



WWF

FACTSHEET

2013

REDD+ Inspiring Practices

## MAPPING MADRE DE DIOS

The participative development of a baseline forest carbon map in the Peruvian Amazon

### SNAPSHOT

#### What

- » Gathering official information for a REDD+ baseline map through capacity building and participative processes

#### Who

- » Civil society organizations, including national and local non-governmental organizations
- » Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD)
- » WWF-Peru

#### Where

Madre de Dios region,  
Peruvian Amazon

#### When

2009–Ongoing

#### Project Team

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A participatory process, involving multiple stakeholders, was used to develop a forest carbon map for Madre de Dios.

### SUMMARY

This REDD+ Inspiring Practice highlights the participative process the regional government employed to collect validated information on deforestation patterns and to develop a forest carbon map for the Madre de Dios region in the Peruvian Amazon. This collaborative process was successful thanks to a focus on strengthening the existing technical and institutional capacity of the regional government and civil society.

### EXPECTED CHANGES

- Strengthen capacities of the regional government and local specialists in REDD+, especially related to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV).
- Gather deforestation and carbon baseline data in a participative and coordinated way involving key stakeholders and taking advantage of existing information from early mapping initiatives in Madre de Dios.
- Establish a regional monitoring system designed and assessed in coordination with the national and regional government, which is participatory, effective, and technically and financially feasible.

**“I AM DELIGHTED THAT REGIONAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO MEET AND OFFER REAL IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS BASED ON OUR LOCAL EXPERIENCE TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.”**

Edith Pipa Cruz  
(GOREMAD)

## CONTEXT

The Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD) needed to implement a land use plan for its natural resources that both fulfilled a national mandate from the Ministry of Environment and followed the REDD+ nested approach adopted by Peru. To do this, the government sought to collect data on deforested areas. While information from various isolated studies was available, none of it was officially validated. There was also a growing demand for official information on deforestation, as many REDD+ initiatives started up in the region.

To help meet the increasing need for official deforestation data, the Technical Consortium on REDD+ was formed. The goal of the group was to revise existing

studies on deforestation and to define a methodology to estimate deforestation rates, biomass and carbon information.

Due to a number of technical and institutional difficulties, the Consortium did not achieve its objectives. In order to overcome these problems and continue with the process, in 2009 GOREMAD created the Climate Change Technical Committee, from which several working groups were formed. One of these subgroups was the Roundtable of Environmental Services and REDD+ (MSAR), whose work focused on land use planning, sustainable development, and tools and mechanisms for climate change mitigation.

## STAKEHOLDERS

### DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN, MAKE DECISIONS, AND RECEIVE BENEFITS.

- Amazon Forests
- Amazon National University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD)
- Association for the Amazon Basin Conservation (ACCA)
- Ministry of Environment (MINAM)
- Native Federation of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD)
- Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA)
- Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD)
- Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP)
- Research and Integrated Development Association (AIDER)
- Sustainable and Rural Development (DRIS)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

### STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

PROVIDE MATERIAL, HUMAN, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

- Conservation International (CI)
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)
- Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD)
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Sall Family Foundation, Inc.

### INDIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INFLUENCE PRACTICE WITHOUT BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

- Chestnut Pickers and Traders
- Federation of Forest Concessionaires
- Forest and Wildlife Program



## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- **2009—Creation of the REDD+ Technical Consortium:** The government is interested in calculating deforestation rates to better monitor its natural resources. To do this, it organizes an international workshop and invites representatives from civil society, private companies and international organizations. As a result, the REDD+ Technical Consortium is formed. The 10 participating institutions in the consortium sign collaboration agreements to work together. The Consortium works for over two years, but does not ultimately meet expectations due to inadequate tools, a lack of local capacity, and communication challenges among technical teams.
- **2010—Reactivation of the Regional Roundtable of Environmental Services and REDD+:** In 2010, public and private institutions and civil society call for the reactivation of MSAR, a group that had been previously established but had not focused on REDD in the past. This year, MSAR begins holding monthly meetings that lead to concrete results, including the development of a governance structure, an agreed upon definition of responsibilities; and the creation of technical, legal, institutional, financial and social working groups.
- **2010–11—Improved National and Sub-national Government Coordination:** At a national level, MINAM collaborates on REDD+ with the National Forest Conservation Program for the Mitigation of Climate Change. At a regional level, MSAR coordinates with MINAM to strengthen technical, scientific and institutional capacities for the implementation of REDD+ in the region. MINAM assigns a technical assistant to support the integration of the REDD+ regional initiative in Madre de Dios at a national level.
- **2011—Strengthening of Local Capacities in Monitoring, Reporting and Verification:** WWF and the local university (UNAMAD) develop the first Diploma on Environmental Management and

REDD+ with a specialization in Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) to strengthen technical capacities. After five months of rigorous training on the scientific foundations of climate change and REDD+, the first class of 35 participants from GOREMAD, NGOs, universities and private professionals graduates.

