A photograph of a lush tropical forest with a variety of green trees and plants, reflected in a calm body of water. A semi-transparent grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text. A thick green curved line is at the bottom of the image.

**Strengthening the capacity for integrating REDD+
projects into BioTrade strategies in Colombia**



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Strengthening the Capacity for
Integrating REDD+ Projects into
BioTrade Strategies in
COLOMBIA**



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BHB	Company Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso
CAM ¹	Regional Autonomous Corporation of the High Magdalena
CAR ¹	Regional Autonomous Corporations
CAS ¹	Regional Autonomous Corporation of Santander
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBS ¹	Corporacion Biocomercio Sostenible - Colombia
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CME	Colombian Mercantile Exchange
COCOMACIA	Communitarian Council of the Integral Peasants Association of Atrato (Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Asociación Campesina Integral del Atrato)
CONPES ¹	National Council for Economic and Social Policy
COP	Conference of the Parties
ENS	Environmental National System
ENREDD+ ¹	National Strategy for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
EPM ¹	Empresas Públicas de Medellín (is a REDD+ Project)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GAUN	General Assembly of the United Nations
Gg	Gigagram
GFRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
ICCC	Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change
IDEAM ¹	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWG	Interdisciplinary Working Group
LMP	Land Management Plan
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MESD	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFPC	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
MHCT	Ministry of Housing, City and Territory
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MT	Ministry of Transport
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MIDAS ¹	USAID Program – More investment for Sustainable Alternative Development
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NPD	National Planning Department
NSDRM	National System for Disaster Risk Management

¹ Acronym in Spanish as it is officially used.

NSBP	National Sustainable BioTrade Program
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organizations
NPFD	National Plan of Forestry Development
NSCC	National System on Climate Change
NPCMBES	National Policy for the Comprehensive Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services
NFO	National Forest Office
PDD	Project Design Document
PIN	Project Idea Note
REDD	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, sustainable forest management and increasing forest carbon stocks
RNCC	Regional Nodes of Climate Change
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
REL	Reference Emissions Scenarios
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SINA ¹	Environmental National System
tCO ₂	Tons of Carbon Dioxide
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Program - UNDP
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WGIII	IPCC Working Group III
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature

1 Emissions Reduction from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries - REDD+

1.1 Contextual Framework

According to the information reported in the global forest resources assessment 2010 (GFRA, 2010)², forests cover 31% of the total surface of the Earth, percentage represented in something more than 4,000 million hectares. The importance of these figures on the proportion of land area covered by forests is based on its use as one of the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals and their application to assess progress towards the Biodiversity Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets.

In regards to deforestation³, according to the same source, 13 million hectares of forest are transformed for other uses –especially agricultural–or lost by natural causes each year in the last decade (2000 – 2010), in comparison with a figure revised from 16 million hectares per year in the 1990s.

Attending the international agenda that has been developed in order to address issues related to the loss of forest cover and biodiversity, several initiatives have been formulated to “reverse the process of loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation activities, and step up efforts to prevent forest degradation” (GAUN, 2008).

In the same sense, during the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) of the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (in the year 2002), countries formulated the Strategic Plan for the CBD, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, ensuring the necessary instruments for the fulfillment of the three objectives of the CBD. It was established as a fundamental goal of the Convention "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of loss of biodiversity at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and in benefit of all forms of life on Earth"⁴.

As the 2010 goal was not achieved and to reinforce the compliance of the objectives proposed in the CBD, the 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets was approved during the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD in 2010. This new agreement between the Parties to the Convention, known as the "Goals of Aichi for biodiversity" (CDB, 2010), includes a shared vision, a mission and 20 global goals/targets that are grouped in five strategic goals.

It is important to note that the processes of deforestation have been recognized as one of the main reasons for the process of ecosystems transformation and, therefore, of biodiversity loss. Also the contribution of the emissions associated with the land use, land use-change and

² This assessment analyzes the current situation and recent trends in over 90 variables and all kinds of forests in 233 countries and areas with respect to four reference years: 1990, 2000, 2005.

³ According to FAO, deforestation is defined as "forest change with depletion of tree tops to less than 10 per cent cover. Changes within the same class of forest (from forest thick to forest clear) that they negatively affect the mass or the place and, in particular, to reduce its production capacity, referred to as forest degradation and are considered something other than deforestation" In: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/w4345s/w4345s08.htm>.

⁴ COP 6 Decision VI/26. <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7200>.

forestry (LULUCF) in Colombia, according to the national inventory of Greenhouse Gases Effect (IDEAM 2001 and 2009), it is estimated at 16,637 Gigagram (Gg) of CO₂, for the decade of the nineties, and 26,014 Gg in 2004 (14.73% of the national total emissions) (IDEAM, 2009). The IPCC WGIII (2007) estimated emissions by deforestation, for the reference year of 1990, that reached the 5,8 Gt CO₂ / year. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also notes, that reduce or prevent the deforestation is the choice of mitigation with greater and immediate result, due to avoided emissions, with a global impact level (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2005).

In this context, proposals related to the reduction of emissions derived from deforestation and forest degradation, and the increase of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) began as a global initiative (Angelsen, A. *et al.*, 2009).

The international agenda on REDD+ emerges as an aspect of the COP of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Montreal (2005). Governments of Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, supported by other 8 Parties of the Convention, requested that this subject was taken into account in the Agenda of the COP. The proposal received wide support from the Parties, with a general agreement on the importance of the subject, in the context of climate change mitigation, taking into consideration the contribution of emissions from deforestation in developing countries to global Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emissions⁵. Consequently, within the framework of the COP11, a contact group was established to discuss and draw conclusions on how to address the reduction of emissions from deforestation.

Subsequently, during the COP13 through the Action Plan of Bali (2007), the Parties decided to *"launch an overall process that allows the full, effective, and sustained application of the Convention through a long-term cooperation that begins now and continues beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed conclusion and to take a decision at its fifteenth session, by addressing, among other things, the following aspects: (...) Approaches to policy and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions derived from deforestation and degradation of forests in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and the increase of forest carbon stocks in developing countries"*.

Catching up to the decisions at COP13, in Cancun (COP 16/2010) the Parties agreed policy approaches on REDD+, with recommendations on activities and safeguards that should be promoted and encouraged. As a result of this process, many developing countries, including Colombia, have made a call to implement significant and immediate actions to develop capacity and encourage the preparation of countries in the context of the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and also to work in the conservation, sustainable forest management and an increase of stocks of carbon in forests.

1.2 Introduction to carbon market

The "carbon market" has been defined as "a set of transactions in which quantities of emission reductions with greenhouse effect are exchanged" (Eguren, 2004). At the same time

⁵ Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action. At the request of Papua New Guinea, this item was included in the provisional agenda. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/cop11/eng/01.pdf>.

information is limited, especially in prices, since there is no reference that exclusively applies to carbon transactions.

There are currently two mechanisms for this type of transaction. The first seeks to comply with the commitments set out in the Kyoto Protocol and it is legally binding to the signatory States of this international agreement. The second is about voluntary restriction of emissions by organizations as well as the decisions of the US Federal and State initiatives to mitigate GHGs, country that is not part of the Kyoto Protocol (Eguren, 2004).

The carbon market seeks to financially compensate entities that reduce or capture GHGs, which is intended to mitigate climate change, promote the transfer of technology and contribute to sustainable development.

The carbon market projects should not only contribute to the mitigation of climate change, but also improve the living conditions of local populations. In general, the projects can contribute to the sustainable development of the country in which they are developed through the following actions:

- Tax payment.
- Reduction of dependence on fossil fuels to relieve the budgetary burden of its imports.
- Collateral environmental benefits: reduction of air and water pollution, improvement in the availability of water, reduction of soil erosion and protection of biodiversity, among others.
- Social benefits that contribute to the alleviation of poverty through the generation of employment and income.
- Increase in energy efficiency and conservation.
- Alternatives for the sustainable production of energy.
- Technology transfer with co-benefits of knowledge and equipment.

Carbon credit or credit is a term commonly used to refer generically to the main exchange in the carbon market unit. Each carbon credit is equivalent to one ton of CO₂ equivalent (tCO_{2e}) that has been reduced or captured by a GHG reduction project (Carbon finance, November 2010). Carbon bonds are also called "verified carbon reductions", and in some voluntary markets as Verified Carbon Standard.

Carbon credits are traded in the carbon markets. The owner of the credits sells them to a purchaser who decides to neutralize or offset some or all of its emissions. The revenues generated by the sale of the credits of carbon contribute to the costs of the project, to technology transfer, and to generate economical profit on the investment carried out. The final aim, hence, contributes to sustainable development.

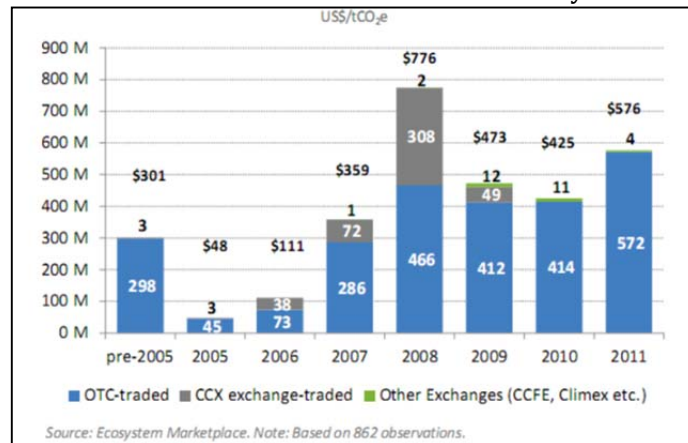
It is worthwhile to note that transactions that are conducted in the voluntary carbon market do not respond to any kind of legal regulation. Demand is defined by companies and individuals who assume the responsibility to offset their own emissions, as well as the entities that buy offsets pre-discharge (mandatory carbon market) until those cuts become enforceable in legal terms.

1.2.1 Trends of the voluntary carbon market

In the year 2011, the voluntary market reached to 576 million dollars and this boost is given by the number of transactions "over-the counter" (OTC), which corresponded to \$574 million dollars (Figure 1). The term OTC means that buyers and sellers are directly involved, through an intermediary or a retailer without the need to resort to a broker to exchange in this mechanism.

The voluntary carbon market arises at the same time as that the Kyoto Protocol initiated its implementation, i.e. in 2005. The following figure presents the values traded in the last seven (7) years.

Figure 1. Historical value of transactions in the voluntary carbon market



As mentioned above, in 2011 the volumes and prices for the voluntary market reached US\$576 million, showing an increase of over 27% in relation to 2010. The voluntary market reached its peak in 2008 when US\$776 million were traded.

In the voluntary carbon market, emission reductions come from different economic sectors, generating a range of possibilities for the buyers according to their own interests. Projects of renewable energy (wind, hydraulic, solar energy and biomass) were the most prominent in 2011 and its participation in transaction volume was about 45%. The forestry sector has the greater volume of transactions despite that this kind of project requires much more effort to demonstrate emissions reductions, as is tied to the growth of forest species.

The 2013 Ecosystem Market Place report on the state of the voluntary carbon markets points out that voluntary carbon offsets demand grew 4% in 2012, while the market value fell by 11% to \$523 million, offsetting 101 million metric tons of GHG emissions.

According to the same report, the demand for compensations with forest projects certified with VCS (Verified Carbon Standard) and CCB (Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards) increased. This largely supports forest conservation, tree planting and the promotion of alternative livelihoods in rural communities.

1.3 Regulatory framework for forests and climate change in Colombia

In Colombia, there are legal provisions to achieve the conservation of the environment and renewable natural resources, mainly contained in the Political Constitution of Colombia (1991), the national code of Renewable Natural Resources and the Environment - Decree Law 2811 of 1974, in the Law 99 of 1993 and its regulatory decrees, as well as in the National Plan of Development 2010-2014.

In this context the political, legal and economic recognition of renewable natural resources is defined. One of the first environmental standards is the Law 23 of 1973, which granted extraordinary powers to the President of the Republic for issuing the code of natural resources and environmental protection and enacting other provisions. This resulted in the Decree 2811 promulgated on 1974.

Thereafter, a set of legal tools related to the environment and natural resources were developed, including regulations tending towards managing the forest ecosystems in the framework of sustainable development.

The 1991 Constitution establishes a set of provisions aimed at achieving sustainable development. It grants to the State, environment-related functions and article 80, states "*The State shall plan the management and exploitation of natural resources, to ensure its sustainable development, conservation, restoration or replacement.*"

The Law 99 of 22 December 1993, which created the Ministry of the Environment, reorders the Public Sector responsible for the management and conservation of the environment and renewable natural resources, and organizes the Environmental National System (SINA). It sets the general principles to be followed by the Colombian environmental policy, including sustainable development, biodiversity as national heritage, the right to a healthy life and human consumption as a priority over any other use, as well as the use of water resources. In the latter, as well as all the principles, there are close links with the national forestry sector.

