



# National Programme Submission Form Argentina

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME TWELFTH  
POLICY BOARD MEETING

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7-9 July 2014

Lima, Peru

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## National Joint Programme (NJP) Submission Form to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

### 1. Policy Board Submission

Policy Board Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. 12	Inter-sessional Meeting <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Meeting: 7 - 9 July 2014	Date of Inter-sessional Decision:

### 2. National Joint Programme Summary

#### *Details of National Joint Programme*

Country	Argentina
Programme <sup>1</sup> Title	Argentina R-PP
Implementing Partner(s) <sup>2</sup>	Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development

#### *Details of Participating UN Organizations' Representatives*

UN Resident Coordinator: <i>Name:</i> Mr Rene Mauricio Valdés	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> 54114-3208701/2 <i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:rene.mauricio.valdes@undp.org">rene.mauricio.valdes@undp.org</a>
FAO: <i>Name:</i> Mr Martin Santiago <i>Title:</i> FAO Representative in Argentina	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> +5411 4349-1976 / +5411 4349-1985 <i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:FAO-AR@fao.o">FAO-AR@fao.o</a>
UNDP: <i>Name:</i> Mr Benigno Rodriguez <i>Title:</i> Deputy President Representative	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> +54 11 4320 8704 <i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:benigno.rodriguez@undp.org">benigno.rodriguez@undp.org</a>
UNEP: <i>Name:</i> Mr Gabriel Labatte <i>Title:</i> Regional coordinator	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> + 507 305-3100 <i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:gabriel.labbate@unep.org">gabriel.labbate@unep.org</a>

#### *Type of National Joint Programme*

Full NJP:	Initial NJP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Full NJP	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initial NJP
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from an Initial NJP	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from previous funding
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)

<sup>1</sup>The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

<sup>2</sup>Refers to National counterparts. List the lead entity first.

### **3. Executive Summary**

The first National Native Forest Inventory, completed in 2005, estimated a total of more than 31 million hectares of native forests in Argentina. Between 1996 and 2011, more than 4 million ha of forests were lost. This loss is increasing, and in the past decade deforestation rate amounted to 1.22%. Deforestation hotspots are in the Parque Chaqueño and Selva Misionera ecosystems in the north; with serious degradation in the Yungas and the Patagonian Andean forests.

Action to reduce deforestation is demonstrated by the approval by National Congress of two acts: (1) Act 26331 on Minimal Standards for Native Forest Environmental Protection at the end of 2007; and (2) rules of procedure under National Decree 91. A pilot project on Native Forest Management and Conservation was begun in 2009. Thirty environmental and social civil organizations participated in the enactment of Act 26331, supported by 1.5 million signatures from citizens all over the country.

The Forests Act establishes the Native Forest Land-use Management (OTBN) system and promotes the investment of financial resources in forest protection and management, in all provinces in a participatory manner. A National Fund aims to strengthen technical and control capacities among provincial governments, and compensate owners for preserving their forests and the environmental services they provide to society. Between 2010 and 2014, US\$300 million was invested, financing 2,475 sustainable management and native forest preservation plans (implemented by owners, indigenous peoples or European descendants, among others).

Further work is needed to strengthen the institutional capacity of provincial governments, improving land use sustainability, further technical and financial support on drivers of deforestation, national forest monitoring and improving dispute resolution mechanisms, land tenure systems, benefit distribution systems and a national accountability system including information on social and environmental benefits.

With respect to climate change, a Governmental Committee on Climate Change (CGCC), a cross-sectoral group, has elaborated a national strategy for mitigation and adaptation to be integrated in national policies under a structured, ongoing interaction process with the relevant ministries. Another institutional arrangement relevant to the coordination of cross-sectoral policies is the National Advisory Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (CONADIBIO).

#### **Summary of Roadmap components**

The UN-REDD Programme will be implemented in coordination with several initiatives related to the Forest Act; with other forest management-related national activities; and with other agencies and international cooperation programmes, e.g. the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The US\$ 3,591,000 requested by Argentina to the UN-REDD Programme are a contribution to the national REDD+ readiness, considering that there are other initiatives that work for the same purpose in the country and with whom synergies will be established.

The current UN-REDD National Programme (NP) proposal is based on the analysis and guidelines established in Argentina's R-PP and those emerging from discussions with various stakeholders during the UN agencies' missions in the country since 2008. This allowed to identify the country's needs concerning REDD+ and, afterwards, prioritize UN-REDD Programme's axes of support.

