

The LEAF Coalition
Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance



May 13, 2022

Call for Proposals

Performance-Based Public-Private Coalition for Tropical and Subtropical Forest Conservation

The Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition aims to raise global climate ambition and contribute to halting tropical and subtropical deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

It is a voluntary global coalition bringing together companies and governments to provide finance for tropical and subtropical forest protection at a scale not seen before.

The Call for Proposals aims to provide substantial financial support to tropical and subtropical countries that successfully reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Coordinated by



Instructions

Jurisdictions are invited to fill out this proposal template as an expression of their interest to participate in transactions related to the LEAF Coalition. Jurisdictions are invited to provide a cover letter signed by the highest relevant authority in their proposal submission.

Data included in the proposal should provide information on the jurisdiction's ability to meet ART TREES requirements and the ambition and readiness to implement activities to generate Emission Reductions and Removals while ensuring the full and effective participation of stakeholders. These are important criteria to determine eligibility and the proposal selection process.

To demonstrate a basic level of readiness to meet ART TREES requirements, jurisdictions submitting proposals to the LEAF Coalition should at minimum have in place the following:

- *An overall NDC target that includes forests*
- *A National Forest Monitoring system that is closely aligned with TREES carbon accounting requirements*
- *An existing REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan in place at the national level that can be used to develop the TREES Implementation Plan*
- *A Safeguards Information System (SIS) or an analogous system for providing information on addressing and respecting safeguards*
- *A Summary of Information (SoI) (national governments) or report on safeguards at the appropriate scale that is consistent with national reporting to the UNFCCC (Subnational governments)*

Where the elements listed above are not currently in place, jurisdictions should identify any existing gaps and provide a plan for addressing those gaps including a timeline and a description of the financial and technical support that has been secured or is in the process of being secured to address the gaps. Jurisdictions that demonstrate significant gaps in readiness and that do not provide an indication of plans for addressing such gaps will not be considered eligible at this time. Jurisdictions wishing to demonstrate higher levels of readiness are also encouraged to prepare a high-level gap assessment of conformance against TREES requirements to complement their proposal submission.

Please submit copies of the proposal in English and the jurisdiction's official language (if not English) in Word or PDF format. Please do not send scanned copies of the proposal. Jurisdictions are encouraged to provide succinct and clear responses, including relevant links where applicable. Throughout the review process, Emergent will follow-up with further questions on a case-by-case basis.

LEAF Proposal Submission – Department of Chocó, Colombia

Table of Contents

Instructions	1
Contact and Consent Form	4
ART TREES Eligibility and Documentation	6
Carbon Accounting	8
Forest Emissions Reductions Targets	8
ERR Rights and Double Counting Provisions.....	8
National Forest Monitoring System	10
TREES Carbon Accounting for High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) Jurisdictions	10
TREES Carbon Accounting for Non-HFLD Jurisdictions	12
TREES Carbon Accounting for Removals.....	13
MRV and Technical Gaps	15
Cancun Safeguards	16
Safeguard Information System and Summary of Information on Safeguards	16
TREES Safeguard Requirements	16
Safeguard Gaps	19
REDD+ Policy Overview.....	20
NDC Commitments	20
REDD+ Implementation Plan	20
Policies and Measures	22
Use of Proceeds.....	23
Benefit Distribution	23
Financial Intermediary (FI).....	23
Transaction Pathways	24
REDD+ Policy and Implementation Gaps.....	25



Contact and Consent Form

Proposal submitted by (Name of Jurisdiction): Chocó Department
Institution name: Government of Chocó and the Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Choco-Codechocó.
Country: Colombia
Focal point's name, title: Mr. Luis Armando Cuesta, Atrato Regional Coordinator, Codechocó.
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
Email address: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Legal authority, Contacts, and Implementation Arrangements:

Please describe the legal authority to represent country or jurisdiction, key jurisdictional contacts and government entities managing the jurisdictional program. Please indicate preferences for how subsequent correspondence with the jurisdiction should be handled.

This expression of interest is submitted jointly by the Department of Chocó and the Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Chocó - Codechocó. The jurisdictional program is coordinated by Codechocó and all communications concerning this expression of interest and the jurisdictional program should be directed to the focal point of the entity: Mr. Luis Armando Cuesta, Atrato Regional Coordinator of Codechocó.

Colombia is organized as a unitary Republic which implies that it has a single legal order valid for its entire territory and its political power is exercised by the central government structure. It is territorially organized by departments, municipalities, districts and other special divisions such as indigenous territorial entities. The departments are the first level territorial units in Colombia. One of Colombia's 32 departments is the Department of Chocó. The departments are administered by a governor and an assembly of deputies elected in popular elections. The governor is the head of the sectional administration and legal representative of the department.

The Regional Autonomous Corporations are public corporate entities, created by law, integrated by territorial entities and endowed with administrative and financial autonomy, their own patrimony and legal representation. The Regional Autonomous Corporations are in charge of administering, within the area of their jurisdiction, the environment and renewable natural resources and promoting their sustainable development, in accordance with legal provisions and the policies of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. The legal representative of the Regional Autonomous Corporations is its general director, who is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The jurisdiction of the Corporación Autónoma Regional para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Chococó - CODECHOCÓ, comprises the entire territory of the Department of Chocó.

Accordingly, this expression of interest is signed by the Governor of the Department of Chocó and the General Director of CODECHOCÓ.

Expression of Consent

The Jurisdiction, by checking this box, agrees to negotiate in good faith towards entering into an Emission Reductions Purchasing Agreement (ERPA) with Emergent, if the proposal is selected by the LEAF Coalition for further negotiation.

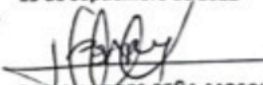
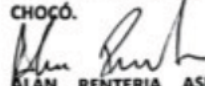
The Jurisdiction, by checking this box, acknowledges and gives consent to the online publication of this Proposal Submission in both English and the jurisdiction's official language if it is to be assessed as eligible by the LEAF Coalition. All Annexes to the Proposal Submission will be considered confidential and will not be published without the express consent of the jurisdiction.