The 1791 Decree of 1996 establishes the forestry regime aimed to regulate the activities of public administration and private individuals with regard to the use, management, exploitation and conservation of forests and wild flora in order to achieve sustainable development. Also, recognizes that "*forests, as an integral part and supporting biological, ethnic diversity, and of environmental supply, are a strategic resource of the nation and, therefore, its knowledge and management are essential task of the State with the support of civil society. Its character of strategic resource, its use and handling must be framed within the principles of sustainability stated by the Political Constitution as the basis for national development*".

The National Forest Policy (CONPES Document No. 2834, 1996) aims to achieve the sustainable use of forests, in order to keep them, consolidate the incorporation of the forest sector in the national economy, and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the population. To achieve these purposes, four strategies were formulated to provide a national framework for forest management. The forests policies include forest ecosystems and forest suitability areas, the social factors that interact with these, the activities of conservation, use, management and utilization of forests, and the institutional aspects that directly or indirectly affect the management of the resource.

The National Plan of Forestry Development – NPDF (Document CONPES 3125 of 2001), aims to improve the management of forest resources, increase the living conditions of the populations that have historically occupied forest lands, and offer viable productive alternatives to contribute the country's economic development, as well as to support the peace process and the international commitments in this regard.

The NPDF constitutes a comprehensive framework that promotes the consolidation of forest policy and relies on the participation of stakeholders related to resources and forest ecosystems. It puts in place strategies and programs related to zoning, conservation, restoration of ecosystems, management and use of forest ecosystems and the adoption of a value chain vision in the commercial reforestation processes, and industrial and commercial development of products and environmental services that offer such ecosystems. It also considers the institutional and financial aspects required for its implementation.

At the same time, the National Development Plan – NDP 2010-2014, indicates that Colombia is a country with an exceptionally rich natural and cultural diversity, and it recognizes that this has been the basis on which the nation and its regions have built their development strategies. Natural resources - soil, water, forests, hydro biological resources, minerals, hydrocarbons, landscape, etc. - have been used and exploited to generate economic growth and social welfare.

In accordance with the approaches of the NDP 2010-2014, Colombia seeks to move towards democratic prosperity driven by five engines: agriculture, energy, infrastructure, housing, and innovation. These are the basis for the strategy for sustainable economic growth and competitiveness, which is a key pillar to achieve greater well-being for the population. The latter is expressed in the reduction of poverty, equal opportunities, and the convergence of regional development. The effectiveness and efficiency of these strategies depend on initiatives such as good governance and international positioning, as well as environmental risk management strategy.

The National Policy for the Integral Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services IMBES (2012) recognizes that, although initiatives have been developed to advance sustainable forest management processes, it is very important to continue promoting these processes to reach more areas of the country, where illegal logging and unsustainable management of forests threaten the supply of ecosystem services.

In terms of policy instruments related to climate change, the Government, taking into account the current situation and the potential social, economic and environmental impacts that the country may be subject as a result of climate change, proposed strategic priorities: Low Carbon National Development Strategy, National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENREDD+), National plan for adaptation to climate change, and Strategy of Financial Protection facing Disasters. These strategies correspond to the central themes of the national climate change policy, based on national development priorities and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as defined in the UNFCCC (CONPES 3700).

1.4 Map of key stakeholders in regulation, design and implementation of initiatives REDD+ in Colombia

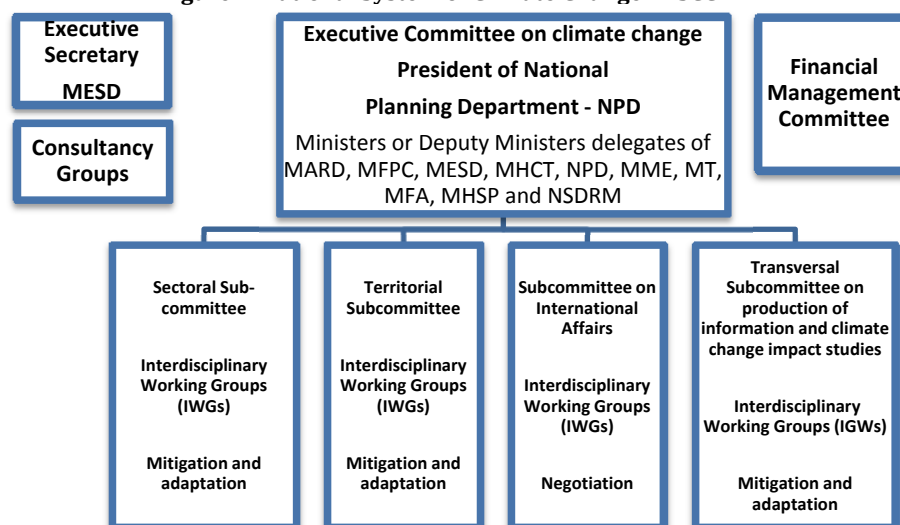
The CONPES 3700 (July 14, 2011) is the institutional strategy for the articulation of policies and actions on climate change in Colombia. It aims to generate spaces for the sectors and territories to address effects associated with climate variability and change within their planning processes.

In this sense, the CONPES 3700 requested the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) to support the National Planning Department, and to implement the necessary arrangements so that the National System on Climate Change (NSCC) is defined like a national coordination system under the terms of article 7 of the 1450 Act of 2011⁶.

NSCC will be led by the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change (ICCC) with inter institutional character (Figure 2). In addition, a management Financial Committee will be created to assess proposals for programs and projects from the sectorial committees. The sectorial committees will collect and analyze information, recommendations and policies in their respective fields.

⁶ It promulgated the "National Development Plan 2010-2014". Article 7 is titled "National Coordination Systems" and states the creation of the NSCC by national and local authorities.

Figure 2. National System of Climate Change - NSCC



Note: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MFPC), Ministry of Housing, City and Territory (MHCT), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), Ministry of Transport (MT), Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), National Planning Department (NPD) and National System for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM)
Source: Adapted from CONPES 3700

Furthermore, the Executive Committee on Climate Change will be responsible for establishing the operational guidelines of the committee and each subcommittee. Based on these guidelines, the Interdisciplinary Working Groups (IWGs) may be formed, whether by the Executive Committee, or by the committee. Forums are created for more detailed technical discussions on policy development, implementation and monitoring.

The Interdisciplinary Working Groups (IWGs) under the "Sectoral-Subcommittee" will work on cross-cutting themes. The MESD will lead the IWGs specific for REDD+, as well as will be responsible for the national coordination of the strategy on REDD+ (ENREDD+). The MESD⁷, according to provisions of the document CONPES 3700 regarding the creation of the REDD+ IWG, plans to create an instance to support the development of REDD+ that could be possibly named as the National Strategy REDD+ (Figure 3). This table will be chaired and coordinated by the MESD, and will have among others, the following roles:

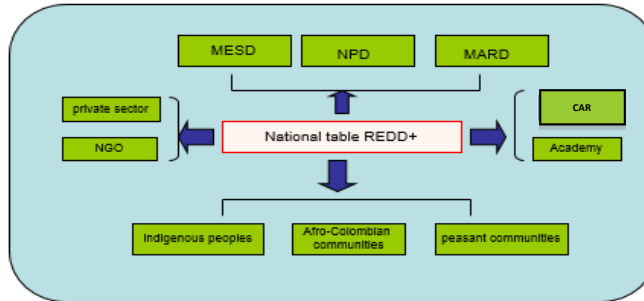
- a) To assess the recommendations and proposals of the Thematic Tables⁸, the technical advisory group, the Regional Nodes of Climate Change - RNCC managed by the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR by acronyms in Spanish).
- b) To track the process of preparation and formulation of the ENREDD+.

⁷ Readiness Proposal Preparation for REDD+ (R-PP) Version 8. 30 September 2013.

⁸ According R-PP, the Thematic Tables for stakeholders groups (Thematic Tables: Biodiversity and REDD+, Territorial Planning, and Climate Change), a technical advisory group and the Regional Nodes of Climate Change-RNCC will be created.

- c) To propose criteria and technical guidelines to the ICCC related to the formulation and implementation of the ENREDD+. This information will be submitted to the ICCC through the MESD.
- d) To develop proposals on programs and measures at sectorial and territorial levels to achieve the adequate development of REDD+.

Figure 3. National Strategy REDD+



Note: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD), National Planning Department (NPD), and Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR)

Source: Readiness Proposal Preparation for REDD+ (R-PP) Version 8. 30 September 2013

In accordance with Decree 3570 of 2011⁹, the management of forests biodiversity and ecosystem services is responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The Ministry's functions are, *inter alia*, to "define and guide the implementation of the national strategy of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation".

Finally, it is important to note that the development of the ENREDD+ involves the participation of a large number of institutions, productive sectors and local stakeholders. Annex 1 represents the map of actors (at national, regional and local levels) that participated in the development of the ENREDD+ and in the formulation and implementation of REDD+ initiatives.

1.5 Regulatory gaps and limitations

Particularly, there are some limitations and legal gaps to develop REDD+ initiatives in Colombia. The Ecovera Corporation (Sanclemente, 2011) conducted an analysis that stated if countries wish to implement REDD+, they "need to adapt its institutional structure and normativity so that the instrument can be implemented, and become a real alternative, mainly, for the inhabitants of the forest". In Table 1 some of the gaps identified by Sanclemente (2011) are presented, as well as recommendations for its solution.

Table 1. Limitations and legal gaps in the legislation for REDD+ in Colombia

Identified gap	Possible Solution
<i>Land use planning of collective territories as environmental determinant</i>	
Planning decisions related to the land use adopted	Work in a regulation so that the collective

⁹ By which modify the objectives and the structure of the MESD and integrated into this Ministry the management of the environment and sustainable development.

Identified gap	Possible Solution
<p>for collective territories does not affect directly the planning and territorial management instruments. The above presents a risk for REDD+ projects as a project, work or activity of a territorial entity, could affect the decisions of delimitation and zoning made in the interior of these territories, such as the development of REDD+ projects or initiatives.</p>	<p>territories' planning decisions constitute environmental determinants of municipal land use planning. This will provide greater security to the development/implementation of REDD+ projects.</p>
<i>Prior consultation for projects REDD+</i>	
<p>In Colombia, the State should ensure the participation of black communities and indigenous peoples in decisions that affect them. However, the Decree 1320 of 1998 establishes a very limited procedure as it only regulates consultation for projects that require environmental licensing. The latter would not apply to REDD+ projects.</p>	<p>Develop a protocol or consultation procedure, different from the Decree 1320 of 1998, which must be filled by the communities (forest inhabitants). This will give legitimacy to REDD+ projects, as well as to ensure compliance with the obligations (of the communities and project developers) arising from developing these projects.</p>
<i>Rights over ecosystem services derived from forests (in particular carbon storage)</i>	
<p>National law determines, as a general rule, that the State is the owner of the natural resources. However, it does not specify the ownership of the ecosystem services derived from natural resources such as the carbon storage in forests. In addition, studies find that it does not exist a legal regime that allows to separate the renewable natural resources of ecosystem services that they provide, in such a way that it is able to negotiate an ecosystem service (such as carbon storage) independently of the renewable resource that provides such service. For others, it is clear that ecosystem services belong to the owner of the natural resource that generates them, i.e. the State, who can carry out negotiations on them, taking as a basis the principle of law that determines that the owner of the main thing is owner of the accessory.</p>	<p>Some stakeholders believe there is a legal gap in regulations and recommend to regulate the ownership of ecosystem services derived from forests, as well as the possibility or not to access them. This should be done through a law, in accordance with the principle of legality and as stated in the Colombian Constitution.</p> <p>Despite the different stakeholders' opinions, experts agree on the importance of developing specific regulations regarding the ecosystem service of carbon storage, as was carried out for the development and registration of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.</p>
<i>Contracts on early efforts in collective territories and procedure for the implementation of REDD+ projects</i>	
<p>On this point, there are divergent positions. On the one hand, the nature of the contracts is lawful, since the object of them, from a legal point of view, is the activity to preserve and to use an ecosystem service derived from natural resources. On the other hand, the subject of the contracts is the collective property of the ethnic territories, which has constitutional features that makes them inalienable, untouchable and indefeasible. Therefore, the subject of the contracts is illegal and could plead its nullity by a judge of the Republic, at the request of any interested party.</p>	<p>There is agreement among experts regarding the importance of regulating the procedure for implementing REDD+ projects (in the framework of voluntary markets). Experts also suggest to incorporate themes such as: i) the inclusion of social and environmental safeguards which ensure the respect for the rights of communities; ii) the maintenance of goods and ecosystem services; iii) all other issues related to the issuance and authenticity of contracts or instruments to implement such projects.</p>

Source: Sanclemente, G. (2011)

USAID¹⁰ has also identified some gaps for the development of REDD+ projects related to the law and policy of natural resources in Colombia. The issues include:

- Design short-term procedures so that proponents of REDD+ projects may ensure the tenure of the carbon, and subsequently develop laws and decrees required to clearly define it based on the ownership of land and natural resources.
- Clarify the authority of the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) and the departments in the development of REDD+ programs, as well as the way in which the national and subnational efforts are going to interact/coordinate.
- Rationalize forestry incentives' policies so that it includes the REDD+ activities.

