



REDD+ Country Profile

BOLIVIA

May 2013

CONTACT

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INTRODUCTION

According to the Bolivian Land and Forestry Agency, Autoridad de Fiscalización y Control Social de Bosques y Tierra (ABT), Bolivia's forest cover was 48.6 per cent in 1993 or 53.5 million hectares. In 2010, the forest cover was estimated at 46 million hectares. Most is found in the tropical lowlands and the subtropical valleys leading to the highlands. Sixteen per cent of the nation's forests are devoted to sustainable use. Bolivia is among the countries that contain the highest biodiversity on Earth registering 14.3 per cent of the world bird species, 8.98 per cent of reptiles and 7.5 per cent of mammals (SERNAP, 2005).

During the last decade, deforestation claimed 250,000 hectares annually, or about 0.5 per cent of the forests each year, putting Bolivia at extreme risk for deforestation (Source ABT: 2010- official data). The forests are slashed-and-burned to convert them to large-scale agricultural farms, cattle ranches and small-scale farms,¹ causing more than 60 per cent of Bolivia's greenhouse gas emissions.²

Bolivia has a relatively small—but growing—population (10 million) with nearly 62 per cent self-identifying as indigenous from the 36 indigenous groups recognized by the Bolivian constitution. Collective land titles have been granted to indigenous peoples (TCOs—territorios comunitarios de origen) that total around 19 million hectares out of the 30 million hectares claimed as indigenous territories (Fundación Tierra, 2009).

Bolivia currently opposes a REDD+ mechanism arguing that forests ecosystems should not depend on market forces based on carbon, but rather they should be valued for their integrated functions that also consider people, cultures, ecosystems and other benefits. During the last two Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Durban 2011 and Doha 2012), Bolivia presented an alternative approach to REDD+, the "Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests". This mechanism aims to support activities oriented to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries based on a non-market approach alternative to markets.

This mechanism integrates mitigation and adaptation, reinforces the environmental function of forests, recognizes the contribution of indigenous peoples to the conservation of forests ecosystems, supports indigenous peoples rights, promotes forest governance systems, strengthens sustainable use and access to forest resources, contributes to tackle the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and promotes the enhancement of sustainable livelihoods of local peoples. The Bolivian Government has enacted the Mother Earth's Law (2012), in which this mechanism has been legally established.

Continuing with the progress made at UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban, with the inclusion of the mechanism in the decisions (2/CP.17 par.67 of the UNFCCC); at UNFCCC COP 18 Doha, the SBSTA was mandated to report at COP 19 on progress made by the mechanism. Additionally, Bolivia presented the proposal at COP 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which mandated to compile information about the potential of the mechanism for the conservation of biological diversity, integrating the areas of climate change and biodiversity.

The negotiation strategy of Bolivia at the UNFCCC is to include 1) non-market based approaches in the “policy approaches of deforestation and forest degradation and sustainable management of forests working group” and 2) in the discussion of specific forests mechanisms in the context of the programme of work to be initiated in the working group related to “various approaches for mitigation to climate change”.

It should also be noted that in 2010 Bolivia signed an agreement with UN-REDD to implement a national REDD+ programme with an initial endowment of US\$4.7 million from the German Development Cooperation (UN-REDD, issue # 7, 2010). However, due to a change in Bolivia’s national policy driven by an opposition to market mechanisms on forests promoted by Bolivia at UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun and from recommendations derived from the “World Conference on Climate Change and on the Rights of the Mother Earth” held at Tiquipaya , Bolivia no longer supported REDD+.

In response to Bolivia’s shift in approach, an addendum to the UN-REDD agreement was agreed upon after high-level discussions with the UN-REDD Secretariat, which would enable the funds that were originally to be used for REDD+ to be used to implement the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests.

SNAPSHOT OF REDD+ PROGRESS IN BOLIVIA

Governance

Setting the goals for REDD+, building the legal institutional arrangements to undertake it, and ensuring that all major REDD+ stakeholders can participate in its governance.

Goals

Has the country set ambitious and time-bound REDD+ goals and spelled out REDD+ guiding principles?

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|------------------------|--|
| Accomplishments | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Ongoing | Bolivia does not currently support a market-based REDD+ mechanism |
| Planned | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Gaps/Next steps | Bolivia has suspended its implementation of REDD+ and has instead presented an alternate proposal to the UNFCCC: the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests (JMAM). No targets or indicators have been identified yet; however a monitoring system is planned. |

Institutional arrangements

Are institutions in place to manage and coordinate REDD+ (e.g. inter-ministerial coordination, participation of all stakeholders secured)?