The Jurisdiction, by checking this box, acknowledges that it must notify REDD+ stakeholders located within the TREES Accounting Area, including but not limited to, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), of this submission to LEAF and make the proposal publicly available to relevant stakeholders, in an accessible language to them.

Date of submission: 15 September, 2022

Name of authorized representative: BORIS ANDRÉS PEÑA MOSQUERA, Chocó Governor-in-charge
ALAN RENTERÍA ASPRILLA, General Director-in-charge, Codechocó

Signature:

Fecha de presentación: 15 de Septiembre de 2022
Nombre del representante autorizado:

BORIS ANDRÉS PEÑA MOSQUERA – GOBERNADOR (E) DEL CHOCÓ.

ALAN RENTERIA ASPRILLA – Director General (E) CODECHOCÓ
Firma:

ART TREES Eligibility and Documentation

1. Please check the applicable category that best defines the jurisdiction (see [TREES 2.0 section 3.1](#))

- National government
 - The TREES Accounting Area is national
 - The TRESS Accounting Area is subnational

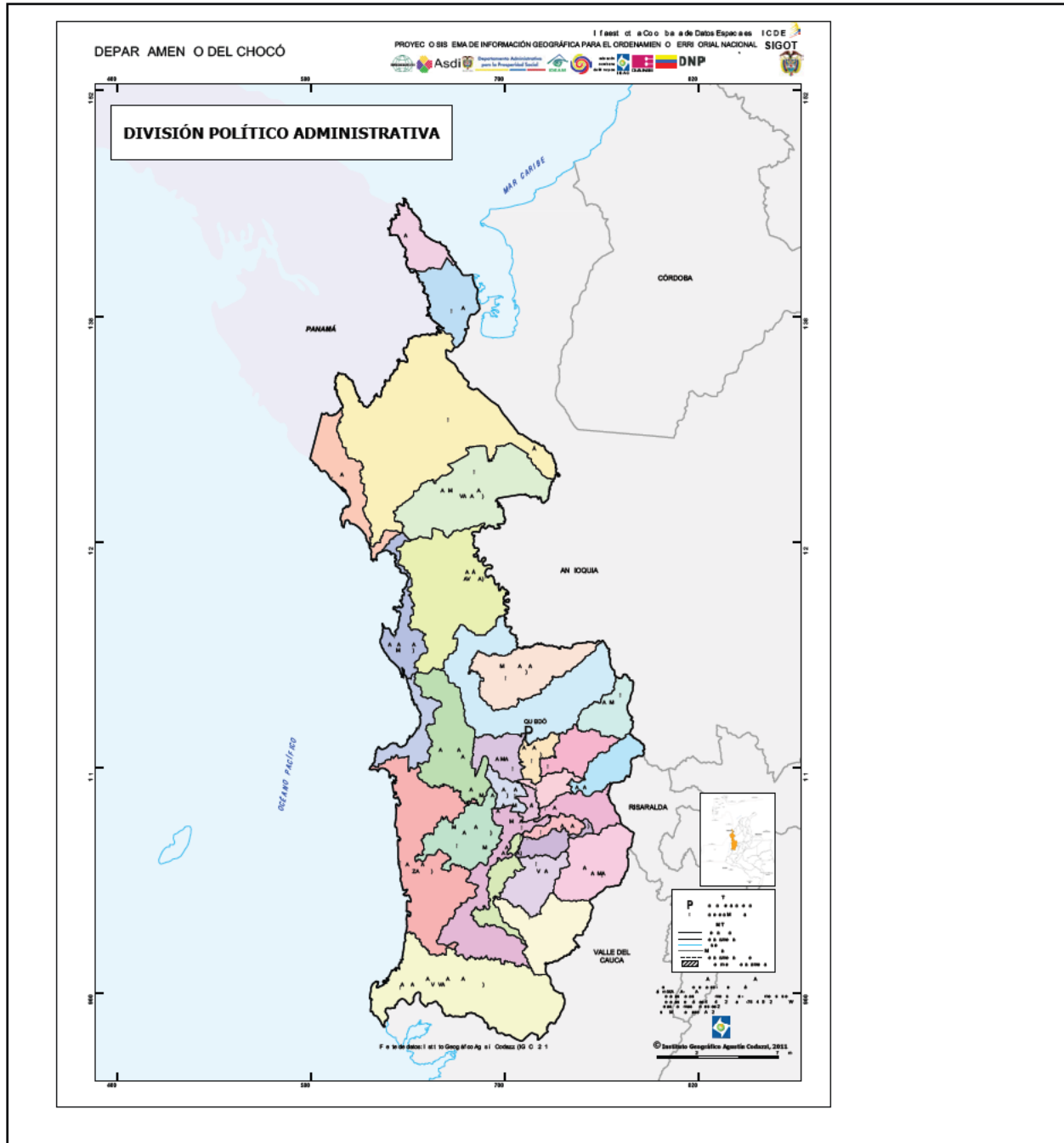
- Subnational jurisdiction (single subnational entity no more than one level down from national level)
 - By checking this box, the jurisdiction acknowledges that ART requires a letter of authorization from the national government allowing the subnational Participant’s application to and participation in ART.

2. Please provide a description of the TREES Accounting Area including the Accounting Area boundaries, and the total forest area contained within the Accounting Area. Please explain how the TREES Accounting Area boundaries meet the eligibility criteria in section 3.1 of the TREES 2.0 Standard. If the accounting area is subnational, please attach a map of boundaries.

The accounting area corresponds to the entire department of Chocó. The Department of Chocó has a continental area of 47,969.4 Km2 (4,796,941 hectares) and coasts on the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Politically, the department is constituted by 30 municipalities and its capital is the city of Quibdó. According to the National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (www.ideam.gov.co) in 2018 the department of Chocó had a stable forest area of 3,581,341 hectares.

