

## **Submission by Honduras**

### **(7) Methodological Guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management, of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.**

The Government of Honduras, in response to the invitation to Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.25, welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in its paragraph 71(c).

#### Overview

As part of the elaboration of its Readiness Preparation Proposal that outlines the process by which the Government of Honduras will develop its national strategy for participating in REDD+, in particular in the analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation presented in the document "Evaluación Preliminar sobre Causas de Deforestación y Degradación de Bosques en Honduras", through empirical analysis and systematic research an understanding has been gained on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country.

Honduras has prepared this submission in order to provide elements that contribute to facilitate decision making during the next session of the SBSTA and COP regarding how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, on the basis of lessons learnt and work already carried out by the country, as they relate to the elements discussed in this submission.

#### Drivers

Recalling paragraph 3 of Decision 2/CP.13 that encourages Parties to explore a range of actions, identify options and undertake efforts, including demonstration activities, to address the drivers of deforestation relevant to their national circumstances, with a view to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and thus enhancing forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests, Honduras highlights the importance of undertaking national studies to analyze the proximate and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Further to that, Honduras considers that, given the relevance of these studies in order to optimize the process of reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation at the national level, financial support from Annex I countries to elaborate the diagnostic framework to assess and address the relevant drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries should be made available at a scale sufficient to perform those studies in phase one of REDD+.

as described in paragraph 73 of decision 1/CP.16, and then additional funding should be provided to facilitate the implementation of actions.

Honduras considers that the aforementioned analysis while providing lessons that are country specific is instrumental to the overall effectiveness of REDD+.

Fiscal implications of addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation should be taken into account when considering a framework and assessing resources needed to address both domestic and international drivers. Opportunity costs of alternative activities and costs of policy incentives are a relevant consideration, in particular in those developing countries where a few agricultural activities provide major fiscal resources and finance key imports.

Honduras supports the idea that a means to disseminate lessons learnt and successful experiences in addressing underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation should be made a specific component of the international REDD+ system, given similarities across countries in particular in relation to international indirect drivers.

Lessons learnt on the barriers to complete a diagnostic framework include gaps in the availability of data and information, insufficient financial resources and availability of resources to generate pertinent information in a systematic manner.

Honduras considers that tenure issues, forest governance issues, in particular capacity to enforce an existing appropriate legal and regulatory framework, and gender considerations are essential components of a robust and effective REDD+ mechanism and financial resources and political commitment are both essential to ensure that safeguards are fully implemented.