1.6 Lessons Learned

1.6.1 The National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENREDD+)

As part of the preparation work on REDD+ (including participation in a future system of financial incentives), Colombia is developing the Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) for the National REDD+ Strategy.

RPP is the document that describes the social, economic and environmental aspects related to forests. It shows the studies and consultations necessary to prepare the country for a future mechanism for REDD+. In addition, the document reflects the development of the process and the contributions that make the different stakeholders involved in the preparation of the national strategy for REDD+.

The RPP document consists of the following six components: (1) Organization and consultation, (2) Preparation of the strategy, (3) Development of a baseline, (4) Design of a monitoring system, (5) Timetable and budget, and (6) Design of a monitoring program and an evaluation framework.

Table 2 presents the preparation process to develop the ENREDD+, at national, regional and local levels.

Table 2. Development of the ENREDD+ in Colombia

Level	Actions	Purpose
National	Design and implement a monitoring and reporting system related to forest coverage.	Understand the forest deforestation and degradation factors and generate concerted actions that reduce or mitigate them.
National	Creation of institutional structures for the development of the REDD+ strategy	Having the resources necessary for the development and implementation of the strategy
Regional (eco-	Dialogue with the different productive	Identify the measures to be taken so

¹⁰ Assessment on financing and carbon markets for REDD+ in Colombia. Carbon Forestry, Markets and Communities Programme (FCMC). http://www.fcmcglobal.org/documents/Colombia_Finance_Report_Spanish.pdf

Level	Actions	Purpose
regions of Amazonia, Pacific, Andean, Caribbean and Orinoquia)	sectors, communities and authorities	that economic and social development has the least impact on forests.
Local	Initiatives and "early implementation" projects that contribute to understanding the dynamics of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, through funding opportunities which arise in the voluntary carbon market and international funds	Reduce the dynamics of deforestation and forest degradation through the strategy of "learning by doing" in technical, institutional and legal issues, and local governance.

Source:

http://www.minambiente.gov.co/documentos/DocumentosBiodiversidad/bosques/redd/documentos_interes/110213_cartilla_redd_construccion_colectiva.pdf

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD), considering the risks associated with the implementation of the REDD+ projects in the country, has generated public information on precautions to be taken to develop a REDD+ project. According to the MESD, it is important to keep in mind the next recommendations for the development of REDD+ projects and initiatives:

- Having the accurate/adequate technical, legal and financial support.
- Request project participants to provide access to written information about the initiative.
- Request clarifications on information provided or require training or additional information material.
- Review possible implications of the project on the fundamental rights, land ownership and/or limitation to the use of natural resources to the owners of forest lands.
- Request detailed information from the entity or person that seeks to develop the REDD+ initiative.
- Apply for coaching/mentoring from Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) and/or Commonwealth Ombudsman.
- Do not sign any contract or document without prior legal and technical analysis.

It is important to note that during the past four years, the national Government carried out huge efforts promoting various mechanisms to formulate the ENREDD+. Through a concerted and participatory process, the instruments needed to develop the strategy were defined. In this way, learning has been collective and enriching for all actors involved in the regulation and implementation of REDD+ initiatives.

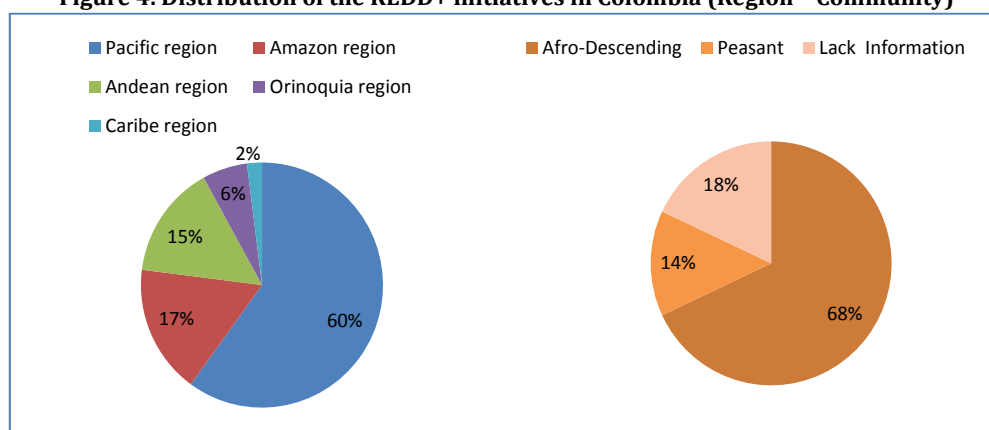
On the other hand, the ENREDD+ recognizes the need to provide co-benefits to indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations, based on ecosystem services provided by forests, and mitigating the risk of the loss of forests and biodiversity. The link between emissions reduction from deforestation/degradation is then consistent with this concept and makes visible the potentiality of joint initiatives REDD+ & BioTrade.

1.6.2 REDD+ initiatives in Colombia

In parallel with the formulation of the ENREDD+, various institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been advancing in the formulation of early implementation actions, as well as projects to participate in the voluntary carbon market¹¹. However, the REDD+ projects or early initiatives are advancing faster than national government capacity to follow up these initiatives, as well as to provide conditions for their development in harmony with the policies on REDD+¹².

According to information from the MESD, there are around 53 initiatives REDD+ being developed in Colombia. The largest part is located in the Pacific region (60%), followed by the Amazon region (17%) and the Andean region (15%). There are REDD+ initiatives in the five geographic regions of the country, with the participation of Afro-descendant communities and peasants (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Distribution of the REDD+ initiatives in Colombia (Region - Community)



Source: Context and scope of the strategy national REDD+ in Colombia (MEDS, 2013).¹³

However, there is not a unique Colombian record with all REDD+ projects and those in early phases. In the absence of an official record, the information presented in this report has been obtained by reviewing different sources, as well as by the support of some of the NGOs interested in participating actively and promoting the development of REDD+ initiatives. Therefore, information about REDD+ projects and early actions can be taken into account only as an initial reference and not as the "portfolio of REDD+ projects in Colombia".

¹¹ Voluntary markets that are in accordance with methodological standards, such as the VCS (Verified Carbon Standard).

¹² For example, CONPES 3700 proposes a six-month period for the issuance of the Decree that would fulfill the National System on Climate Change. This should have taken place in July 2011, however, it has not happened until now.

¹³ MESD (2013) Presentation of Hugo Giraldo – Direction of forests, biodiversity and services ecosystem, in the National Workshop on REDD+ and BioTrade in Colombia.

1.6.2.1 BIOREDD+ Initiatives

The BIOREDD+ initiatives, developed by the USAID BIOREDD+ program, provide an opportunity for climate change mitigation, protecting one of the most biodiversity spots of the planet (Colombian Pacific coast) and promoting the development of the communities located in this coast.

The projects portfolio consists of 14 REDD+ projects (Annex 2) distributed along the Pacific coast. The projects are being developed jointly with local communities, with the expectation of earning for its conservation efforts. These include sustainable productive activities, social investments, strengthening of governance and mechanisms of land use planning in the context of conservation mechanisms (BioREDD, 2013).

1.6.2.2 Initiatives MVC¹⁴ Colombia

Fundación Natura - a Colombian NGO - is currently leading the implementation of a project supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), called "Mechanism for the voluntary mitigation of GHG in Colombia". The project aims to develop and establish a technological and institutional platform for the market of Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs) to facilitate the voluntary efforts to mitigate GHG in Colombia. To achieve this goal, it will (i) create a platform to market nationally generated VERs that are accessible to national or internationally buyers; (ii) support the issuance of VERs from agricultural, forestry and/or REDD+ projects developed in Colombia, and (iii) promote the local demand for VERs through corporate strategies to mitigate and compensate emissions (Fundación Natura Colombia, 2009).

A part of the preparatory phase, the project will identify the national potential supply of VERs generated by climate change mitigation projects. These include reforestation, agroforestry and silvopastoral projects or efficient stoves initiatives, as well as projects that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (See Annex 3).

1.6.2.3 Other projects

According to the information obtained from additional sources, there are other REDD+ projects under formulation or in early evaluation/assessment stages. These include initiatives in the Amazon region, the eastern plains and the Andean region supported by national and international organizations (Annex 4).

1.6.2.4 Projects developed under voluntary carbon standards

To date, two of the national REDD+ projects comply with voluntary market standards. These are the Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM) REDD+ Project and the Choco Darien Project. The former is under validation. The latter has already been registered with VCS and CCBS, with the recognition of the positive net impact of this initiative on biodiversity

¹⁴ Mechanism for Voluntary Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Table 2. Projects under voluntaries carbon standard

Project	Objective	Localization	Phase/ Standard	Entities Linked	Hectares
1 Empresas Púlicas de Medellín (EPM) REDD+ Project	The EPM REDD+ project aims to ensure the protection of natural forests surrounding the hydroelectric projects Miraflores, Riogrande I, Porce II and Porce III. It is done by strengthening the following activities: control and surveillance, production of trees, promotion of reforestation for timber products exploitation, and establishment of orchards baskets, sustainable agroforestry practices or silvopastoral initiatives, software-efficient cook stoves, a biological corridor project and an environmental education program.	In the North and Northeast regions of the Antioquia Department, on the watersheds of Guadalupe, Río Grande and Porce rivers, including part of the municipalities of Carolina del Príncipe, Amalfi, Gómez Plata, Yolombó, Anorí, Donmatías and Santa Rosa de Osos.	Project in process of validation by CCBS	Public companies of Medellín (Empresas Púlicas de Medellín) - MGM Innova	5.648
2 Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor Project	Prevent global climate change and safeguard ecosystems and wildlife of the Darien area by strengthening territorial identity and the governance capacity of Cocomasur (Community Council of black communities of the basin of the river Tolo and South coastal zone).	Acandí, Chocó	Validated status: Gold CCBS Validated and first VCS Verification	Community Council COCOMAS UR, Anthroctect	13.465

Source: Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS). <http://www.climate-standards.org/category/projects/> - Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). <https://vcsprojectdatabase2.apx.com/myModule/Interactive.asp>

1.7 Financing sources for REDD+: gaps and opportunities

The USAID study (2013) on the current state of financing and the carbon markets for REDD+ projects in Colombia, identified and analyzed the limiting factors and opportunities that the country has to address in order to develop REDD+ mechanisms. The main issues identified (Table 4) in terms of sources of financing for REDD+ in the country are as follows:

Table 3. Priorities in funding of REDD+ in Colombia

Gaps / opportunities	Limitations
Obtain the financing needed to prepare, implement, and maintain the REDD+ Strategy	Financial resources and technical support It has not been clearly defined the estimated total costs to finance the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy in Colombia because there is not yet a full funding, budget and implementation plan (see Section 3.1). Based on the information currently available, the existing funding is insufficient to carry out the activities aimed to develop a REDD+ Strategy in Colombia. In the absence of a detailed budget and the financing needed, and considering that it still depends on mainly the resources from donors, it is clear that the Government does not have full control over the implementation of REDD+ and it cannot establish a stable team to manage it on a permanent/long-term basis.
Advocate the use of market and payment by results approaches, and the wide acceptance of Colombian carbon credits at the international level	Government resources Colombia has played an important role in the region and at the international level in promoting pragmatic approaches for capturing the REDD+ market. The country can continue to play this role under the UNFCCC and, together with other key developed countries, promote