The proposed accounting area complies with the requirements contained in section 3.1 of the TREE 2.0 standard as follows:

- 1. The boundaries of the accounting area of the subnational area correspond to the entire area of the administrative jurisdiction;*
- 2. The forest area in the accounting area is greater than 2.5 million hectares at the beginning of the crediting period.*
- 3. The crediting period ends on December 31, 2030.*



3. Please check the box that best applies to the jurisdiction on the status of the [TREES Concept Form](#):

- The jurisdiction has **NOT** submitted a TREES Concept Form to ART
- The jurisdiction has submitted a TREES Concept Form to ART that is **pending approval**
- The jurisdiction has submitted a TREES Concept Form to ART that has **been approved and listed** on the ART Registry



Carbon Accounting

Forest Emissions Reductions Targets

4. Please describe any quantified goals or targets to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation or increase sequestration in the forest sector.¹ Explain if and how these targets have been incorporated into the estimate of TREES Credits provided as part of the proposal. Please include any relevant timelines for meeting these goals or targets.

The deforestation emissions reduction target proposed for the accounting area is in line with the national target (see section 22) and seeks to reach zero deforestation by 2030. To this end, an intermediate goal is proposed for the end of the period (2022-2026) to reduce deforestation to 3,000 hectares/year, equivalent to a 64% reduction with respect to the average of the last 5 years (8,381 ha/year). This target is expected to be achieved gradually with annual reductions of approximately 1,000 ha/year. This deforestation reduction target was directly incorporated into the calculation of projected emissions during the period 2022-2026 for the calculation of the TREES credits presented in this proposal.

ERR Rights and Double Counting Provisions

5. Please describe the means (i.e., legal frameworks, regulations, administrative orders, benefit sharing agreements, contracts, or other means) by which the jurisdiction has clear ownership over or rights to the benefits from the Emissions Reductions and Removals (ERR) the jurisdiction has included in its indicative TREES Credit estimates (Questions 9-15 of the Proposal) in conformance with the requirements under Annex A of TREES 2.0. If the jurisdiction has rights to only a subset of those ERRs generated, please indicate the % that the jurisdiction has rights to. Please provide links to any relevant legislation or documentation.

The Colombian legal framework that establishes the requirements and rights of any public or private person to opt for payments for results as a consequence of mitigation initiatives that generate greenhouse gas emissions reductions and removals, is contained in Article 175 of Law 1753 of 2015 as amended by Article 17 of Law 2169 of 2021 (Climate Action Law). According to said article, in order to opt for payments for results of a mitigation initiative, the holder of the initiative must previously register it in the National Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals (RENARE) of which the National Registry of Programs and Projects of Actions for the Reduction of Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation of Colombia (REDD+) is part. The RENARE was regulated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development through Resolution 1447 of 2018. In addition to the registry (Article 33), Resolution 1447 of 2018 establishes other requirements that REDD+ programs must comply with related to the use of methodologies for the formulation of the programs (Article 28), their baseline (Article 29), the establishment of mitigation targets (Article 30), additionality (Article 31) and validation and verification criteria (Article 32). Additionally, the Resolution includes provisions for evaluating

¹ For example, a forest target or goal could be to reduce deforestation by X% and increase forest cover by X% by 2050 at a national or subnational scale.

overlap between mitigation initiatives (e.g. REDD+ projects) and does not allow for continuing the registration process when the overlap is of a "non-compatible" type.

The proposed program is currently in the registration process in RENARE at a feasibility stage. Considering that there are REDD+ projects previously registered in RENARE within the proposed accounting area, in accordance with Article 51 of Resolution 1447, the jurisdiction will only be able to register and have rights over verified GHG reductions in areas that do not overlap with these projects.

6. Please provide a preliminary description of the plan and procedures to ensure double counting is avoided per Section 13, TREES Standard. Please disclose any existing GHG programs or projects under which some or all of the accounting area may generate credits or payment for performance during the years 2022-2026 for TREES eligible activities as well as any existing agreements for transactions or other commitments for the projected TREES Credits.

As mentioned above, in the proposed accounting area there are REDD+ projects previously registered in RENARE. The table in ANNEX 1 lists these projects. The proposed program does not have any agreement of transactions or commitments for the projected TREES Credits .

Colombian regulations and specifically those related to RENARE contain provisions to avoid double accounting of REDD+ projects in the three aspects mentioned in section 13 of the TREES standard. 1. To avoid duplicate issuance of verified reductions from the same accounting area, RENARE prevents the registration of programs and/or projects with overlapping areas from the feasibility phase until the completion of implementation. Therefore, the proposed program will register in RENARE only the non-overlapping area with the registered REDD+ projects. In case of overlap, RENARE prevents further registration and will not be able to verify or cancel its emission reductions or removals (Article 18). To avoid duplication of the use of verified reductions, RENARE requires that during the implementation phase the holders of REDD+ projects and programs report the amounts of reductions or removals generated, verified by accredited validation and verification bodies, and cancelled. Cancelled amounts may not be transferred to other persons, nor be used to qualify for payments for results (Article 17). To avoid duplication of claims, Article 175 of Law 1753 of 2015, as amended by Article 17 of Law 2169 of 2021, establishes that registration is mandatory for mitigation initiatives that intend to qualify for payments for results or similar compensation, including international transfers. It also establishes that the mitigation results obtained by the National Government in the framework of national or territorial programs to reduce GHG emissions may not be subsequently offered through projects in the carbon market.

Finally, in the event that after registration in the RENARE of the proposed REDD+ program, a REDD+ Project intends to register in the program area, it must request the status of implementing partner to the Program holder (Codechocó) or the exclusion of the overlapping area. The program will prepare and upload to RENARE a plan for the involvement of implementing partners that will indicate the methodological, operational and mitigation results recognition guidelines, as well as the criteria for evaluating the compatibility of the structure and mitigation activities required of the projects.



National Forest Monitoring System

7. Please describe the status of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and the approaches used to establish emissions factors and generate activity data to quantify emissions from deforestation and degradation as well as forest removals. Describe how the methods used and the frequency of monitoring aligns with the TREES 2.0 requirements (see Section 4, TREES 2.0). Please provide a copy or link to the description of the current NFMS.

