



Blue Carbon NAMA: Conserve and Restore Mangroves in the Dominican Republic

NAMA Profile # 8

Seeking support for preparation

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The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the Island of Hispaniola, in the Caribbean region. With an estimated population of 10,478,756, the main activities in the Dominican Republic are manufacturing, communications, trade and agriculture [1].

The Dominican Republic is an island of 48,320 square km mainly divided into agricultural land (51.5%), forest (40.8%) and land used for other purposes (7.7%) [1]. The country is also one of 124 countries in which mangrove forests are developed. According to a FAO study, mangroves in the Dominican Republic declined from 34,400 ha in 1980 to 21,215 ha in 1998 [2]. This loss can be attributed to agriculture, real estate development, tourism and other factors [3]. According to Counterpart International (Dominican Republic partner in designing this NAMA), without alternative livelihoods, many coastal communities are forced to clear mangrove forests in order to make room for salt ponds, shrimp farms, tourism enterprises or other income sources [4].

NAMA Description

The primary goal of this NAMA is to restore and conserve mangroves in the Dominican Republic. By doing so, the country will be able to sequester and store substantial carbon and reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere by: one, seeking to increase understanding about the NAMA's potential, increasing commitment while also leveraging, and where possible enhancing, the national-level policy environment; two, accurately quantifying the country's current and potential carbon sequestering and storage capacity and looking at potential carbon credit income for the Dominican Republic; and three, engaging the private sector and communities around the country to actively support conservation and restoration efforts.

NAMA activities

This objective will be accomplished through several steps as stipulated in the NAMA, consisting of six major activities:

- Quantify the carbon sink capacity of mangroves through a comprehensive inventory and analysis of ecological conditions and carbon stocks that are intact, under threat or notably degraded.
- Quantify carbon sink capacity, which will contribute to generating emission allowances, emission credits and other types of CO₂ compensation certificates.
- Build national and local institutional capacity to assess the CO₂ sequester capacity of mangroves in order to transform the entire sector to a net carbon sink development path.
- Prompt national dialogue on how to leverage carbon credits through policies and financial mechanisms that help the agriculture, fishing and tourism sectors, promoting greater competitiveness for small and medium-sized businesses.
- Develop national strategies to restore and reforest mangrove systems that engage communities, provide economic incentives and improve livelihoods for mangrove ecosystem conservation and reforestation.
- Establish a NAMA Knowledge Toolkit that will enable knowledge transfer to other organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean and to public and private sector leaders that are facing the same challenges. This toolkit will:
 - Apply an emerging field of tools, products and services that cater to the coastal ecosystem financing and management to design a NAMA;
 - Identify transformational change, co-benefits, financial ambitions and GHG mitigation potential;
 - Design technical and financial components that can reduce GHG emissions;
 - Increase the volume of public and private finance mobilized for low carbon investment and development;
 - Target those who directly benefit from the NAMA Support Project; and
 - Support activities to catalyze impact beyond the project.

NAMA relevance in the national policy context

The proposed NAMA is in line with the national policies and plans outlined below:

- Law no. 64-00; Party to the Ramsar Convention [5] : This law recognizes the importance of protecting, preserving and sustainably using natural resources for the wellbeing of humanity, underscoring the need for special protection of the unique, but fragile, threatened and deteriorated, natural resources of the country, and for urgent measures to halt deforestation. The law also recognizes the essential duty of the State, which assumes the responsibility of protecting and restoring the environment.
- Law 01-12 of the National Development Strategy [6] : This law establishes a more moderate, but legally-binding, target for reducing carbon emissions, which is to reduce emissions by 0.8 metric tons of carbon per capita.

Support required for preparation of the NAMA

The total amount of support requested by this NAMA is US\$1,500,000, the majority of which will focus on designing the NAMA. The decision was made to split the amount into technical support and capacity-building support.

For technical support, Counterpart International will help the Dominican Republic by working with communities and scientists to conduct carbon stock assessments and compiling the national inventory report for the Climate Council (a national entity). It will also help to complete the NAMA's request for support for implementation, including the framework for national level actions.

Capacity-building support will be provided first at the national level to ensure that the government and other stakeholders are informed and participating in the NAMA. The rest will take place at the community and provincial levels to strengthen institutional capacities to manage NAMA preparation and implementation.

Salient features of the Proposed NAMA

Sector : Forestry

Technology : Carbon capture and storage

Type of action : National/Sectoral policy or programme

GHGs covered by the action : CO₂, N₂O and CH₄

Expected timeframe for the preparation : 18 months

Implementing entity : National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism

Total estimated cost of action : \$1,500,000

Required support for the implementation of the action : \$1,500,000

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References

1. The World Factbook. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dr.html>
2. UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The World's mangroves 1980 – 2005. Rome, 2007.
3. NAMA Registry entry, NS-189 Blue Carbon NAMA: Conserve and Restore Mangroves in the Dominican Republic <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nama/layouts/un/fccc/nama/NamaSeekingSupportForPreparation.aspx?ID=115&viewOnly=1>
4. Counterpart International. Counterpart Partners with the Dominican Republic Presidential Climate Council. Available at: <http://www.counterpart.org/blog/counterpart-partners-with-dr-presidential-climate-council>
5. Dominican Today. Environmental Protection: Law 64-00. 2005. Available at: <http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/business-guide/2005/8/6/3438/ENVIRONMENTAL-PROTECTION-LAW-64-00>
6. The REDD Desk. REDD in Dominican Republic. Available at: <http://theredddesk.org/countries/dominican-republic>

The series of NAMA profile is produced by the NAMA and Registry Unit of the non-Annex I Support Sub-Programme of the Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme (MDA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat based on the information recorded by Parties in the NAMA registry. The objective of NAMA profile is to enhance visibility of NAMA which increases probability for obtaining international support and encourages similar mitigation actions in the developing countries.

The NAMA registry is a dynamic, web-based platform to record nationally appropriate mitigation actions by the developing countries and support available and/or provided by the Parties and entities for such mitigation actions. Further, the registry aims to facilitate the matching of NAMAs with available support. The participation in the registry is voluntary and the registry contains only information that has been submitted specifically for recording purpose. For any queries and assistance in relation to the NAMA registry, please contact: NAMA-registry@unfccc.int and NAMA-support@unfccc.int

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