Director	FONAFIFO (Costa Rica)
Rodriguez	Huber	NGOs Representative	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Rojas	Yanory	Specialist working with indigenous peoples	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Sandoval	Ángel	Undersecretary for Climate Change	MAATE (Ecuador)
Sasa	Kifah	Deputy Representative	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Serrano	Patricia	Regional Technical Specialist	UNDP (Ecuador)
Singer	Benjamin	Senior Climate Change Specialist	GCF Secretariat
Solano	Alejandro	Vice Minister	Minister of Multilateral Affairs (Costa Rica)
Solano	Alvaro	Union of Forestry Engineers of Costa Rica	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Solano	Alejandro	Vice-Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (Costa Rica)
Soto Nilo	Gabriela Violeta	Head (I) Climate Change and Ecosystem Services Department	National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) (Chile)
Tramon	Jaime	Senior Advisor, Financial and International Affairs	Ministry of Finance (NDA) (Chile)
Troya Rodríguez	José Vicente	Representative	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Vargas	Elena	Consultant	UNDP (Costa Rica)
Vega	Felipe	Executive Director of ONF	REDD+ Strategy Follow-up Committee (Costa Rica)
Vega Monge	Felipe	Executive Director	National Forestry Office (Costa Rica)



Vickers	Ben	Land Use, Forests and Ecosystems Sector Senior Specialist	GCF Secretariat
Villacis	Mireya	Program Officer	UNDP (Ecuador)
Walcott	Judith	Programme Management Officer	UNEP (Paraguay)
Walter	Trevor	South American Forest and Restoration Alliance Coordinator	WWF (Chile)
Yepes Quintero	Adriana	Regional REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management Advisor	FAO (Colombia)



References

- Amazon Fund (n.d.). “Home.” Available at <https://www.amazonfund.gov.br/en/home/>
- Angelsen, A, C Martius, V De Sy, Amy E Duchelle, A M Larson, and T T Pham (2018). “Transforming REDD+ Lessons and New Directions.” Bogor, Indonesia: CIFOR.
- European Council and Council of the European Union (2024). “European Green Deal.” 2024. Available at <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/>.
- Folur (n.d). “Paraguay | Folur.” Available at <https://www.folur.org/paraguay>.
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2019). “From Reference Levels to Results Reporting: REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2019 Update.” Rome, Italy.
- Dellavedova, M, and P Vaccotti. 2021. “Support for the Completion of the REDD+ Preparation Phase in Paraguay.” Final Evaluation 00092546. PNUD.
- González, J H (2020). “Gobernanza, participación y eficiencia en la preparación de REDD+ de Argentina y Chile.” *Estudios internacionales*, 2020.
- Green Climate Fund (2017a). “GCF/B.18/23: Decisions of the Board – Eighteenth Meeting of the Board, 30 September – 2 October 2017.” Compendium of decisions.
- (2017b). “Terms of Reference for the Pilot Programme for REDD+ Results-Based Payments.” Board Document GCF/B.18/07. Songdo, South Korea. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/terms-reference-pilot-programme-redd-results-based-payments.pdf>.
- (2019a). “Chile REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for Results Period 2014-2016.” Text. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/chile-redd-plus-results-based-payments-results-period-2014-2016>.
- (2019b). “Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for Results Period 2014.” Text. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/ecuador-redd-plus-rbp-results-period-2014>.
- (2019c). “GCF Launches Green Champions Awards to Recognise Outstanding Climate Change Efforts in Developing Countries.” *Press Release*, 20 August 2019.
- (2019d). “REDD-PLUS Results-Based Payments for Results Achieved by Brazil in the Amazon Biome in 2014 and 2015.” Text. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/redd-results-based-payments-results-achieved-brazil-amazon-biome-2014-and-2015>.
- (2020a). “Analysis of the Experience with and the Progress Made towards Achieving the Objectives of the Pilot Programme for REDD-plus Results-Based Payments: A Midterm Review.” Board Document GCF/B.25/Inf.06/Add.01.
- (2020b). “Argentina REDD-plus RBP for Results Period 2014-2016.” Text. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/argentina-redd-plus-rbp-results-period-2014-2016>.
- (2020c). “Colombia REDD+ Results-Based Payments for Results Period 2015-2016.” Text. Green Climate Fund. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/colombia-redd-results-based-payments-results-period-2015-2016>.
- (2020d). “Costa Rica REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for 2014 and 2015.” Text. Green Climate Fund. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/costa-rica-redd-plus-results-based-payments-2014-and-2015>.
- (2020e). “Independent Evaluation of the Green Climate Fund’s Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Environmental and Social Management System.” Final Report. Republic of Korea. <https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/230329-ess-final-report-top-web-isbn.pdf>.