Since 2012, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies -Ideam in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development -MADS established the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System -SMBYC (smbyc.ideam.gov.co) as the official scientific tool for continuous and frequent monitoring of forest area and deforestation in Colombia, to issue early warning reports on deforestation, estimate the carbon content of natural forests and make technical contributions to the development of the national accounting system for GHG emissions (especially those related to REDD+). Specifically for obtaining activity data, the biennial maps of changes in forest cover are used, which are the result of biennial monitoring of forest cover from 2000 to 2012 and annually from 2013 onwards.

The generation of SMBYC data is based on the digital processing of satellite images and the analysis of this available primary and secondary information. This scheme allows quantifying deforestation in Colombia and knowing the dynamics of land cover change. The digital methodological process of satellite images includes four major phases associated with the treatment of satellite data for the generation of activity data, namely: 1) Digital pre-processing of satellite images, 2) Digital image processing, 3) Data validation using a random and stratified sampling design; 4) Reporting of activity data.

A detailed description of the methodological process for generating information on changes in forest area is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/umab3td>.

For the calculation of emissions from deforestation, the proposed program will use the emission factors calculated for the construction of the Colombian National Reference Level NREF and reported to the Convention in 2020 (https://redd.unfccc.int/files/02012019_nref_colombia_v8.pdf) . The factors included in the NREF include aboveground biomass, belowground biomass and soil organic carbon, whose estimates were made at the national level and for each of the biomes in Colombia. Only the aboveground and belowground biomass reservoir factors for the Pacific biome were used for this proposal.

TREES Carbon Accounting for High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) Jurisdictions

OPTIONAL SECTION: Complete if the jurisdiction is eligible to apply the HFLD Crediting Level and has elected to do so, otherwise leave blank. If HFLD jurisdictions complete this section, they are not required to complete the section for Non-HFLD jurisdictions.

8. Please provide a description of how the jurisdiction meets the HFLD eligibility requirements in Section 5.2.1 of TREES 2.0. Include the calculated HFLD scores for each year of the historical reference period across the selected TREES accounting area.

The jurisdiction do not comply with the elegibility criteria for High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD)

9. Volume estimates must be calculated in alignment with TREES 2.0 requirements (Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, and Annex A). Please provide as an Annex, an Excel workbook² containing the calculation of TREES Credits. In the table below, provide a summary of the carbon accounting data from the Excel workbook including the estimated volume of TREES Credits expected to be available to transact for LEAF Coalition participants.

Vintage (year)	TREES Crediting Level (tCO ₂ e)	HFLD Crediting Level (tCO ₂ e)	Projected Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Emissions Reductions (tCO ₂ e)	Avoided Foregone Removals (tCO ₂ e)	Buffer Deduction (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage Deduction (tCO ₂ e)	Uncertainty Deduction (tCO ₂ e)	Deductions for DC and Rights* (tCO ₂ e)	Total TREES Credits** (tCO ₂ e)
Total										

* Identify deductions required to comply with measures to avoid double counting, address instances where rights to the credits cannot be demonstrated at this time, and/or to account for instances where the TREES Credits have been committed elsewhere and are not available to the LEAF Coalition

**Net of deductions

10. Please include the following in the response below:

- Explain how the annual emissions reductions were estimated; justify how they are achievable and, if applicable, how they align with any stated forest targets
- Provide a justification for the % deduction applied for buffer, leakage, and uncertainty following the TREES 2.0 requirements
- Provide a brief explanation of how deductions in Column 10 (Deductions for Double Counting and Rights) were estimated and included in the calculation of TREES Credits

² The Excel accounting workbook provided should include transparent calculation formulas, labeled units for data, and source data references, such that all source data inputted into calculations of TREES Credits is traceable and easily reviewed for accuracy.



- Explain any assumptions made to estimate the Total TREES Credits (e.g., assumptions made to estimate the TREES Crediting Level, projected emissions, or estimates of TREES deductions).
- Please indicate the expected timeline for completing the first validation/verification under ART along with the expected frequency of subsequent verifications

[Provide response here, 1000 word limit]

TREES Carbon Accounting for Non-HFLD Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction must complete section if not HFLD or has not elected to apply the HFLD Crediting Level. HFLD jurisdictions that completed the previous section can leave this section blank.

11. Volume estimates must be calculated in alignment with TREES 2.0 Standard requirements (Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, and Annex A). Please provide as an Annex, an Excel workbook³ containing the calculation of TREES Credits. In the table below, provide a summary of the carbon accounting data from the Excel workbook including the estimated volume of TREES Credits from emissions reductions expected to be available to transact for LEAF Coalition participants.

Vintage (year)	TREES Crediting Level (tCO2e)	Projected Emissions (tCO2e)	Emissions Reductions (tCO2e)	Buffer Deduction (tCO2e)	Leakage Deduction (tCO2e)	Uncertainty Deduction (tCO2e)	Deductions for DC and Rights* (tCO2e)	Total TREES Credits** (tCO2e)
2022	2,492,111	1,784,200	707,911	141,582	52,293	52,293	248,363	124,091
2023	2,492,111	1,486,833	1,005,278	201,056	201,056	74,259	352,691	176,217
2024	2,492,111	1,189,467	1,302,645	260,529	260,529	96,225	457,019	228,343
2025	2,492,111	892,100	1,600,011	320,002	320,002	118,191	561,346	280,469
2026	2,492,111	892,100	1,600,011	320,002	320,002	118,191	561,346	280,469
Total	12,460,557	6,244,700	6,215,857	1,243,171	1,243,171	459,160	2,180,765	1,089,590

* Identify deductions required to comply with measures to avoid double counting, address instances where rights to the credits cannot be demonstrated at this time, and/or to account for instances where the TREES Credits have been committed elsewhere and are not available to the LEAF Coalition

**Net of deductions

³ The Excel accounting workbook provided should include transparent calculation formulas, labeled units for data, and source data references, such that all source data inputted into calculations of TREES Credits is traceable and easily reviewed for accuracy.