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| Accomplishments | The Mother Earth Law enacted in 2012 established the institutional structure of the JMAM under the dependence of the National Authority of the Mother Earth created with the current law which also established the Mother Earth Fund for supporting the implementation of the mechanism. This fund would also manage resources coming from the Green Climate Fund and from other sources. Currently, there is significant progress with the Danish Cooperation Agency (DANIDA) to capitalize the fund. DANIDA has already invested in the design and implementation of the mechanism and other cooperation agencies are negotiating. |
| Ongoing | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Planned | Bolivia has committed to start the implementation of the mechanism in 2014 with four pilot projects along the Amazon and the Cerrado (Chiquitano) forest. |
| Gaps/Next steps | <p>The JMAM is a national decentralized entity working in three regions. It coordinates actions with different public, private and community organizations at regional and local levels. The JMAM has the mandate to coordinate among the different ministries and national public organizations, towards the implementation of a joint forestry and agricultural agenda, including a system consisting of such functions as regulation, promotion, control, oversight and incentives.</p> <p>The institutional arrangement of the JMAM provides responsibilities to the Bolivian Land and Forests Authority (ABT), the National Protected Areas Agency (SERNAP), the National Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Innovation for (INIAF), and the Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA).</p> <p>The JMAM supports five successive steps at a regional level: a) forest governance; b) territorial (land use) planning and management; c) multi-stakeholder local agreements on joint mitigation and adaptation, d) implementation of an integrated system of regulation, promotion, control and oversight for the development of sustainable productive systems; and e) monitoring.</p> <p>Currently there is an on-going work in order to develop methodologies for implementation of the Mechanism in different regions of the country.</p> |

Legal

Does the country have a legal framework that supports the implementation of REDD+ (e.g. special focus on land rights/tenure rights, carbon rights assigned)?

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| Accomplishments | The Framework Law (No. 300) "Mother Earth and Integral Development for Living-well" which is the legal framework for the implementation of the JMAM. |
| Ongoing | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Planned | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Gaps/Next steps | Currently, regulations and guidelines to the Mother Earth Law are under discussion and design. |

Tracking REDD+ Progress

Successful REDD+ implementation will depend on the country's ability to track and report on the state of the forests and REDD+ progress against a reference level.

MMRV

Advances in putting in place a measuring, monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD+.

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| Accomplishments | Bolivia has monitored deforestation using MODIS images in collaboration with Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) since 2005. There is an ongoing process to develop an information and monitoring system on forests, environmental functions and systems of life with the support of FAO, Japan and the European Union, among others. |
| Ongoing | Development of an information and monitoring system on forests, environmental functions and systems of life with the support of FAO, Japan and the European Union, among others. |
| Planned | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Gaps/Next steps | Little detailed information on MRV in Bolivia exists. A strong MRV system is important for Bolivia since its economic agenda affects forests and forest-dependent communities. Monitoring of carbon and emissions could occur under the JMAM although it is not tied to a performance-based mechanism. |

Reference levels

Has the country developed on national or subnational reference levels? What approach was adopted (e.g. historical, historical adjusted)?

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|------------------------|--|
| Accomplishments | No reference levels have been developed yet. |
| Ongoing | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Planned | (None, or no information at this time) |
| Gaps/Next steps | Bolivia has not developed the methodology to monitor carbon in the context of the JMAM. However, a monitoring system for measuring a diversity of impacts and achievements will be established throughout the institutional structure. |

Getting REDD+ Done

Achieving REDD+ that is (a) undertaking intervention strategies that address the country drivers of deforestation and (b) mobilizing the financial resources to pay for it.

Addressing drivers of deforestation

What are the main strategies and programmes to reduce deforestation (e.g. increase protected areas, support shift to sustainable agricultural practices, increase law enforcement)?

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| Accomplishments | The ABT has implemented deforestation programmes. |
| Ongoing | The ABT has a number of programs in place to reduce deforestation. |
| Planned | Under the JMAM, programmes will be implemented to address deforestation and its drivers. |
| Gaps/Next steps | There is the need to provide financial support for the implementation of the JMAM at the regional level, and to move forward the effective implementation of the JMAM. |

Finance

What resources is the country counting on to pay for REDD+ implementation (e.g. multilateral, bilateral, own country resources, voluntary and offset carbon markets)? How much has been committed, transferred and disbursed?

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| Accomplishments | In 2010 Bolivia signed an agreement with UN-REDD to implement a national REDD+ programme with an initial endowment of US\$4.7 million from the German Development Cooperation, this was then amended to allow the funds to be used to support the JMAM. |
| Ongoing | (see above) |
| Planned | At the moment, Bolivia plans to support the JMAM through the establishment of an international institutional architecture connected to the Green Climate Fund, from bilateral and multilateral cooperation and from public funding assigned to the JMAM. Also, national funding will be important for the functioning of the JMAM. |

WWF (PLANNED) ACTIVITIES UNTIL 2015 & PARTNERS

WWF-Bolivia has planned to carry out the following REDD+ related activities through 2015:

- Policy support to the Bolivian climate change negotiating team in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Technical support for the design of instruments for the Bolivian joint mitigation and adaptation mechanism.
- Technical support for integrated forest management.
- Implementation of pilots/proof of concepts to further develop and correct the model on integrated forest management, such as land use practices to avoid forest fires, thus deforestation and degradation.

100%
RECYCLED**OUR VISION**

WWF's global Forest and Climate Initiative is working to ensure that REDD+ significantly contributes to the conservation of tropical forest and thereby to the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation for the benefit of people and nature.

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This publication is made possible through a partnership with WWF-Germany. To learn more about the REDD+ related work of WWF-Germany, visit: bit.ly/11ABTFx

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www.panda.org/forestclimate

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END NOTES

1. Muller, R. et al. 2011. Proximate causes of deforestation in the Bolivian lowlands: An analysis of spatial dynamics. <http://www.cifor.org/online-library/browse/view-publication/publication/3622.html>
2. Carbon Planet. 2012. Greenhouse Gas Emissions By Country: http://www.carbonplanet.com/country_emissions