Gaps / opportunities	Limitations
	REDD+ as a valid type of emission offsets and forge agreements that will allow the carbon bonds issued by Colombia to participate in the regulated market. As a complement to the foregoing, Colombia should encourage and support the development of REDD+ market-type regulated projects and programs (departmental and regional) to ensure that there is sufficient carbon credits offer once demand increases.
Use the future tax revenue or environmental charges and royalties to fund current projects, for example through the issuance of municipal bonds	Political will, financial expertise and carbon markets A municipal financial market should be developed based in environmental fees, royalties or future tax income to finance the development of REDD+ today. The issuance of municipal bonds could finance a portfolio of REDD+ activities that could secure it and constitute an attractive package for domestic investors by offering the possibility of obtaining a benefit from REDD+ (carbon component), as long as the portfolio performs better than the rest of the market.
Encourage the creation of a domestic demand for Colombian carbon credits through the development of the voluntary market with mandatory compliance	Political will, technical expertise in the carbon market and commitment of domestic enterprises The promotion of the creation of domestic demand for REDD+ carbon credits, either through voluntary markets and even regulated markets, would ensure participation at all levels of economic activity. It will also create awareness and acceptance among the public about its need. Given that Colombia has a number of large and medium-sized companies that produce significant volumes of GHGs, the promotion of a strong voluntary compliance program (focused on REDD+) could create a significant domestic demand.
Domestic banks should create credit lines supporting the initial investment in projects	Resources, carbon markets, and financial technical expertise To date, most of the initial investment in REDD+ projects has depended on the financing provided by international donors. However, as the carbon markets are developed and the projects achieve long-term carbon credits agreements from long-term purchase agreements, domestic banks such as Bancoldex should take the initiative and develop innovative credit lines that incorporate some aspects of initial funding for REDD+ projects until they can recover such investment. Similar to loans for construction, the project must reach certain milestones that allow access to financing.
Promote insurance in relation to REDD+ products	Carbon and technical expertise, financial markets The promotion of insurance issued by third parties in relation to REDD+ will offer investors another option to enter the market and stay protected. Colombia should investigate what kind of products can be offered to reduce the domestic risk of investing in REDD+.
Develop trading platforms for basic products or commodities and carbon derivatives	Political will and development of REDD+ tradable offsets Colombia is currently preparing a trading platform for carbon in the framework of REDD+ credits as soon as they are created. The Colombian Mercantile Exchange (CME) and Derivex are developing, respectively, trading platforms for basic products or physical commodities and for derivatives. These tasks should have the support of a regulatory responsive entity interested in working with financial regulatory agencies, NPD and international donors, as well as with funders and private investors to create primary and secondary markets of Colombian forest carbon credits.

Source: Forest Carbon, Communities and Markets program (FCMC), USAID, 2013.

1.8 REDD+ in Colombia: strengths, needs and opportunities

As it has been mentioned above, Colombia includes four strategies to respond to climate change, one of them is REDD+. Through this strategy, the country intends to avoid the

deforestation of natural forests and contribute to enhance the living conditions of local communities.

In the framework of international negotiations on REDD+, Colombia has been preparing to promote the country's participation in carbon markets related to the emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation. In this sense, many efforts have been conducted (institutional and regulatory), considering that REDD+ is a tool that aims to strengthen the sustainable management of natural forests.

These efforts include the participation in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), whose purpose is to collaborate with developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and foster conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The FCPF was launched at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to (COP13) the UNFCCC, which took place in Bali.

The FCPF includes two mechanisms: a) Preparation for REDD+ and b) Funding. The preparation mechanism helps some tropical and subtropical developing countries to be prepared to participate in a future large scale system of positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. These two mechanisms, as a whole, are aimed at creating the conditions and build knowledge and experiences that allow achieving a greater volume of financial flows for REDD+ in the medium-term (FCPF, 2012).

Preparation activities include: i) the formulation of a national strategy on REDD+; ii) the creation of a baseline scenario for emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, based on recent historical emissions and, possibly, the development of a model of future emissions, and iii) the creation of a system for tracking/monitoring of emissions and emission reductions.

At the same time, the funding mechanism explores the possibility of funding and testing a wide range of approaches in different countries, among them: macroeconomic policy measures and legal reform in the field of the conservation and management of forests or land use strategies; payments for environmental services; creation of parks and reserves; and fostering the diversification of agriculture with alternative crops.

In the case of Colombia, preparation for REDD+ mainly aims at strengthening the capacity of monitoring, as well as the monitoring of forest coverage and standardization of baselines for REDD+ projects. To date, the country uses the 8.0th version of the guideline for proposal's preparation for REDD+. Within this process, a document has been prepared with the participation of all relevant actors at the national level, and under the coordination of MESD' Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Management department. .

Additionally, in October 2012, Colombia received an invitation from the UN-REDD program¹⁵ requesting the country to submit a proposal for a national program. This proposal was

¹⁵ The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

submitted during the Tenth Meeting of the Council Policy in Indonesia in June 2013. This call provided an opportunity to develop the UN-REDD program of Colombia and to define a roadmap with all the documentation required in time, as well as to ensure compliance with the UN-REDD Program guidelines.

Furthermore, to strengthen the capacity of the country and to generate a framework for action, the REDD+ Table emerged in 2008. This was an initiative of Conservation International (CI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Fundacion Natura, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Ecoversa Corporation and USAID Program – More investment for Sustainable Alternative Development (MIDAS). The REDD+ Table aims to promote the development of strategies, policies, plans, and REDD+ projects in Colombia consistent with the rights of indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and local communities, as well as the generation and equitable distribution of benefits, and the sustainable management of forests.

The REDD+ table constitutes a space for participation, dialogue, socialization, liaison for the development of joint projects, and sharing feedback from internal and external non-profit environmental sector institutions and other invited public institutions. In this sense, the REDD+ Table articulates and joins efforts from the different experiences that interested entities developed in the matter.

Additionally, in the country some early implementation actions are carried out¹⁶. These are projects, or governmental or non-governmental initiatives seeking to implement pilot actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the conservation of carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and the increase in carbon stocks. They also seek to strengthen capacities, to provide information or to generate productive alternatives (MESD, 2012).

To identify the needs and opportunities, some discussions have been conducted at the national level (additional to the ones under the development of the ENREDD+). These discussions are aimed to encourage the participation of key stakeholders in the REDD+ processes and promote actions to design an agreed path for implementing REDD+ initiatives in Colombia. Such is the case of the Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin – COICA, which developed the proposal "REDD+ as a mechanism for climate change mitigation and its applicability from a vision of Amazonian indigenous peoples of Colombia". This work was supported by the World Bank (WB, 2011).

Through meetings with entities interested in the process (MESD¹⁷, Natural Heritage Fund and WWF) a technical alliance was created and joint efforts agreed, as well as defined the main opportunities and threats to develop REDD+. The main results of the discussions, in terms of opportunities and threats, are as follows:

a) Opportunities

¹⁶ These actions can be developed to participate in the carbon market (regulated or voluntary) or as an independent initiative of the market.

¹⁷ Previously the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development was known as the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development (MAVDT).

- REDD+ could contribute to the consolidation of the indigenous peoples' territory and the promotion of local governance on the management of natural resources (if REDD+ is supported by the government).
- If the reduction of deforestation is established in a manner consistent with the interests of indigenous peoples, it could help to protect biodiversity (plants and animals), and guarantee the protection of indigenous lands and livelihoods.
- It could strengthen and enhance the legislation in favor of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and those who are in a situation of initial contact.
- REDD+ could contribute to strengthening and formalizing the international forest regime which could represent "an opportunity to apply pressure to obtain political and legal reforms related to the forests and the rights of indigenous peoples".
- REDD+ could generate economic benefits to the communities and would help in the improvement of current systems of forest use through the use of technologies to diversify the management of other natural resources.

b) Possible risks/threats and challenges

- Concerns have been expressed by several representatives of indigenous peoples and other organizations involved in the issue of REDD+ with regard to the possible negative impacts over their livelihoods. For example, if the forests are credited a monetary value under a REDD+ scheme, many fear that - in places where land ownership rights are not clear and the decision making is conducted in an authoritarian manner - new conflicts will arise between indigenous and local communities, as well as between them and the State. Therefore, REDD+ mechanisms could exclude local populations of implementation processes, as well as the sharing of benefits, and possibly even expel them from their own territories: "*The increase of the monetary value attributed to current resources of forests as well as the growing forests, opens doors to corruption in countries where this is already abundant in the forestry sector.*"
- There is also concern that the REDD+ mechanism is being deliberately designed to exclude the rights of indigenous peoples. Currently, nothing indicates in a clear and explicit form that communities or indigenous peoples will receive a benefit. Also indigenous peoples and other groups, such as women's organizations and peasant movements, have been almost completely excluded from the development of the system. If this trend is maintained, these groups will not have any opportunity to influence agreements or participate on equal rights in REDD+ projects.
- Finally, capturing international financial resources available for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism on behalf of large companies and national and local elites, may exclude indigenous peoples and local communities who are the key actors if the aim is to successfully end deforestation.

On the other hand, USAID (2013) provide advice on Colombia's preparedness for attracting private finance and participation in pay-for-performance and market-based mechanisms for REDD+, as well as providing some guidance to promote it. The report states that "if Colombia succeeds in developing the critical components that until now are absent from their REDD+ program, the country could maximize its participation in carbon markets and payment for ecosystem services' mechanisms. At the same time, it will allow investors to decide to participate in the REDD+ in Colombia". The following are the main conclusions of the study, on the needs to develop REDD+ initiatives:

- Clarifying the authority of the CAR/departments to develop REDD+ programs and the way in which national and subnational efforts are going to interact/coordinate.
- Develop short-term procedures that allow REDD+ project proponents be sure of the tenure of carbon. Subsequently, develop laws and decrees to clarify ownership of the carbon, based on ownership of the land and natural resources.
- Develop a complete and detailed budget and financing plan for the implementation and operation of the REDD+ Strategy.
- Develop a national registry platform of the activities implementing the REDD+ Strategy.
- Formulate policies and develop procedures to certify carbon offsets.
- Adopt a set of rules about how to define the Reference Emissions Scenarios (REL), how to do the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and disseminate them widely.
- Decide if the departments will be able to develop their own REL and MRV, and how they will do it.
- Indicate whether the projects will be recognized in future national and sub-national carbon accounting standards, and if it will be done. (It could be part of the adoption of rules).
- Continue promoting the community participation and build capacities so that the design of the REDD+ program reflects the contributions and consensus of stakeholders.
- Develop and/or adopt a set of standards for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) that applies to REDD+ design and all activities that generate reduction of emissions.
- Support pilot activities in the context of REDD+ at the local (project) and judicial (for example the CAR or departments) levels.
- Obtain the necessary financing to prepare, implement and maintain the REDD+ Strategy.
- Advocate for the use of market-based approaches and payment for ecosystem services, and the wide acceptance of Colombian carbon credits at the international level.
- Using future tax revenues or environmental charges and royalties, to fund projects today, for example through the issuance of municipal credits.

In summary, the opportunities in Colombia to develop REDD+ are evident, however, there are still many issues to be resolved, most of them related to the institutional and regulatory framework that will allow an adequate participation in REDD+ consistent with the rights of communities that live and manage forests.

1.9 REDD+ Initiatives and the sustainable use of biodiversity - Integrating REDD+ and BioTrade Strategies

Considering that BioTrade is defined as "*activities of harvesting, production, processing and marketing of goods and services derived from biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability*", it is convenient to affirm that many of the strategy options that are preliminarily defined in the framework to develop the EN REDD+ in Colombia, integrate the objectives of BioTrade with the goal of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Strategies have been identified in the process developing the ENREDD+ and, in a preliminary way, a series of actions that seek to address the direct causes of deforestation. Four areas of the proposed strategy are directly related to BioTrade activities as shown below (Table 5).

Table 4. Actions and strategies on ENREDD+ linked with BioTrade activities

Strategies	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening communities' capacities in the management and conservation of forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal training programs for local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources Protection of the communities' traditional knowledge associated with the sustainable use and management of forests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting sustainable management, protection and restoration of forest ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of internal regulations on the use and management of the forest, based on the traditional knowledge. Implementation of forest management plans to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing economic instruments, and payments for green markets and environmental services to promote the conservation of forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of strategies that encourage sustainable use of natural resources such as: environmental certifications or green seals, fair trade, and strengthening of the value chains.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting sustainable practices in the development of sectoral activities (agriculture, livestock, mining, infrastructure, oil, and tourism) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of proposals for sustainable productive alternatives for the colonists, including new agricultural technological packages that optimize the use of land and natural resources Adoption of beneficial practices that limit the direct and indirect impacts of mining activities Generation of timber-yield products with higher added value that make a more efficient use of the resources Promotion of technologies and better practices of energy production that will reduce the impact on forests and their resources Development of programs for sustainable tourism respecting the carrying capacity of the ecosystem and the regulatory conditions

Source: Adapted from R-PP Colombia

As presented in the table above, ENREDD+ actions linked to BioTrade are those that will promote the sustainable management of forests, protect traditional knowledge and improve the use of natural resources, adopt best practices, generate timber products, develop sustainable tourism programs, and stimulate actions that can simultaneously target, projects or initiatives such as REDD+ and BioTrade.