12. Please include the following in the response below:

- Explain how the annual emissions reductions were estimated; justify how they are achievable and, if applicable, how they align with any stated forest targets
- Provide a justification for the % deduction applied for buffer, leakage, and uncertainty following the TREES 2.0 requirements
- Provide a brief explanation of how deductions in Column 10 (Deductions for Double Counting and Rights) were estimated and included in the calculation of TREES Credits
- Explain any assumptions made to estimate the Total TREES Credits (e.g., assumptions made to estimate the TREES Crediting Level, projected emissions, or estimates of TREES deductions).
- Please indicate the expected timeline for completing the first validation/verification under ART along with the expected frequency of subsequent verifications

Annual emissions were calculated based on the target level of deforestation during the crediting period and applying the corresponding emission factor. Deductions were applied according to TREES requirements as follows:

- 1. The deduction to form the buffer applies equation 8 with a contribution percentage of 20% which discounts the mitigation factor 1 corresponding to the existence of legislation or executive decrees that actively implements and supports REDD+ actions. The legislation taken into account for this factor correspond to the climate change laws (Law 1931 of 2018), climate action (Law 2169 of 2021) and Resolution 1447 of 2018, all of them with specific provisions that support REDD+ activities in Colombia.*
- 2. Leakage deduction applies TREES equation 9 taking the 20% deduction of the high category of leakage in due to the jurisdiction includes less than 25% of the forest area in the country.*
- 3. The uncertainty deduction is made based on the estimate of the uncertainty level calculated by Colombia's NREF, applying equations 10 and 11 for the TREES adjustment factor.*
- 4. The deduction for double accounting and carbon rights deducts the emission reductions proportionally to the area of REDD+ projects registered in RENARE with respect to the total accounting area. This calculation is preliminary, and will be updated according to the historical proportion of deforestation within REDD+ projects to total deforestation in the jurisdiction.*

The TREES certification level was calculated according to section 5 of TREES 2.0 and based on historical levels (2017-2021) of deforestation in the accounting area (activity variable) according to official reports from the National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System and the emission factor calculated by Colombia's NREF reported to the UNFCCC (2020). The emission factor includes above and below ground biomass pools.

The first validation/verification will be performed in the second semester of 2023 once IDEAM publishes the 2022 forest cover change report. Subsequent verifications will be annual.

TREES Carbon Accounting for Removals

OPTIONAL SECTION: Complete if the jurisdiction has elected to include Removals, otherwise leave blank.



13. Volume estimates must be calculated in alignment with TREES 2.0 requirements (Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, and Annex A). Please provide as an Annex, an Excel workbook⁴ containing the calculation of TREES Credits. In the table below, provide a summary of the carbon accounting data from the Excel workbook including the estimated volume of TREES Credits from removals expected to be available to transact for LEAF Coalition participants.

Note: In conformance with TREES 2.0 requirements (section 5.3), where the jurisdiction has data to distinguish between natural regeneration and commercial forests, please fill out full table below, providing a TREES Removals Crediting Level for commercial forests only. If data is not available to differentiate between natural regeneration and commercial forests, no data should be allocated to the “Projected Removals – Natural Regeneration” column, and instead the Removals Crediting Level and “Projected Removals – Commercial Forests” columns should contain removals data for both commercial forests and areas of natural regeneration following TREES requirements.

Vintage (year)	TREES Removals Crediting Level (tCO2e)	Projected Removals – Natural Regeneration (tCO2e)	Projected Removals – Commercial Forests (tCO2e)	Buffer Deduction (tCO2e)	Leakage Deduction (tCO2e)	Uncertainty Deduction (tCO2e)	Deductions for DC and Rights* (tCO2e)	TREES Total Credits** (tCO2e)
Total								Jurisdiction did not choose to include forest catches

* Identify deductions required to comply with measures to avoid double counting, address instances where rights to the credits cannot be demonstrated at this time, and/or to account for instances where the TREES Credits have been committed elsewhere and are not available to the LEAF Coalition

**Net of deductions

14. Please include the following in the response below:

- Explain how the annual emissions reductions were estimated; justify how they are achievable and, if applicable, how they align with any stated forest targets
- Provide a justification for the % deduction applied for buffer, leakage, and uncertainty following the TREES 2.0 requirements

⁴ The Excel accounting workbook provided should include transparent calculation formulas, labeled units for data, and source data references, such that all source data inputted into calculations of TREES Credits is traceable and easily reviewed for accuracy.

- Provide a brief explanation of how deductions in Column 8 (Deductions for Double Counting and Rights) were estimated and included in the calculation of TREES Credits
- Explain any assumptions made to estimate the Total TREES Credits (e.g., assumptions made to estimate the TREES Crediting Level, projected emissions, or estimates of TREES deductions).
- Please indicate the expected timeline for completing the first validation/verification under ART along with the expected frequency of subsequent verifications

*Jurisdiction did not choose to include forest catches
[Provide response here, 1000 word limit]*

MRV and Technical Gaps

15. If the National Forest Monitoring System is not fully functional or there are significant gaps in technical capacity to produce the data needed to conform to the TREES 2.0 requirements, please provide a plan that includes the following:

- Description of gaps in NFMS and/or technical capacity to meet TREES
- Description of the necessary financial and technical support that has been secured or is in the process of being secured to address remaining gaps
- Timeline for addressing gaps and an estimate of the potential impact on the timing for the issuance of TREES credits

A plan for addressing gaps can be provided as an annex. Assessments of conformance with TREES requirements, such as the UNDP PLANT Tool, should be provided where available. All Annexes to the Proposal Submission will be considered confidential and will not be published without the express consent of the jurisdiction.

Colombia's national forest monitoring system (Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques y Carbono) is fully functional and complies with TREES 2.0 requirements. The system has been generating monitoring of forest area, non-forest area and forest area change annually during the period 2013 to 2021 and for the periods 2010-2012, 2005-2010, 2000-2005, 1990-2000. The system also generates quarterly early warnings of deforestation and different technical documents.