This Roadmap sets out how Argentina will implement its REDD+ Readiness activities and develop a comprehensive National REDD+ Strategy in Phase 1 of REDD+. Considering progress made and challenges faced in the forestry and climate change sectors in the country, the Government's and other local stakeholders' (including indigenous peoples and peasant communities) concerns and the comparative advantages of the United Nations organizations constituting the UN-REDD Programme, Programme support will focus on four components consistent with the REDD+ decisions adopted by the UNFCCC – particularly, those of Cancun and Warsaw – and also respond to what was set forward in the R-PP. These four components are described as follows:

The Roadmap has four components described below.

1. Drafting of a REDD+ National Strategy (REDD+ NS)

Work will be carried out to disseminate information by means of a communication platform between REDD+ and stakeholders, and to implement a consultation protocol (currently under development) on the REDD+ Strategy and its implementation – specifically geared towards indigenous peoples to generate inputs for the development of the Strategy. The second aspect consists of developing and analyzing dialogue spaces, specific technical inputs and operative aspects for implementing the strategy. These technical inputs will emerge as a result of activities that are specific to this component, as well as from working on thematic areas described below. The third aspect refers to the assembling of these inputs in order to elaborate a first draft of the REDD+ Strategy. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) and UNDP will guide this component in collaboration with FAO and UNEP to develop relevant technical inputs and support their structuring. Based on its traditional collaboration with ministries of Agriculture, FAO will also support inter-agency coordination with the agricultural sector.

2. Establishment of the National Forest Reference Emissions Level

In order to measure country performance concerning its activities for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, the working program will focus on building a national reference level disaggregated by eco-regions. Data inputs will be sourced from the satellite system and the national forest inventory (INF), as well as other data coming from several academic institutions.

Technical capacities in the country will be strengthened so as to obtain an adjusted and robust reference level through a step-by-step approach, building on national capacities and progress in this respect. The development of a joint methodology to define a reference level will be supported; afterwards, we will move on to the establishment or reference levels through a gradual process leveraging basic available information until a more accurate indicator for a specific eco-region is

generated. FAO will guide this process together with the relevant units within SAYDS, and it will endeavour to ensure that the country has the necessary capacity to continue the process (or reproduce it) once Programme support concludes.

### 3. Strengthening of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Based on the progress made by the country so far, the objective is to strengthen NFMS capacities under the following pillars: (1) satellite land monitoring system, (2) national forest inventory and (3) greenhouse gas inventory. Work will also be carried out to develop a NFMS web dissemination platform, including an application for keeping record of REDD+ activities. The end product is a NFMS that can be used as a domestic tool, but also responds to REDD+ guidelines. In the context of this component, the technical strengthening of forest degradation monitoring will be looked into closely.

Also, support will be provided to revise the design of the INF through piloting and arrangement proposals responding to REDD+ features. Technical capacity strengthening will be supported, both for collecting and analyzing data, in order to develop allometric equations and volume charts. Regarding the third pillar, the Programme will also support capacity strengthening to carry out GHG inventories by backstopping the creation of an integrated system between National Communications, the national forest monitoring system and the reference level, among others. FAO will guide work on this component in collaboration with the relevant units within SAYDS. Other national institutions will become involved where necessary and relevant. Work will be carried out both at a national and eco-regional level, for instance, through SAYDS regional monitoring hubs.

### 4. Development of a Safeguard Information System (SIS)

The UN-REDD Programme will partially contribute to the development of an SIS through the identification and analysis of possible legal and institutional gaps existing in Argentina, in order to address REDD+ safeguards. Additionally, activities will be carried out for strengthening capacities and identifying the risks of implementing a REDD+ mechanism in the prioritized eco-regions. The three UN agencies participating in the UN-REDD Programme will support these specific activities related to SIS.

Component	Agency	USD
1. Drafting of a REDD+ National Strategy	FAO	160,000
	UNDP	808,200
	UNEP	530,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>1,498,200</i>
2. Development of a national forest reference emission level/reference level	FAO	433,000
	UNDP	
	UNEP	
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>433,000</i>
3. Development of a National Forest Monitoring System	FAO	1,165,000
	UNDP	
	UNEP	
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>1,165,000</i>

4. Development of a Safeguard Information System (SIS)	FAO	10,000
	UNDP	50,000
	UNEP	70,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>130,000</i>
5. Costs of the Programme operations unit, and of monitoring and evaluation	Shared costs (three Agencies)	<i>364,800</i>
	TOTAL	<b>3,591,000</b>
	Indirect costs	251370
	Programme TOTAL	<b>3,842,370</b>

NOTE: A breakdown of the budget allocations using the UNDG “harmonized input budget categories” must be provided to the UN-REDD Secretariat (for onward transmission to the Administrative Agent) with the signed NJP document. Please see Annex 1.