Additionally, it is clear that the objectives formulated in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 ("Aichi Targets for biodiversity") involve direct links between the forest conservation and the conservation of biodiversity (Annex 5). Its five strategic objectives include various goals¹⁸ visibly related to the sustainable management of forests, specifically those that lead to the reduction of deforestation. Moreover, target 5 states "*the reduction of at least a half and, where practical, up to a value approaching zero the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, and will have significantly reduced the degradation and fragmentation*".

¹⁸ Targets 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18.

In conclusion, the goals related to biodiversity are strongly linked to the strategy options embodied in the ENREDD+. This poses clear opportunities for the design and implementation of joint REDD+ and BioTrade activities.

2 Institutional BioTrade framework in Colombia

2.1 Context and background

The immense natural capital belonging to Colombia is the source of the country's development and represents the heritage that will be left to future generations for their economic, social and cultural growth. To effectively preserve this heritage, it is necessary to develop a different and innovative economic growth, as opposed to the established model. This model may be effectively accomplished by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, by increasing efficiency in production processes, reducing the unsustainable consumption of natural resources and pollutants, avoiding negative externalities on biodiversity, adding value to goods and services provided by ecosystems, and taking advantage of the vast potential offered by Colombian biodiversity for the development of sustainable products with commercial potential.

Since 1998, Colombia began with this task by developing the first national BioTrade program in Latin America and the world, which was led by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute (IAvH) with the support of the then Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Furthermore, Fondo Biocomercio Colombia was created in 2006 to assist businesses implement their BioTrade activities, access to national, regional and international markets, and facilitate access to credit (UNCTAD, 2012, p 4).

The national BioTrade program aimed to position native biodiversity as an engine of sustainable development for the country, facilitating the creation of business through BioTrade. Hence, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and create a system of wellbeing for Colombians. Several achievements were obtained in the development of biodiversity-based sectors such as natural ingredients for food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, ecotourism, natural fibers and handicrafts, amazon fruits, among others.

Complementarily, the then Ministry of Environment published the Strategic Plan on National Green Markets (2002) that established the national and institutional framework to guide the activities of the various institutions related to green markets. The challenge of this Strategic Plan was the access to new markets with competitive Colombian products in four categories: (1.) sustainable use of biodiversity (today BioTrade), (2.) Clean development mechanisms, (3.) Eco-industrial products, and (4.) Environmental services such as ecotourism.

2.1.1 National Sustainable BioTrade Program (NSBP)

During 2010, the Vice-Ministry of the Environment and Ecosystems Management, began to reformulate the National Sustainable BioTrade Program (NSBP). The NSBP presents a revised

conceptual framework with an ecosystem approach¹⁹, adaptive management, and the development of value chains from a shared management of natural resources. It hopes to turn Colombia into a country renowned for their competitiveness in terms of the development of sustainable products derived from its biological diversity.

The program becomes a strategy that seeks to enhance the comparative advantages of the country in terms of its biodiversity, and to facilitate the collective construction of sustainable businesses that promote equity and social justice. The main challenge of the NSBP is to contribute to the generation of wealth and opportunities (poverty reduction) especially for the rural population, contributing to the conservation²⁰ of Colombian biodiversity through sustainable commercial use.

For purposes of this document, sustainable use is implicit when stating the sustainable commercial use of native biodiversity. For the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 'Sustainable use of biodiversity' is the second objective and is defined as "the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations" (CBD, 1992, p 4), through the development of adaptive management, and the monitoring and evaluation of these components.

2.2 Strategic Lines of the NSBP

The NSBP includes seven strategic lines. These lines guide the actions of public and private actors towards the competitive development and sustainable production of products and services based on native biodiversity, in a global economic context. The strategic lines are:

1. **Strengthening of policies:** harmonize and articulate regulations and public policies related to the use and sustainable management of native biodiversity.
2. **Construction and strengthening of capacities for the development of value chains:** strengthening businesses and institutional capacities to promote the development of BioTrade in the country.
3. **Access to markets and products' differentiation:** position BioTrade products with high value-added or certificates under any scheme of differentiation in local, regional, national and international markets.
4. **Science, technology and innovation:** research and innovation in technologies, processing raw materials and products, and promoting social appropriation of knowledge.

¹⁹ Ecosystem approach: is defined as a strategy for the integrated management of land, waters and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use. This approach recognizes human beings with its cultural diversity as an integral component of ecosystemst (MESD, 2012).

²⁰ Conservation of biodiversity: understood in a broad sense, as the result of an interaction between systems of preservation, restoration and sustainable use and construction of knowledge and information. (National Policy for the Comprehensive Management of Biodiversity-NPCMBES, 2012).

5. **Economic and financial incentives:** increasing access to financial resources (specialized or differentiated) and develop and implement financial incentives to support the growth of Colombian BioTrade companies.

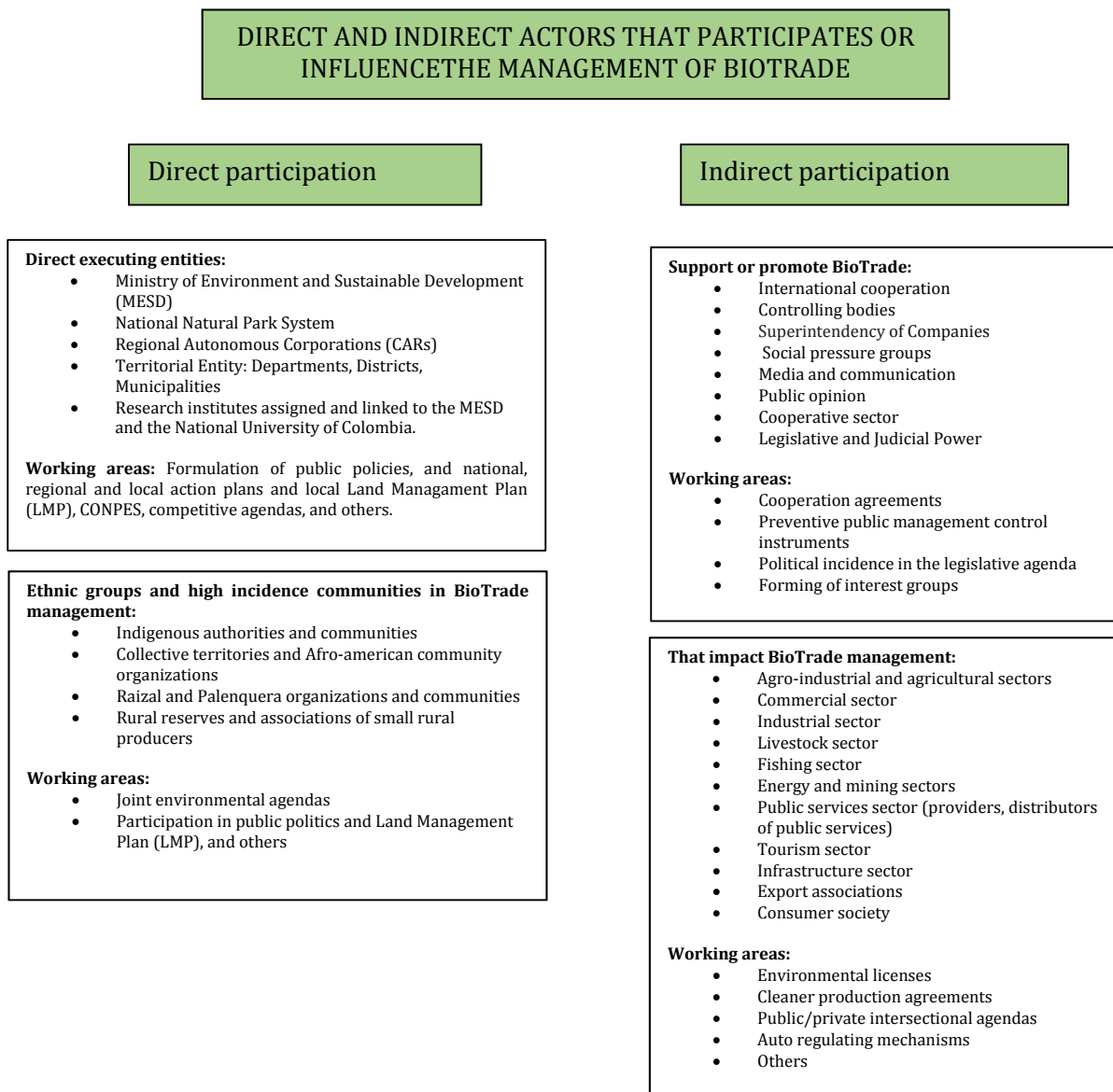
6. **Product and market information system - National BioTrade Observatory (OBIO):** generate and disseminate updated and reliable information on BioTrade products and services, and markets at national and international levels.

7. **Monitoring and evaluation system:** use of monitoring and evaluation tools needed to follow-up and assess BioTrade initiatives and the implementation of the National Sustainable BioTrade Program.

2.3 Institutional actors and instances related to the BioTrade in Colombia

The actors involved in the development of BioTrade in Colombia can be categorized as direct or indirect, as shown below (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Direct and indirect BioTrade actors in Colombia



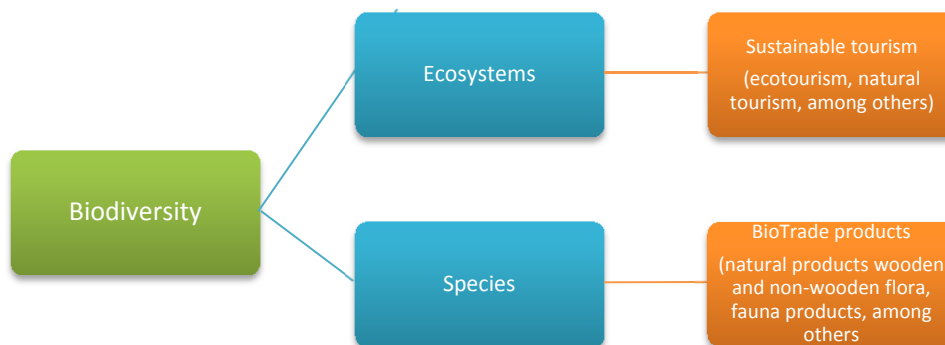
<p>Civil society organizations, research centers, and academia that influence management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs is dedicated to the conservation and/or to the sustainable use of biodiversity • Interest groups dedicated to and <i>ex-situ</i> conservation practices • Centers and public, private and mixed research institutes related with the use and utility of biodiversity • Universities and academic centers with applied research programs and specialized training <p>Working areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the construction of public policies and LMP. • Development of public/private agenda • Develop cooperation agreements to implemente programs, formation of human capital, among others.

Source: Corporación Biocomercio Sostenible – Colombia (CBS), 2012. National Assessment Agreement BioTrade between MEDS and CBS

2.4 Scope of BioTrade in Colombia

The National Sustainable BioTrade Program (NSBP) recognizes that the BioTrade can be based on the use and exploitation of biodiversity at two scales: (1.) at the level of ecosystems, and (2.) at the species level including their parts or derivatives. For each of these levels, there are derived productive activities, products and by-products. Although the classification is not intended to be exhaustive, it gives some clarity on the scale that biodiversity can be exploited under BioTrade.

Figure 6. Categories of BioTrade sectors



Source: MESD, Green Businesses Office, 2011

At the ecosystem level, the development of sustainable tourism activities, within which ecotourism and nature tourism are considered. At the species level, examples of products are derived from the flora, fauna and fungi. Finally, at the genetic level, products of gene expression are only included when they involve R&D activities, such as enzymes, proteins and peptides. It is important to define these levels in order to assess their possibilities vis-à-vis new markets, legislation and specific to the following key chains:

- Ingredients and natural products for cosmetic, food, phyto-pharmaceutical and fashion industries;
- Flowers and foliage;

- Wildlife-pets;
- Construction materials;
- Crafts and decorative articles; and
- Ecotourism.

2.5 Selection Criteria and Prioritization of BioTrade Sectors

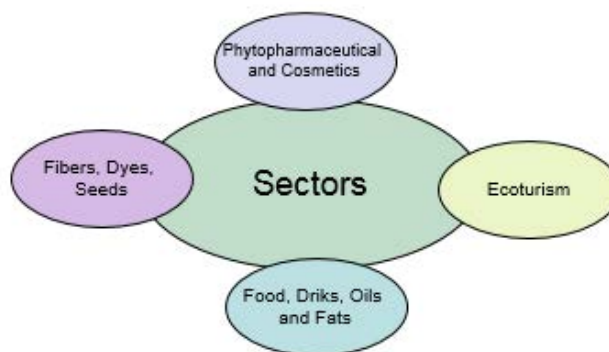
The following are criteria helped define the key BioTrade sectors in Colombia.