A detailed description of the methodological process for generating information on changes in forest area is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/umab3td>.

Codechocó works in coordination with IDEAM, verifying in the field the change in land use in deforested areas and responding to deforestation alerts.



Cancun Safeguards

Safeguard Information System and Summary of Information on Safeguards

16. Please describe the status of the jurisdiction’s Safeguards Information System (SIS) or an analogous system for providing information on addressing and respecting safeguards, including whether the system is currently operational at the appropriate scale (see Section 3.1, TREES 2.0). Please also identify whether the jurisdiction has submitted a Summary of Information (Sol) (national governments) or report on safeguards at the appropriate scale that is consistent with national reporting to the UNFCCC (Subnational governments) (see Section 3.1, TREES 2.0). Please provide a link to the current Safeguard Information System (or analogous system) or provide supporting documentation describing the design of such systems. Please also provide a link to the current Sol if available.

Colombia has submitted two reports on safeguards for REDD+ to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, describing progress in the construction of the National System of Safeguards. According to the last report of 2017, the country has a proposal for the design of the national safeguards system that is being disseminated and receiving comments from stakeholders, and in parallel is advancing in its components: the national interpretation of safeguards, the definition of the regulatory and institutional framework and in the compliance framework, which includes the tools to enforce compliance with the safeguards and a mechanism for citizen attention and information system. The information system is under design and is not operational.

Colombia's latest safeguards report can be downloaded from the following link: https://archivo.minambiente.gov.co/images/cambioclimatico/pdf/Reed_/SEGUNDO_RESUMEN_DE_INFORMATION_DE_SALVAGUARDAS_ENFASIS_EN_LA_AMAZONIA.pdf

The latest country report contains the identification of risks and safeguards measures for the Visión Amazonía REDD+ program that can serve as a compliance reporting model for REDD+ programs.

Regarding safeguards information systems, Resolution 1447 of 2018 includes in the National Emission Reduction Registry (RENARE) information regarding compliance with environmental and social safeguards, for the project level. According to the Resolution REDD+ Projects shall register in the RENARE information on compliance with environmental and social safeguards, and in particular:

- a. Land ownership and tenure conditions in the area of intervention.*
- b. Consent of owners, possessors or occupants.*
- c. Compatibility with land use and territorial planning instruments.*

TREES Safeguard Requirements

17. Please describe how the SIS or analogous system for providing information on safeguards will inform TREES safeguards conformity and explain whether the national government has a national safeguards

framework/approach, developed in line with the Cancun Safeguards, that can be used as a foundation for meeting TREES Safeguards requirements (Section 12, TREES 2.0).

As mentioned above, the Safeguards Information System in Colombia is under design and is not operational to provide information in compliance with the TREES safeguards. However, the country has developed other tools that could be used as a basis for meeting the requirements of the TREES Standard safeguards. In particular, the country uses as a reference framework for the application of safeguards the National Interpretation of Social and Environmental Safeguards document, which can be consulted at the following link:

<https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Interpretacion-Nacional-Salvaguardas-Sociales-y-Ambientales.pdf>

18. Please indicate whether a gap assessment has been carried out to determine the level of conformance with the TREES Safeguards structure, process, and outcome indicators. If a gap assessment has already been conducted, please fill out the table below to indicate for each TREES Safeguard Theme whether the jurisdiction can demonstrate conformance against the TREES structure and process indicators (see Section 12, TREES 2.0). Assessments of conformance, such as the UNDP PLANT Tool, should be provided as an annex where available. All Annexes to the Proposal Submission will be considered confidential and will not be published without the express consent of the jurisdiction.

A gap assessment has not yet been conducted to determine the level of compliance with the structure, process and outcome indicators of the TREES safeguards.

Complete	Jurisdiction can demonstrate conformance with the indicator
Partially Complete	Jurisdiction can demonstrate progress towards meeting indicator and provide a plan for meeting such indicator prior to the start of the indicated Crediting Period
Incomplete	Jurisdiction has no evidence to demonstrate conformance or progress towards conforming to the indicator

Use the guide above to fill the table below and please remove example answers prior to completing with jurisdiction-specific information:

Cancun Safeguard	Theme	Structure Indicator	Process Indicator
Cancun Safeguard A	Theme 1.1	Example: Complete	Example: Partially Complete



Cancun Safeguard A	Theme 1.2	Example: Incomplete	
Cancun Safeguard B	Theme 2.1		
Cancun Safeguard B	Theme 2.2		
Cancun Safeguard B	Theme 2.3		
Cancun Safeguard B	Theme 2.4		
Cancun Safeguard C	Theme 3.1		
Cancun Safeguard C	Theme 3.2		
Cancun Safeguard C	Theme 3.3		
Cancun Safeguard D	Theme 4.1		
Cancun Safeguard D	Theme 4.2		
Cancun Safeguard E	Theme 5.1		
Cancun Safeguard E	Theme 5.2		
Cancun Safeguard E	Theme 5.3		
Cancun Safeguard F	Theme 6.1		
Cancun Safeguard G	Theme 6.2		

19. Please provide a high-level description of the measures the jurisdiction is currently implementing to ensure that stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities are involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ activities including the development of benefit sharing plans. Explain how the rights of Indigenous People and local communities are being respected and protected in conformance with TREES Cancun Safeguards B, C, and D and how they will continue to be respected and protected throughout the TREES Crediting Period. Finally, please specify how the jurisdiction intends to address gender equity and social inclusion in the implementation plan, investment framework and benefit-sharing plans or agreements.

CODECHOCÓ is implementing measures and actions for the conservation of natural forests according to the Institutional Action Plan 2020-2023 (see numeral 25). For the formulation of the plan, a process of community participation was carried out using various means: four (4) workshops were held, one for each regional area of the Corporation's jurisdiction, involving a diversity of institutional, economic, educational and community stakeholders (black, indigenous and peasant). Working groups were also established with the Departmental Indigenous Roundtable, which brings together all the organizations of this ethnic group in the department; institutional roundtable, with significant participation of the Environmental Research Institute, the Technological University of Chocó and environmental organizations. In these events, strategic actions and joint work with the actors were agreed upon to advance in the sustainability of the Department's environmental heritage; mainly, to articulate the institutional work with the civil society in relation to the environmental situations and priorities of the territory. The contributions of the participants in the participation spaces were documented and included in the plan (see section 4.5 of the Plan).