(2021). “Independent Rapid Assessment of GCF’s Request for Proposals Modality.” Board Document GCF/B.29/08. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b29-08>.

——— (2023). *GCF REDD+ Results- Based-Payments*. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/event/onboarding-webinars-redd-results-based-payments-rbp-workshop>.

——— (2024). “Status of the GCF Portfolio: Approved Projects and Fulfilment of Conditions.” Board Document GCF/B.38/Inf.08.

PROAmazonia (2024). “*CAMPAÑA ‘BOTAS VIOLETA’ Por La Igualdad de Género y El Desarrollo Sostenible*.” 2024. Available at <https://www.proamazonia.org/botas-violeta/>.

REDD+ (n.d.). “Info Hub / REDD+.” Available at <https://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html>.

——— (n.d.1) “REDD+.” Available at <https://redd.unfccc.int/>

REDD+ Brasil (2018). “*PNUD Será a Entidade Acreditada Para Proposta Do Brasil Ao GCF*,” 27 April 2018. Available at <http://redd.mma.gov.br/pt/component/content/article/106-central-de-conteudos/noticias-principais/980-pnud-sera-a-entidade-acreditada-ao-fundo-verde-para-o-clima-na-proposta-do-brasil-ao-programa-piloto-para-pagamentos-por-resultados-de-redd?Itemid=0>.

Sanhueza, José Eduardo, and Mariana Antonissen (2014). “*REDD+ en América Latina Estado actual de las estrategias de reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación forestal*.” CEPAL.

Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (1997). “Forestal Law N 7.575.” Available at <https://www.sinac.go.cr/ES/transprncia/Leyes/Ley%20Forestal%20N%C2%BA%207575.pdf>.

United Nations (2023). “Technical Dialogue of the First Global Stocktake.” In .FCCC/SB/2023/09. United Arab Emirates. Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2023_09E.pdf.

United Nations Development Programme (2023). “*Costa Rica Celebra El Foro Regional de Finanzas Climáticas y Bosques*.” 20 August 2023. Available at <https://www.undp.org/es/costa-rica/comunicados-de-prensa/costa-rica-celebra-el-foro-regional-de-finanzas-climaticas-y-bosques>.

——— (2024). “*Costa Rica Realiza La Primera Exportación de Café Libre de Deforestación*.” 14 March 2024. Available at <https://www.undp.org/es/costa-rica/comunicados-de-prensa/costa-rica-realiza-la-primera-exportacion-de-cafe-libre-de-deforestacion#:~:text=La%20primera%20cosecha%20declarada%20como,por%20PNUD%2C%20ICAFE%20y%20CoopeTarraz%C3%BA.&text=Costa%20Rica%20es%20pionero%20en,hayan%20deforestado%20durante%20su%20producci%C3%B3n>.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2011). “Report of the Conference of the Parties on Its Sixteenth Session, Held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010.” In . Cancun. Available at <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf>.

——— (2014). “Report of the Conference of the Parties on Its Nineteenth Session, Held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013.” In . Available at <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf#page=24>

UN-REDD (2021). “UNREDD Programme.” UNREDD Programme. 25 February 2021. Available at <https://www.un-redd.org/home>.

Wong, G, A Angelsen, M Brockhaus, R Carmenta, A Duchelle, S Leonard, C Luttrell, C Martius, and S Wunder (2016). “Results-Based Payments for REDD+Lessons on Finance, Performance, and Non-Carbon Benefits.” Brief. CIFOR.