- A. **Alignment with national development programs:** seeking that priority sectors are immersed explicitly and/or implied, in a direct or indirect way, in the plans of economic and social development of national order. This may allow leverage and/or greater progress through joint projects.
- B. **Market Potential:** seeking that these sectors have an identified regional, national and/or international market, supporting the promotion and scaling up of current production systems and the creation of new systems.
- C. **Adaptability to BioTrade principles:** once the sectors involved in national development plans and their market potential have been identified, their possibility to adapt and adopt BioTrade principles and criteria will be evaluated. It will also be assessed the potential of the production systems to generate goods and services under traditional arrangements or methods (production systems).
- D. **Centers and/or identified sectorial research groups:** the future growth of the economic BioTrade sector relies heavily on new findings and developments adapted to the changing demand. For this reason, an infrastructure to support the implementation of research, development and innovation processes is fundamental in every sector.
- E. **Support infrastructure:** emphasizes the transformation possibilities (generation of added value) of raw materials based on the existing regional industry and easier access to resources from the origin (access roads and utilities, among others).
- F. **Networks and/or sectorial representation entities:** identify groups, associations, etc. who could support the production process and/or BioTrade organizations and processes, based on BioTrade principles and criteria, and to implement of future joint activities.
- G. **Impact on the regional economy (geographic coverage, distribution of economic benefits):** a greater distribution of resources can occur from a broader distribution and/or geographic presence in each sector, in relation to production systems or its potential for implementation. It evaluates the degree of current geographical coverage of the production systems selected as a fundamental evaluation criterion.

2.6 Prioritized Sectors in Colombia

Based on these criteria, the key BioTrade sectors in Colombia have been selected. These are phyto-pharmaceutical products and cosmetics; fibers and dyes; food, beverages, oils and fats; and ecotourism (Figure 7)

Figure 7. Key BioTrade Sectors in Colombia



Source: Corporación Biocomercio Sostenible – Colombia (CBS), 2012. National Assessment Agreement BioTrade between MEDS and CBS

2.7 Identified barriers to the development of BioTrade in Colombia per strategic line

Table 5. Barriers to the development of BioTrade in Colombia

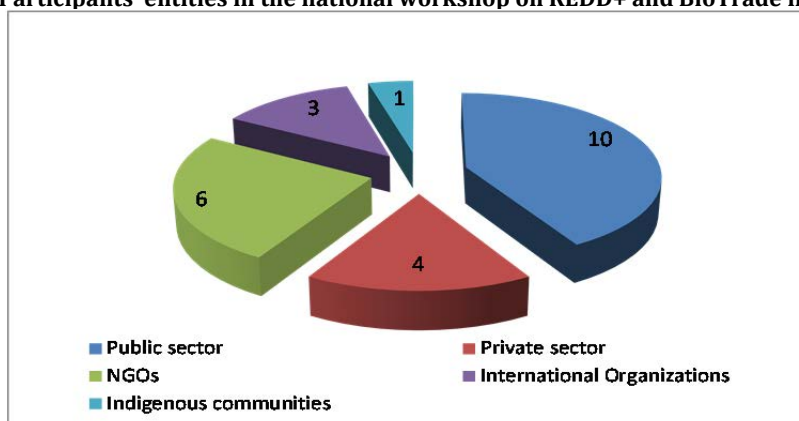
Strategic Line	Barrier
Policy Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of the rules and public policies and lack of implementation of participation spaces and BioTrade planning • Regulatory gaps, there is no legal certainty that allows the creation of a legal and dynamic BioTrade activity. • Little coordination between public actors; there is no consistency between the visions of competitiveness and sustainability. • Access to genetic and biological resources both for research as marketing is not yet regulated, limiting the development, innovation, and commercialization of products derived from biodiversity. • There is no instance of national coordination to lead and boost the national program of BioTrade at the regional and local levels.
Construction and strengthening of capacities for the development of value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The critical points are not clearly defined within the value chain. • The support services and local capacity to facilitate and ensure a greater value to the development of the product or service is not known or is not valued. • Classification of value chains for different products or services derived from biodiversity is not clear or non-existent, which limits their development. • There is a plan that optimizes time, resources and capabilities in processes of adding value throughout the production cycle.
Access to markets and product differentiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offer for products is small and there are no networks of producers that meet higher demand. • Limitations on access or lack of market studies of biodiversity based products and services. • Non-exclusive business platforms for BioTrade products or are not operational. • Lack of credit lines and programs that promote markets for differentiated value added BioTrade products/services. • Differentiations via standard or certification schemes, quality and traceability have become a limiting factor for the positioning and

Strategic Line	Barrier
Science, technology and innovation	<p>marketing of BioTrade products and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of the technological and non-technological requirements for products/services throughout the value chain. • Lack of basic and applied research on the study of goods and environmental services • Financial constraints to access to technological developments for the innovation and added value of the products and services derived from biodiversity • Low or limited social appropriation of knowledge and technology at the regional level.
Economic and financial incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no differential financial incentives to BioTrade companies who make better environmental performance • Offered financial lines do not respond to the requirements of the companies in their different stages of development. • Little knowledge on issues of business development by entrepreneurs of BioTrade. • Low placement loans for BioTrade companies, as there are no credit lines designed especially for companies working on products/services derived from biodiversity. • Few and non-existent incentives for companies that comply with principles of sustainability and BioTrade.
Monitoring and assessment system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are different monitoring and assessment tools both international and national without sufficient local knowledge, validation and official ownership.. • Unrealistic very complex verification schemes for monitoring exercises and evaluation made by the same companies. • Costs of monitoring and evaluation that end up moving to the producer.

3 Articulation of REDD+ strategies and BioTrade in Colombia from the perspective of the stakeholders

In the framework of the UNCTAD project to strengthening the capacities of policy makers and business leaders in the integration of REDD+ projects and BioTrade in Colombia, a national workshop was organized. This event allowed socializing and exchanging views among national stakeholders about the opportunities and challenges of articulating REDD+ strategies and BioTrade in Colombia. The workshop was held on 6 November 2013 in Bogota, with the participation of 24 organizations of the public and private sectors (environmental authorities, NGOs, international organizations and indigenous communities) (Figure 8). All the participants had experience in the formulation and implementation of REDD+ initiatives and BioTrade in Colombia.

Figure 8. Participants' entities in the national workshop on REDD+ and BioTrade in Colombia



Sector	Entity or institution
Public sector	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)
	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
	Regional Autonomous Corporation of Antioquia, CORANTIOQUIA
	Regional Autonomous Corporation of river basin of Ríos Negro - Nare, CORNARE
	Regional Autonomous Corporation of the High Magdalena, CAM
	Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Chocó, CODECHOCO
	Regional Autonomous Corporation of Chivor, CORPOCHIVOR
	Amazonian Institute of Scientific Research, SINCHI
	Institute of Environmental Research of Pacific Region, IIAP
	National Network of Botanic Gardens in Colombia
	Private sector
Green Portfolio	
PI Ethics and commerce	
Ecologic S.A.S - CO2cero	
NGOs and non-profit entities	BioREDD+ USAID
	BioTrade Fund
	The Fund for Environmental Action and Childhood
	ESPAVÉ Foundation
	Sustainable BioTrade Corporation (Corporación Biocomercio Sostenible)
Natura Foundation (Colombia)	
International organizations	United Nations Development Program - UNDP
	German Agency for Technical Cooperation, GIZ
	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD
Indigenous communities	Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon, OPIAC

In order to capture the opinions of stakeholders, four key issues to link REDD+ and BioTrade strategies were discussed through two working groups. The outcome allowed understanding the scope of this joint proposal from the vision and interest of each participating entity. The issues discussed were:

- i). Participation of local communities in joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives.
- ii). Institutional barriers in the development of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives.
- iii). Ecological additionality and economic benefits of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives.

iv). Key elements for the development of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives.

Every aspect was discussed based on a few guiding questions (see Annex 8) that generated multiple responses and opinions. These are an important input for the consolidation of the training manual developed by UNCTAD under this project.

3.1 Participation of communities in joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives

An essential factor that defines the scope and sustainability of REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives in Colombia is the involvement of local communities in all stages of the project, recognizing their rights and duties towards cultural, economic and environmental planning.

In Colombia there are about 60 million hectares of natural forest, about 57.2% of which are located in indigenous territories and Afro-Colombian communities, to a lesser extent there are forests in lands of peasants. For that reason, it has been and will continue to be essential for BioTrade initiatives and REDD+ projects to build participatory spaces for communities, where their points of view concerning the proposed projects are heard, and cross-cultural agreements on the sustainable use of biodiversity are established, while respecting their knowledge and traditions.

In this way, for developing joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives, local communities must be strategic partners. Their holistic vision of the territory will allow project proponents to understand the realities of the project area and its environment, and the means to mitigate environmental problems by binding mechanisms to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. These initiatives must promote an equitable and permanent articulation between the communities, the private sector, local organizations and the government so that that the role of each actor is recognized in the development of productive schemes and the efficient conservation of forests considering economic, environmental and social issues is achieved.

3.2 Barriers in the development of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives

The territory dynamics as well as institutional and regulatory frameworks of the country often become challenges to design and implement projects. In the case of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives in Colombia, the following barriers were identified:

- The ministerial bodies responsible for environmental and agricultural policies have little communication with each other, as well as a weak articulation of projects carried out in the same region.
- In certain institutional scenarios and policy frameworks, there is a negative connotation for REDD+ strategies, which are considered to “carbonize” the forests as the compelling and unique solution to reduce the emissions from deforestation.
- Investment funds are limited to design and develop production lines, and marketing of prioritized BioTrade products/services.
- Financial mechanisms are limited and sometimes unclear financial mechanisms (e.g. credit lines and economic incentives) to encourage the participation of the producers in BioTrade initiatives.
- In certain scenarios, competencies and roles of environmental authorities vis-à-vis other public actors involved in BioTrade and REDD+ are not clear.

3.3 Ecological additionality and economic benefits of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives

The scope of the joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives in Colombia can be seen from the environmental additionality perspective by the reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation derived from the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It can also be seen from an economic perspective by the economic benefits generated through the compensation of GHG emissions and the development of productive alternatives related to BioTrade.

Quantification and evaluation of these additionalities should start with the clear identification of the drivers for deforestation in the country, and the opportunities for communities to enrich local knowledge and practices. The impact that BioTrade can generate in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of forest and biodiversity must be supported by methodologies to measure its impact or response indicators that assess and control actions in the territory.

3.4 Key elements for the development of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives

During the workshop, the elements to consider when designing and implementing REDD+ and BioTrade projects were identified and discussed with stakeholders. The outcome of these discussions resulted in the identification of three key aspects: i) The strategic moment/phase to link BioTrade and REDD+ activities; ii) The scale of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives, iii) The determination of key BioTrade sectors which could be considered in REDD+ strategies in Colombia; and iv) The incorporation of the principle of sustainability in the formulation of projects.