Additionally, as part of the Payment of Environmental Services (PES) Strategy that will be used for benefit sharing, CODECHOCÓ will establish the following tools:

- 1. a guide or protocol for the PES agreement process in collective territories of black and indigenous communities to comply with the requirements of free, prior and informed consent.*
- 2. A standard format for payment for environmental services agreements with ethnic communities.*

3. *A technical study on the calculation of reference values of opportunity costs for payment for environmental services in collective territories.*

4. *Capacity building workshops for black and indigenous communities on REDD+ projects and the carbon market.*

CODECHOCO will also establish on its website, a public information system with projects and agreements for payment for environmental services in the Department and a citizen attention mechanism for requests, complaints and claims.

Safeguard Gaps

20. If the jurisdiction does not have an operational SIS (or analogous system) or has not submitted a Sol to the UNFCCC (national governments) or has not prepared a report on safeguards at the appropriate scale that is consistent with national reporting to the UNFCCC (subnational governments), please provide a plan that includes the following:

- Description of what steps are needed to ensure an operational SIS (or analogous system) and/or completing the submission of a Sol (or analogous report)
- Description of the necessary financial and technical support that has been secured or is in the process of being secured to address gaps
- Timeline for operationalizing the SIS (or analogous system) and completing Sol (or analogous report)

A plan for addressing gaps can be provided as an annex.

As mentioned in the previous section, as part of the implementation of the Payment for Environmental Services Strategy, CODECHOCÓ plans to implement an information system with the payment for environmental services agreements and a guide or protocol to ensure that these agreements are agreed upon with community stakeholders and approved by their respective authorities. The guide or protocol will also include provisions to incorporate gender equity. This information system will be the basis for reporting compliance with the safeguards.

The PES Strategy, which is currently under review for approval, includes a budget and potential funding sources for financing this system and the other proposed tools. The system is expected to be implemented in early 2023.

21. If a gap assessment has not been carried out by the jurisdiction to identify conformance against the TREES Safeguards⁵, please provide a plan that includes the following information:

- Description of the proposed process for identifying and resolving gaps in TREES Safeguard Structure and Process Indicators
- Description of the necessary financial and technical support that has been secured or is in the process of being secured to identify gaps in conformance with TREES Safeguard requirements
- Timeline for conducting the gap assessment

⁵ Note that conformance with the TREES Safeguard Structure and Process Indicators must be demonstrated at the start of the TREES Crediting period to be eligible to issue TREES Credits.



A plan for addressing gaps can be provided as an annex. Assessments of conformance such as the UNDP PLANT Tool should be provided where available. All Annexes to the Proposal Submission will be considered confidential and will not be published without the express consent of the jurisdiction.

In accordance with the progress of this payment by results proposal, CODECHOCÓ will initiate the process of evaluation and identification of gaps in the TREES safeguard structure and process indicators, making it compatible with the National interpretation document of the Cancun safeguards. This evaluation will be carried out by CODECHOCÓ staff in the first quarter of 2023.

REDD+ Policy Overview

NDC Commitments

22. Please describe the NDC targets at the national level and please specify if the national government includes forests as part of their NDC target in alignment with TREES requirements (Section 3.1.2, TREES 2.0).

The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was updated in 2020. In the NDC Colombia commits to: Emit at most 169.44 million t CO2 eq in 2030 (equivalent to a 51% reduction in emissions with respect to projected emissions in 2030 in the baseline scenario), initiating a decrease in emissions between 2027 and 2030 tending towards carbon-neutrality by mid-century. The mitigation target includes a deforestation emissions reduction target that is calculated independently and in a unified manner at the national level in line with the projections of the National Reference Scenario (NREF) until 2030, and is monitored through the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC). This target contemplates a reduction in emissions from deforestation equivalent to reducing the rate of deforestation to 50,000 ha/year in 2030. However, using cooperative and market-based approaches, the NDC proposes a complementary target of reducing deforestation to zero (0) ha/year by 2030.

REDD+ Implementation Plan

23. Please share whether an existing REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan is in place at the national level that will be used to develop the REDD+ Implementation Plan required under TREES and provide a link to relevant documentation (see [Section 3.2, TREES 2.0](#)). If not, please provide a plan to prepare a national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan, including cooperation with technical and institutional partners.

For Subnational Participants only: Please indicate if the jurisdiction has identified the relevant REDD+ interventions from the National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan that will be implemented at a subnational level.

Since 2009, Colombia has been engaged in a multi-stakeholder process to develop a National REDD+ Strategy. Colombia named its National REDD+ Strategy "Forests Territories of Life" - Integrated Strategy for the Control of Deforestation and Forest Management (EIDCGB)". To achieve the objective of reducing deforestation and forest degradation through the management and sustainable use of forests, the EIDCGB proposes five lines of action: 1. Socio-cultural management of forests and citizen awareness, 2. Development of a forest economy to close the agricultural and livestock frontier, 3.

The National Strategy can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/EIDCGB-Bosques-Territorios-Vida.pdf>

The proposed program has identified the measures of each line of action of the strategy that will be implemented as follows: Action Line 1- Sociocultural Management of Forests and Public Awareness: measures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Action Line 2: Development of a forest economy and closure of the agricultural frontier measures 1, 4, 5 and 6 Action Line 3: Cross-sectoral management of land use planning and environmental determinants: measures 1. .Action Line 4: Permanent monitoring and control. measures 1, 2 and 3. Action Line 5: Generation and strengthening of legal, institutional and financial capacities: measures 2 and 3.