- **2012—Participative Definition of Criteria and Protocols for the Preparation of a Carbon Baseline:** The preparation of the carbon baseline is collaboratively developed by the biomass technical committee within MSAR, headed by WWF-Peru, along with experts from the University of Leeds (United Kingdom), government institutions, universities, grassroots associations, private institutions and NGOs.
- **2012—MSAR Established as Key Regional REDD+ Actor:** MSAR defines a work plan through 2014 focusing on environmental services and REDD+. Sub-committees elect their leaders and develop topic-specific work plans. GOREMAD successfully presents its experience at the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force annual meeting.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Technical

- Experts and officials defined the methodology to estimate the deforestation baseline in accordance with international guidelines and standards. The process involved a comparison of methods and tools that were suggested by a large number of national and international organizations. The National Agrarian University of Lima developed the selected methodology. MSAR has recognized the importance of this process and submitted it to GOREMAD so that it is defined as a technical standard.



Edith Pipa Cruz and Nelson Gutierrez Carpio

**"I AM VERY EXCITED THAT THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM MADRE DE DIOS WERE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER, DISCUSS OPTIONS, AND AGREE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS IMPORTANT MAPPING INITIATIVE."**

Nelson Gutierrez Carpio  
(WWF-Peru)



#### 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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**Why we are here**  
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
[www.panda.org/forestclimate](http://www.panda.org/forestclimate)

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## CHALLENGES

- Management discontinuity and political instability led to frequent changes in GOREMAD authorities, prevented smooth progress and impacted planned programs.
- Participatory processes often take longer than anticipated. Although the strength of this initiative came from the fact that the local groups and the regional government worked together, this took significant time.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- **It is vital to have a minimum level of local capacity for a truly participative technical process.** This is especially relevant when there are scientific or technical discussions about complex subjects that may cause confusion, such as MRV. Moving forward and defining concrete plans and objectives was only possible once there was a trained and informed critical mass in the region that had participated in the Environmental Management and REDD+ Diploma.
- **A high rate of government turnover makes an informed local population even more essential.** While the Madre de Dios government was trained in relevant issues, the work process was hindered by a frequent rotation of government officials in and out of the project. This political instability also held up the consolidation of the technical information acquired over the course of the initiative. Having a critical mass of knowledgeable individuals outside of the government can help guarantee the continuity and constancy of processes despite frequent political changes.
- **MRV tools need to be flexible, simple to use, easily available and appropriate for the context.** Technical tools should be developed taking the local situation, local technicians and local capacities into consideration. Using tools that don't meet the specific needs of the community hinders work.

- The Biomass and Carbon Baseline sub-committee for Madre de Dios, led by WWF, compiled information from 600 forest plots installed by various public and private organizations. The University of Leeds (United Kingdom) helped analyze data coming from those quadrants, defined the needs and suggested a protocol to measure forest carbon in Madre de Dios. The protocol suggests a methodology for the inventory of carbon stock estimates, describes the decision making process, and gives recommendations for the inventory design, field measurements and data analysis and processes.

### Institutional

- MSAR now operates regularly under the leadership of GOREMAD with the financial support of several international institutions and NGOs. MSAR has taken on the responsibility of building a REDD+ baseline in Madre de Dios and is coordinating the efforts of various groups that had previously been working individually in the area. GOREMAD and civil society groups in Madre de Dios are working together to implement environmental services and REDD+ projects that support a national strategy.
- The first Diploma in Environment Management and MRV has led to an increased understanding of this complex topic in the region. While there were a number of less-coordinated efforts to provide technical training in the past, the formal structure now in place is led by an academically respected local university (UNAMAD) with several leading research institutions as collaborators.
- Local community members can actively participate in the decision-making by voting on and validating results. This has led to greater local engagement, more opportunities for technical capacity building, and greater financial support for REDD+ projects in the region.