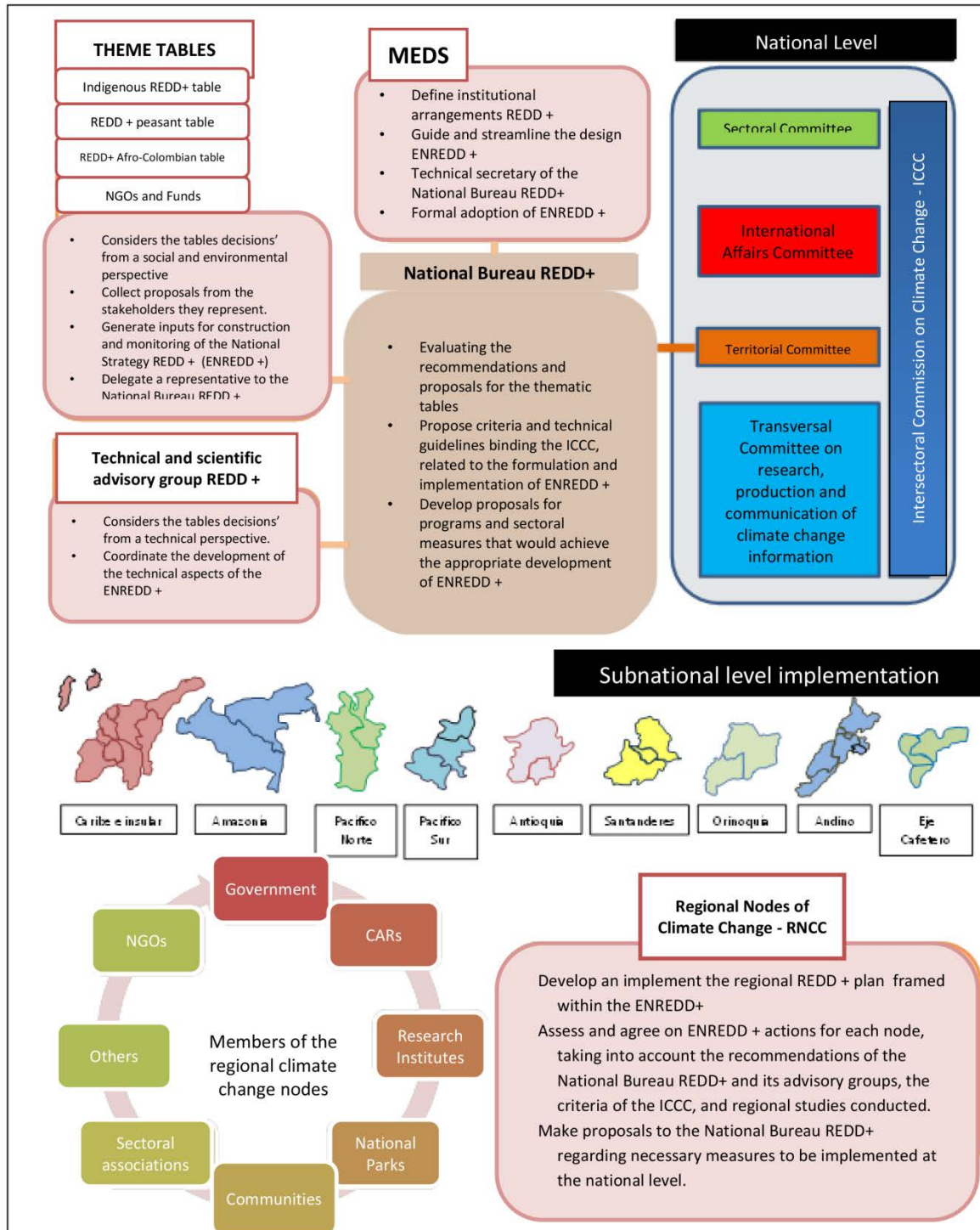
- i) *Appropriate time for the articulation of REDD+ and BioTrade:* communities have the particularity of living on a day-by-day basis, situation that could contradict the established timeframes of REDD+ projects in terms of distribution of benefits and socio-economic impact measurement. For this reason, is important to consider the link between REDD+ and BioTrade since the conceptualization of the REDD+ and/or joint (REDD+ and BioTrade) projects.
- ii) *Scale of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives:* given the scope of REDD+ projects that involve large areas/very extensive territories, and BioTrade initiatives (as are more local and at community level) could be integrated as in REDD+ projects/strategies. BioTrade can for instance, contribute by including good collection practices, sustainable management of productive systems, and development of local, regional and national green markets.
- iii) *Key BioTrade sectors in REDD+ initiatives:* in Colombia, the development of REDD+ initiatives has taken place in the prioritized areas of the Pacific and Amazon regions. Consequently, prioritizing BioTrade areas in these regions requires exploring initiatives already developed, assessing studies with lessons learned and documented opportunities, and understanding productive programs promoted by the government. Also, it includes evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of past BioTrade products developed in those two regions and if they are valued by local communities and institutions. Contrary, if there is limited or lack of knowledge on the sector selected,

higher transaction costs could occur, considering the time allocated to prepare and consolidate productive alternatives.

- iv) Principle of sustainability: at the time of analyzing the way in which the principle of sustainability should be addressed in joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives, various actions should be identified. These actions should consider: 1) define clearly and timely the ecological, social and economic objectives of the project considering the conditions of the territory and resources available; 2) incorporate the knowledge of local communities, peasant, indigenous and Afro-Colombians, and generate and empower them in all the stages the project; 3) converge the interests of different social actors in a territory around the ecological, social and economic objectives defined by the project; 4) build the actions proposed in the territory considering existing instruments of environmental policy, territorial planning and productive development; and 5) establish financial mechanisms with easy access and operation allowing an efficient and transparent management of resources.

Annexes

Annex 1. Map of REDD+ actors in Colombia



Source: Readiness Proposal Preparation for REDD (R-PP) Version 8. 30 September 2013

Annex 2. REDD+ Projects with the USAID BIOREDD+ Program

Project	Location	Hectares	Families	Persons	
1	CC Bajo Mira y Frontera	Tumaco	46 482	1 240	6 271
2	CC Acapa	Tumaco, Francisco Pizarro	94 388	1 453	8 106
3	CC Yurumanguí	Buenaventura	54 776	529	2 918
4	CC Cajambre	Buenaventura	75 710	1 497	5 281
5	CC Bajo Calima	Buenaventura	66 724	690	3 538
	CC Bahía Málaga - La Plata	Buenaventura	51 396	111	543
6	CC Consejo Comunitario Mayor del Cantón de San Pablo COCOMACASNP	Cantón de San Pablo	36 667	963	4 816
	CC Río Pepé	Medio Baudó	8 192	294	1 306
7	CC Concosta	Bajo Baudó / Litoral del San Juan	73 034	829	4 743
8	CC Sivirú	Bajo Baudó	21 697	120	600
	CC San Andrés de Usaragá		13 060	54	333
	CC Pizarro		7 132	305	1 625
	CC Río Piliza		18 329	116	579
9	CC Acaba	Alto, Bajo Baudó	174 253	2249	16 091
10	RI Bellavista Unión Pitalito (Waunana)	Bajo Baudó	29 260	147	647
	RI Río Bajo Grande (Emberá)		2 436	45	230
	RI Santa Rosa de Ijua (Waunana)		6 352	13	52
	RI Ordo Sivirú Aguaclara (Emberá)		4 040	25	116
11	CC Vigía de Curvaradó y Santa Rosa de Limón	Bajo Baudó	33 909	36	461
	CC Río Montaña		25 006	68	428
	CC Apartadó – Buenavista		19 154	29	102
	CC La Madre		8 231	30	139
12	CC Chicao	Riosucio	18 026	58	368
13	CC La Larga y Tumaradó	Riosucio	107 064	164	754
14	CC Pedeguita y Mancilla	Riosucio	48 972	62	367
	RI Yaberaradó (Emberá Katío)	Chigorodó	10 992	129	762
	RI Polines (Emberá Katío)	Chigorodó	2 743	63	302
	RI Jaikerazavi (Emberá Katío)	Mutatá	32 482	89	530
	RI Chontadural Cañero (Emberá Katío)	Mutatá	9 850	36	159

CC: Consejo Comunitario, RI: Resguardo Indígena

Fuente: http://bioredd.org/projects/docs/Portfolio_of_REDD+_Projects_in_Colombia.pdf

Annex 3. MVC initiatives in Colombia

Project		Objective	Location	Phase	Related Entities	Hectares
1	Project REDD Huila	To reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the Regional Natural Park Puracé Biological Corridor - Cueva de los Guácharos.	Department of Huila, Municipalities of San Agustín, Pitalito, Palestina and Acevedo, Colombia	Development and final adjustment of the PDD	CAM, NFO Andina	93.883
2	REDD Corredor de Robles	Keep the last oak remnant in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes and reduce of deforestation rates in the conservation corridor - the Russia-Iguaque (Robles runner) through sustainable productive activities and sustainable forest management.	Department of Boyacá, Municipalities of Arcabuco, Villa de Leyva, Moniquirá, Togui, Paipa, Belén, and Santander, Municipalities of Encino, Charalá, Coromoro, Onzaga, Gámbita, Mogotes and San Joaquín	PIN of the project and development of the PDD - implementation of actions	Fundación Natura, CAS	20.000
3	REDD San Lucas	Contribute to the conservation of strategic ecosystems of the Serranía de San Lucas, and the improvement of the quality of life of its inhabitants.	Phase I: Department of Antioquia, Municipalities of El Bagre, Zaragoza, Remedios, Caracolí. Phase II: Department of Bolívar, Municipalities of Santa Rosa del Sur	PIN of the project - implementation of early actions	Corantioquia, JAU Botanical Garden of Medellín, Fundación Natura	To be defined
4	REDD Bosques de Galilea	Reduce GHG emissions that are generated by deforestation and forest degradation, and improve carbon capture through management of natural regeneration in the forest of the high Southeast Andean region of the Department of Tolima, denominated Bosques de Galilea.	Department of Tolima, Municipality of Villarrica	PIN of the project	Universidad del Tolima, CORTOLIMA	26.000

Project		Objective	Location	Phase	Related Entities	Hectares
5	REDD Bahía Solano	Preserve private and community forests, and establish a buffer zone to the Utría National Park zone, at Los Delfines Community Council, municipality of Bahía Solano, Chocó, Colombia, through avoided deforestation in its border and in mosaic, as well as the sale of up to 243'000 CCBS-VCUs per year.	Department of Chocó, Municipality of Bahía Solano	PIN of the project	Consejo Comunitario Los Delfines, Fundación Natura, Jardín Botánico del Pacífico	15.787
6	Sector strategy for the integrated management and conservation of a corridor of protected areas present in the complex of high Andean forests and Moors of Anaime in the Department of Tolima, through mechanisms for reducing deforestation and avoiding forest degradation (REDD+)	Conserve stocks of carbon stored in soils and vegetation in 7.000 hectares of high Andean forests and Moors consisting of private reserves (Usocoello and water sources) and State reserves (Cortolima) through management and conservation mechanisms to strengthen adaptive management and co-management schemes.	Department of Tolima, Municipalities of Cajamarca, Rovira, Ibagué and Roncesvalles	PIN of the project	Corporación Semillas de Agua	7.000

Source: Fundación Natura. Direction of the Project MVC Colombia

Annex 4. Other projects under development

Project		Location	Phase	General Aspects	Related Entities
1	Project Amazonia REDD	The REDD project in the Amazon covers most of the Amazon region, including 1) Macarena sub-region that covers the national parks of Macarena, Tinigua, Picachos, and their buffer zones; 2) Región Guayabero - Yará - Caguán; 3) Chiribiquete National Park; and 4) Región Apaporis.		The project covers a total area of 14.6 million hectares and includes four types of activities REDD; avoids deforestation and degradation, captures carbon for regeneration of the forest and conservation.	Natural National Parks, Natural Heritage
2	REDD project shelter selva de Matavén	Department of Vichada	PIN of the project	The project covers a total area of 1'436.000 hectares and reported 62.750 deforestation hectares between 1999 and 2008.	Fundamataven
3	Incorporating biodiversity conservation through reduced/ avoided deforestation in the Piedemonte Andino - Amazon of Colombia	Road Pasto - Mocoa, Departments of Cauca and Puntumayo, Colombia	Formulation of the Project Design Document-PDD		Inter- American Development Bank, Corpoamazonia WWF
4	Project REDD in the San Nicolas Forest.	Municipalities San Vicente, el Retiro, Santuario, Marinilla, Rionegro, Guarne, La ceja, La Unión and El Carmen	Implementation of the Plan of forest management	The project covers a total area of 14.646 hectares for a period of 20 years. It estimates a reduction of 1.148.084 tons CO2e.	Corporation more forests, Cornare, Eastern Antioquia municipalities, Corporation Ecoversa
5	REDD project in the Corregimientos of Pedreas and Tarapacá, in Colombian Amazon	Corregimientos of Pedreras and Tarapacá, Department of Amazonas, Colombia	Formulation of the Project Design Document-PDD	Area: 649,834 hectares, involves indigenous peoples from the Yucuna, Matapi and Mirana groups.	Conservation International Corporación Ecoversa, Corpoamazonia
6	REDD as the financial mechanism for the implementation of a conservation strategy	A conservation corridor that includes 12 watersheds located within the departments of Cundinamarca and Meta. This corridor has an area of approximately 1,700,000 hectares.	Formulation of the Project Design Document-PDD	Area: 600,000 hectares, which links 19 municipalities of Cundinamarca and one in Meta Departments	Conservation International Corporación Ecoversa, Gobernación de Cundinamarca, Corpoguavio, Corporación Autónoma Regional de Cundinamarca-CAR