24. If a REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan at the national level is not yet in place or if a subnational participant has not yet identified relevant REDD+ interventions from the National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan that will be implemented at a subnational level, please provide a plan that includes the following:
- Description of steps needed to finalize a REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan at the national level and/or steps needed to identify the relevant REDD+ interventions from the National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan to be implemented at a subnational level
 - Description of the necessary financial and technical support that has been secured or is in the process of being secured to address remaining gaps
 - Timeline for completing the national level REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan and/or identifying subnational REDD+ activities aligned with the national level REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan and an estimate of the potential impact on the timing for the issuance of TREES credits

A plan for addressing gaps can be provided as an annex.

Not applicable

Policies and Measures

25. Please provide a summary of the policies and measures that have been (or will be) implemented to effectively to reduce deforestation/forest degradation and enhance sequestration in the jurisdiction. Where possible, provide a reference to where this information is publicly provided.

CODECHOCÓ has been implementing various policies and measures to reduce deforestation as part of its functions as the highest environmental authority in the Department of Chocó, including the environmental management of the territory, the authorization of the use of natural forests, and the control and monitoring of factors that deteriorate the forest. Additionally, within the framework of its Institutional Action Plan (PAI) for the 2020-2023 period, it makes environmental investments that promote forest conservation. Specifically, the programs and projects contained in the PAI that directly focus on reducing deforestation are the following:

Program 1: Planning and management of strategic ecosystems and biodiversity:

Project 1.1. Conservation and management of strategic ecosystems for the conservation of Chocó's forests.

Project 1.3. Strengthening of green businesses for the conservation of Chocó's forests.

Project 1.4. Recovery of areas degraded by anthropogenic activities as a strategy for the conservation of Chocó's forests.

Program 2: Knowledge, regulation and control for environmental sustainability.

Project 2.1: Exercise of environmental authority for the conservation of Chocó's forests.

Project 2.4. Strengthening of Forest Governance for the Sustainable Management of Chocó's Forests.

Program 3. Strengthening environmental co-responsibility.

Project 3.3. Strengthening of spaces for environmental management as a strategy for the sustainability of Chocó's forests.

The Plan contains the description of each project, its objectives, goals, products, indicators and resources allocated from the entity's budget.

The Action Plan is published on the Corporation's web page (www.codechoco.gov.co) and can be consulted at the following link:

<https://codechoco.gov.co/loader.php?lServicio=Tools2&lTipo=viewpdf&id=368>.

Use of Proceeds

26. Please describe how proceeds from transactions with the LEAF coalition will be used to ensure the long-term success of measures to reduce deforestation and degradation and promote sustainable development. In providing an initial outline of this investment framework, please keep in mind the following aspects: consistency of investments with the host jurisdiction's NDC, relevance of the investment to address direct and indirect drivers of deforestation, and incentives for forest restoration.

Proceeds from transactions with the LEAF coalition will be used for:

- 1. Finance the payment for environmental services strategy as a long-term instrument that links ethnic communities in the governance and conservation of the forests.*
- 2. Strengthen the financing of the Action Plan's investment projects related to forest conservation (see previous section).*
- 3. Strengthen Codechocó's institutional capacities as a regional environmental authority for forest conservation in its jurisdiction.*

Benefit Distribution

27. Please describe any existing systems for the distribution of benefits from REDD+ proceeds to stakeholders in the jurisdiction, including to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) (e.g., for other programs like Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, bi-lateral agreements, or Green Climate Fund funding). If possible, please provide links to such plans.

As mentioned in the previous section, part of the proceeds from the transactions with the LEAF coalition will be used to finance the strategy of payment for environmental services in the Chocó jurisdiction, which seeks to establish payment agreements for environmental services for the reduction and capture of greenhouse gases with ethnic communities (black and indigenous) prioritized for the reduction of deforestation. Colombia has a legal and regulatory framework for the establishment of such agreements (Decree Law 870 of 2017 and Decree 1007 of 2018) which includes payment modalities, targeting of areas, beneficiaries, actions to be recognized, and methodologies to establish the value of the economic incentive in money or in kind to beneficiaries, which include ethnic communities. Therefore, the distribution of benefits with the communities will be carried out through the payment for environmental services agreements financed with the income from the transactions with the LEAF coalition.

Financial Intermediary (FI)

OPTIONAL SECTION: Complete if the jurisdiction has identified a possible FI, otherwise leave blank.

28. A Green Climate Fund (GCF) accredited entity (FI) must be identified by the HJ as a channel for the disbursement of funds. FIs will ensure that robust monitoring and reporting procedures on the use of

proceeds are in place. If available, please provide the name of the proposed institution(s) and indicate if there have been initial discussions or negotiations.

Taking into account the entity's previous experience in managing REDD+ projects, we have identified the GCF accredited entity Fondo para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez (Fondo Acción) as a possible financial intermediary.

Discussions and negotiations with this entity have not yet begun.

Transaction Pathways

29. Please indicate the jurisdiction's willingness to transact under each of the four pathways listed in the Call for Proposals (CFP) document under "Nature of transactions". Please identify and describe any legislative and/or political barriers to transact under certain pathways.

The Department of Chocó is willing to carry out transactions in any of the first three pathways listed in the Call for Proposal (CFP) document. No regulatory or political obstacles have been identified that would prevent these transactions from being carried out.

It is not considered feasible at this time to carry out transactions under Track 4, because the country has not yet regulated the mechanisms and requirements for requesting the international transfer of mitigation results for the purpose of meeting international targets, nor how internally to account for the corresponding adjustments.

30. For jurisdictions willing to transact under Pathway 4:

Please indicate if the jurisdiction will have the appropriate reporting mechanisms and the ability to apply a corresponding adjustment in alignment with Article 6 guidance, by issuance of credits. If applicable, please indicate the portion of total ERRs for which the jurisdiction proposes to make a corresponding adjustment to the national account.

Not applicable

REDD+ Policy and Implementation Gaps

31. Please identify any significant gaps in capacity or existing barriers to implement REDD+ policies and measures to generate ERRs and provide a high-level plan for addressing those gaps and/or barriers.

No significant gaps were identified for the application of REDD+ policies and measures in the Department of Chocó.