## 5. Secretariat Review

### Submission Criteria

(a)	Is the NJP consistent with the UN-REDD Programme Framework Document?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Has the UN Resident Coordinator been involved in submitting the NJP?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Is documentation of the in-country validation meeting(s) included?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Did the validation include the national government counterpart (or designate)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Did the validation include civil society/Indigenous Peoples representation as per the UN-REDD Operational Guidance <sup>3</sup> ?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Does the NJP comply with the required format ( <i>incl., cover page, results framework, etc.</i> )?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(g)	Does the NJP comply with UN-REDD Rules of Procedure and relevant Operational Guidance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(h)	Is the required budget allocation provided (see section 3 above)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(i)	Are the Indirect Support Costs within the approved rate?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(j)	Is the Programme Summary completed? ( <i>for posting on website</i> )	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(k)	Is the Progress Report included? ( <i>for supplementary funding only</i> )	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If the answer is 'No' or 'Unclear' to any question, or further explanation is required, please provide here:</p> <p>Items a, f and g will be completed at submission of the NP document as at this stage the R-PP itself is being submitted and following PB approval the NPD will be developed.</p>		

<sup>3</sup>In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways:

i. Self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements:

- Selected through a participatory, consultative process
- Having national coverage or networks
- Previous experience working with the Government and UN system
- Demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society/Indigenous Peoples organizations

ii. Representative(s) who participated in a UN-REDD Programme scoping and/or formulation mission and sit(s) on a UN-REDD Programme consultative body established as a result of the mission

iii. Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g. the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Programme Steering Committee)

## 6. Secretariat Review

### *Review Issues*

(l) Ownership of the NJP by government and non-government stakeholders

The R-PP has been prepared and presented by the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development. It is aligned with a number of national policies and processes at country level, indicating contribution to and alignment with national priorities.

(m) Level of consultation, participation and engagement

The records of the validation meeting, the framework for consultation with Indigenous Peoples and the R-PP itself demonstrate a certain level of consultation, notably as REDD+ nationally is now framed in the context of the broader governmental committee on climate change.

However, it is also noted that inputs and consultations have been largely focused with technical people as is the R-PP itself largely focused on technical matters. While it is recognized that the NP covers only some elements of the overall R-PP, it would be important to clarify how, by whom and with which funding stakeholder engagement processes with the private sector, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, farmers and others will be engaged so that they embrace the approach and contribute to Argentina's efforts in REDD+.

(n) Programme effectiveness, coherence with country strategies and other relevant initiatives, and cost-efficiency

Argentina being a large federal country, the R-PP aims at working at both the provincial and federal/national levels. Comparably with the NP in Nigeria, this kind of approach will definitely yield positive dividends by engaging the right decision-making structures for different types of interventions, however will require a significant amount of coordination among scales, of coherence and of adjustments.

The amount requested for the NPD, is realistic given the results aimed at, however there might be issues with absorption capacity. This might create a perverse effect of accelerating implementation and bypassing some consultations, consensus or other processes that require time in order to disburse the funds within the proposed timeframe. It will be critical for both the government and the agencies to apply due diligence in the preparation of the NPD, to candidly assess and discuss absorption capacity and to determine the most realistic and feasible budget.

The R-PP indicates that the programme will be implemented in coordination with other initiatives and notably the FCPF, however there is no further clarification on what these initiatives are, whether national resources will be committed, and what mechanisms would be put in place for coordination purposes. It is understood that the FCPF support is not yet operational however it is recommended to clarify the approach for coordination in the context of the NPD.



## 6. Secretariat Review

### *Review Issues*

(o) Management of risks and likelihood of success

The political and policy context in Argentina is complex in view of (i) its federal structure and sharing of mandates between the national and provincial levels; (ii) the nature of the drivers, primarily commodities, and the political economy of entities associated with these drivers. With that in mind, an Institutional Context Analysis to clarify the roles, power and place in the decision making structure of the country in relation to forest lands would be recommended.

Special attention would need to be provided to aspects related to corruption, abuse of power and the coopting of political decision-makers to the interest of economic drivers. Including some aspects of work on transparency and accountability, despite the focus on 4 elements of readiness, would be recommended at an early stage to avoid any surprises subsequently.

Other points:

The first R-PP for Argentina was developed and submitted to the FCPF PC in 2010, however since then the PAD has yet to be approved. The present R-PP constitutes an update of the previous version, aligning it with the revised format for R-PPs and accounting for issues that have evolved since 2010.

This is one of a series of countries submitting their R-PPs for approval by the UN-REDD PB subsequent to submission to the PC. The level of scrutiny and review – and whether the NPD should be submitted instead – could be guided by the PB.

## 7. Independent Technical Review

(a) Was an independent technical review undertaken?