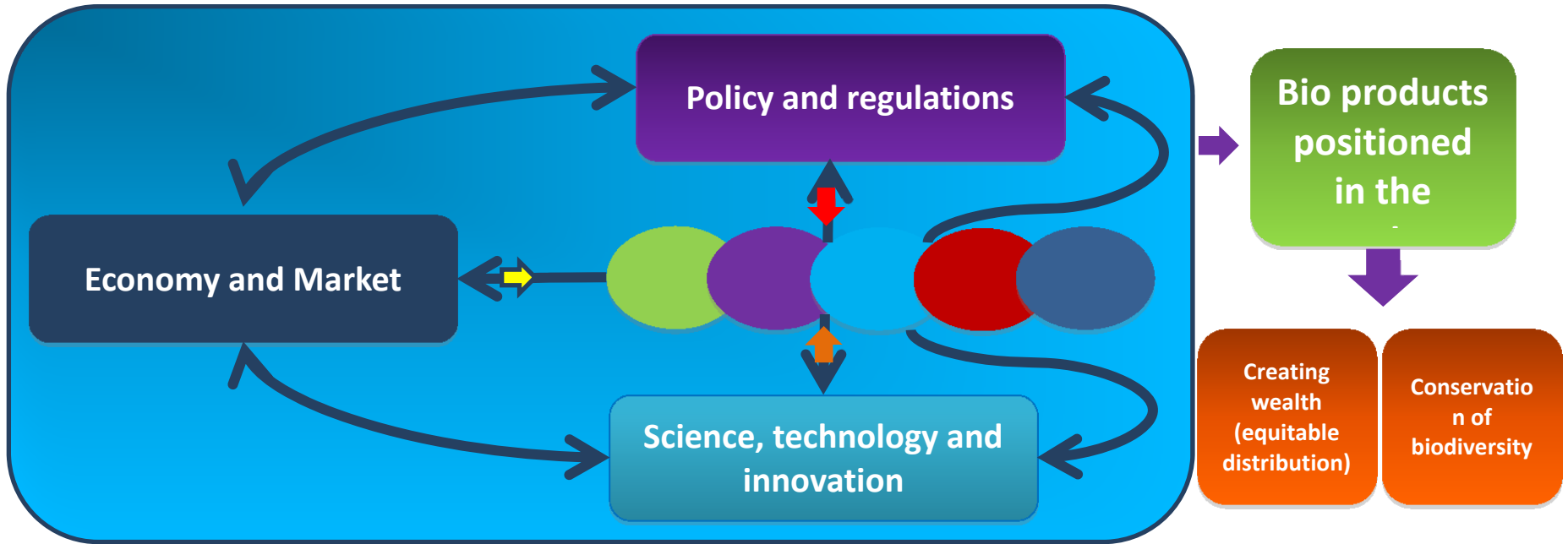
Annex 5. Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal	Target
<p>A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p>T1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p> <p>T2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p> <p>T3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p> <p>T4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>
<p>B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>	<p>T5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p> <p>T6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p> <p>T7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>T8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p> <p>T9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p> <p>T10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to <u>maintain their integrity and functioning</u>.</p>
<p>C. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>	<p>T11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p>T12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p> <p>T13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for <u>minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity</u>.</p>
<p>D. Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>	<p>T14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p>T15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p> <p>T16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational,</p>

Strategic Goal	Target
E. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	<p data-bbox="537 258 906 289">consistent with national legislation.</p> <p data-bbox="537 289 1458 373">T17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p> <p data-bbox="537 373 1458 541">T18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p> <p data-bbox="537 541 1458 625">T19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p> <p data-bbox="537 625 1458 787">T20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>

Source: CBD, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. COP 2010.

Annex 6. Interactions between the actors of the NSBP in Colombia by axes of development



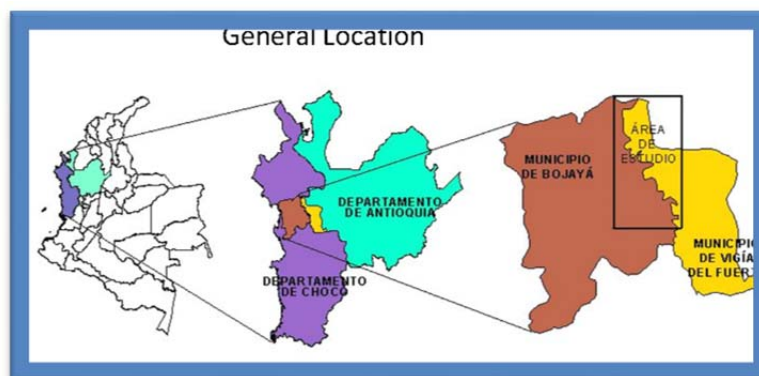
Source: Corporación Biocomercio Sostenible – Colombia (CBS), 2012. National Assessment Agreement BioTrade between MESD and CBS

Annex 7. Case Study of a BioTrade initiative in Colombia²¹

Mini-chain of products derived from Medio Atrato Forests as a scenario of social development

1. Location

To the west of Colombia, within the Chocó bio geographical region, the area of Medio Atrato is located in the jurisdiction of the Chocó and Antioquia departments. An area recognized for its great biodiversity and cultural richness, populated mainly by indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. These communities are characterized by collective forms of ownership and possession of their territories, through community councils and "cabildos". The territory of Afro-Colombian communities reached 700,000 hectares titled in the name of the largest community Council (Communitarian Council of the Integral Peasants Association of Atrato-COCOMACIA).



Source: Espavé Foundation, 2013

2. Background

Historically, the forests of the region have been a source of food, medicine, and support for its inhabitants. But in the search for better leverage of these resources, since 1995, organized communities with the participation of the Espavé Foundation started to identify interesting species to be used for the development of new products, with potential use for the cosmetic and food industries.

The development of different actions in the territory and approaching other public and private actors, allowed the families involved to create, in 2009, the company Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso (BHB).

2.1 Company Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso (BHB)

The genesis of the company starts with the identification of local species with market potential at the national and international levels.

The company aims to contribute to improving the living conditions of the local population, through management and sustainable use of non-timber forest resources. BHB has as principle to make visible and promote the sustainable use of previously untapped resources and it promotes the emergence of new forms of self-employment on the basis of the collection of forest products. To achieve this, BHB trains and organizes local families. Additionally, it creates a business partner-whose mission is to give sustainability to the process.

Currently, the enterprise involves 1.200 people from 28 Afro-Colombian communities and 450 indigenous from 3

²¹ Espavé Foundation, 2013. Project "Minicadena de Productos del Bosque del Medio Atrato: Los bosques como un escenario de desarrollo social". BIOREDD+ Program. Commercial alliance formed by Espavé Foundation and the companies Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso and Productos del Bosque Naidí SA.

communities. In the medium term, its goal is to involve 100 Afro-Colombian communities and 18 indigenous communities, located on the middle basin of the Atrato river and its tributaries.

3. Partnerships and partners of the company

To develop a product and position it in the market requires the support of corporate and institutional partners. These partners also assist in research and development (R&D) activities and marketing.

BHB is made up of the following partners:

- 28 Afro-Colombian and 3 indigenous communities.
- The “Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Asociación Campesina Integral del Atrato-COCOMACIA” (in English: Communitarian Council of the Integral Peasants Association of Atrato), organization representing communities, and owner of the collective Afro territory.
- The Espavé Foundation, non-profit organization.
- Other individuals who believe in the initiative and participate as investors.

4. Role of the partners and other stakeholders in the value chain

The local Afro-Colombian people of the Medio Atrato and COCOMACIA²² are responsible for the management of forests and the products’ collection. The company Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso SAS²³ (BHB) is responsible for the collection of products (e.g. Jagua – *Genipa Americana*) along the Atrato river and its transport to the companies responsible for processing it. In some cases, BHB carries out an initial transformation of the product such as the development of Jagua pulp. BHB is the company responsible for liaising the communities and its work in the forest with the transformation companies. The Fundación Espave²⁴ is responsible for providing technical support.

5. Other actors in the chain

Other actors in the chain are:

- The company EcofloraCares SAS²⁵ is responsible for R&D of the natural blue dye derived from Jagua (*Genipa Americana*) and responsible of position/commercializing it in the national and international markets.
- Forest Products Naidí SAS (PBNaidí) is responsible for the production and marketing of Açai (*Euterpe oleracea*) pulp and palm hearts.

The BHB company owns 4% of PBNaidí, which provides communities the right to participate in the profits generated and, therefore, of the greatest economic value that the company adds to regional products.

6. Products and harvesting activities

Species and products identified and prioritized by the BHB company are: pulp of Jagua (*Genipa americana*) for the cosmetics industry, and pulp of Açai (*Euterpe oleracea*) and edible oil of *Oenacarpus bataua* for the preparation of food and beverage.



Source: Espavé Fundación, 2013

The productive activities for the exploitation of the Jagua are:

²² For more information on the Organization COCOMACIA, visit: www.cocomacia.org.co.

²³ For more information on the company Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso, visit: www.espave.org.co/web-bosque/index.

²⁴ For more information about the Espavé Foundation, visit: www.espave.org.co.

²⁵ For more information about EcofloraCares SAS, visit: www.ecofloracares.com.

- Collection of the raw material in each of the beneficiary communities
- Collection, packing and shipping of the fruit to Medellín

The productive activities for Açai are:

- Collection of the raw material (naidi fruit and spans) in each of the beneficiary communities
- Collection, packing and shipping of the fruit and spans (headquarters of the production plant of PBNaidi)
- Local production of canned hearts of Palm and fruit pulp.

7. Achievements

During the process to strengthen the BHB company, the following results were achieved:

- Formulation of the management plans for two of the species (Jagua and Açai).
- Formalized local permits for the exploitation of the two species.
- Trained 120 families in the management and collection of the two species.
- 700 hectares of lowland forest managed sustainably.
- Promoted the development of protocols for Jagua.
- Organization the value chains of the two species.
- Established agreements with partner companies.
- Construction in the region of the first production plant for the development of non-timber forest products: Jagua pulp and Açai Palm packaging.

7.1 The target market

As these are new products (Jagua fruit for natural dyes, naidi pulp, Açai and native Palms' oil) the domestic market is still to be developed. Therefore, the target markets are the United States and Europe. BHB is currently working to develop the national market.

7.2 Production and sustainability

Currently, the bi-monthly production is 1.000 kilos of Jagua and 900 spans of Açai. In the next three years, the company focuses on its expansion through the take-off of commercial activities with key business partners. Through this expansion, the BHB will cover about 3,000 has. of forest managed and involve approximately 450 families in collection activities. It is important to note that there are agreements with partners where the demand for products in the third year will be of 3.000 kilos daily of Açai fruits and 171 tons per month of Jagua nuts.

7.3 Economic impact

The company in the region generates 20 direct jobs and provides an approximate income of about USD\$ 30 per collector per day. The latter value is four times more than the average per capita income of the region²⁶.

It's a process that has been gradually generating conditions for the creation of new sources of regional self-employment and sustainable development.

7.4 Fair distribution and equitable benefits sharing

Relations between partners are governed by the principle of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and confidence. The partners' relationship has been working for fourteen years, and includes joint projects for the development of the initiative.

7.5 International recognition

The Bosque Húmedo Biodiverso Company received the global SEED award in 2011, granted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This award is given to sustainable development companies.

8. Challenges

- Achievement of the equilibrium point;
- Increasing and strengthening the collection capacity;

²⁶ The average income of the region is of USD\$7 per day (Dane, 2010).

- Increasing areas under sustainable management; and
- Building business management capacities.

9. Lessons learned

The experience of the Fundación Espave shows that it is essential to promote the maintenance of traditional productive activities and it proposes the forest as a setting for development of productive and innovative economic alternatives, from native resources. It also demonstrates that creating community-based enterprises can generate social and economic development opportunities to local communities.

10. Contact

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Annex 8. Themes and discussion questions for the workshop

Theme 1: Participation of local communities in REDD+ initiatives and BioTrade

- How to link the knowledge of local communities in REDD+ strategies and BioTrade?
- What elements should be considered for the involvement of local communities in the development of REDD+ initiatives and BioTrade?
- What are the axes of training aimed at local communities for the appropriation of REDD+ strategies and BioTrade?

Theme 2: Barriers to the development of joint initiatives REDD+ and BioTrade

- What barriers are identified in the articulation of REDD+ initiatives and BioTrade?
- What do you think are the aspects needed to boost the national REDD+ strategy in Colombia?
- What issues could the Colombian environmental institutions consider to promote and accompany REDD+ initiatives?

Theme 3: Ecological and economic additional of joint initiatives REDD+ and BioTrade

- What would be the strategy to visualize the benefits and impacts of joint REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives?
- What kind of actions should be promoted so that REDD+ and BioTrade initiatives contribute to the development and welfare of the communities?
- Do you consider that the scale of implementation of REDD + initiatives and BioTrade guarantees or limits the financial and environmental sustainability of joint initiatives?

Item 4: Key elements that articulate REDD+ projects and BioTrade

- How to address the principle of sustainability in the development of BioTrade initiatives within REDD + strategies?
- Which BioTrade sectors are key for the development of REDD+ initiatives?
- In which phase of the formulation and/or implementation of REDD+ projects is key for linking actions related to BioTrade?

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- Mr. Ruben Guerrero, REDD+ Focal point in MESD' Direction of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Mr. José Manuel Diaz Hoyos, MESD Green Business Office (official BioTrade focal point for UNCTAD);
- Mr. Edderson Cabrera, Coordinator of the monitoring of forests and carbon - Colombia (SMBYC), of the IHMES.