Yes  No

Three independent reviews were commissioned for this R-PP one of which had not yet been received at the time of completion of the submission form. It will be subsequently attached to this and communicated to the national counterparts for taking into consideration in the preparation of the NPD. The synthesis below highlights the key elements of the reviews, recognizing that additional details are provided in the reviews themselves. The two reviewers focused their assessments respectively on (i) multiple benefits and safeguards; (ii) MRV and NFMS. The third review focused on alignment with the convention and the potential for the proposed approach to support Argentina in accessing performance based funding.

### *Synthesis of Independent Technical Review*

Argentina showed significant progress in its R-PP. It is conceptually robust, adequately links REDD+ elements, and presents a request for funding for additional/specific activities, which provide a sound rationale.

Compared to other countries in the region, the Argentine forestry sector has grown at a much slower rate and is less important in terms of formal participation in the economy. Since REDD+ in Argentina is still at early stages further studies need to be done to fill information gaps that are crucial, such as land tenure, references levels and potential REDD+ specific activities. One of the strength of the Argentinian process is that since the beginning has involved provincial governments.

## 7. Independent Technical Review

Argentina has a strong frame on indigenous participation through a Consult Protocol for indigenous groups. In order to effectively implement REDD+ in Argentina a more in-depth estimation of opportunity costs for various drivers of deforestation should be conducted. Not addressing these issues may limit the effectiveness of the effort. Direct causes of deforestation and degradation are clearly documented for the country and for each forest region; however there is room for improvement in description of subjacent drivers.

The following three challenges identified by UN-REDD Program Strategy should have special attention and should carefully be addressed:

1. Strengthening national governance structures so that REDD+ policies and regulatory frameworks can work effectively.
2. Ensuring equitable and efficient benefit distribution mechanisms.
3. Ability to secure effective, sustainable and predictable fast-start financing for REDD+

The document needs to clarify:

- the role played by natural protected areas in REDD+ readiness phase - they represent about 10% of its territory
- the organization of land tenure in native forest and rural areas
- political direction / coordination framework
- the alignment of agencies and policies
- risks – especially that of domestic leakage
- plans on how to address the policy challenges of decreasing deforestation
- specific strategic options especially to better determine cost effectiveness
- REDD+ Registry
- co-benefits
- inconsistencies in budget computations
- details on the M&E framework
- Grievance Redress Mechanism

To increase likelihood of success, current policies should be improved to target drivers of deforestation and degradation (DD) at different spatial scales, across institutions and sectors, create business/investment opportunities and seek potential crediting. The sources of funding should be identified (public, markets).

There is room for improvement in the overall organization of the document. The last two components are confusing and do not match with the index. The literature cited is limited and there is no list of references.

### 8. Secretariat Response

- Provide comments and request re-submission to a future Policy Board meeting
- Provide comments to be addressed before forwarding to the next immediate Policy Board meeting
- Forward to the Policy Board (with comments if necessary) with a recommendation to fund specific portions or phases (including an inception phase) of the NJP
- Forward to the Policy Board (with comments if necessary) with a recommendation to fund the NJP

Explanation of Response:

Since PB11 and the initial presentation of its R-PP Argentina has deployed notable efforts to improve on the strategy, consultation and focus of its R-PP. In view of the above, the R-PP is put forward to the Policy Board with a recommendation to approve the funding allocation – requesting Argentina to further tighten the focus, improve the clarity of flow of actions, and address the comments provided by the reviewers.

### 9. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board

Decision of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board:

- Full NJP approved, as per budget allocation in Section 4
- Initial NJP approved, as per budget allocation in Section 4
- Approved with a revised budget of \$
- Approved with modification/condition
- Deferred/returned with comments for further consideration

Comments:

**9. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board**

**Gamini Gamage**  
**Additional Secretary, Environment and Policy , Sri Lanka**  
**Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**  
*[Date]*

**Eduardo Rojas-Briaes**  
**Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO**  
**Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**  
*[Date]*

**10. Administrative Agent Review**

Action taken by the Administrative Agent: Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, Bureau of Management, UNDP

Programme consistent with provisions of the UN-REDD Programme MDTF Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Arrangements with donors.

Administrative Agent:  
[Name and title]

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

## Annex 1: Standard Joint Programme Budget

CATEGORY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	NUMBER OF UNITS	AMOUNT**
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	1	1	1,150,000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	1	1	870,000
3. Training of counterparts	3. Training of counterparts	1	1	750,000
4. Contracts	4. Contracts	1	1	650,000
5. Other direct costs	5. Other direct costs	1	1	315,000
<b>Total Programme Costs</b>				3,735,000
Indirect Support costs***				261,450
<b>GRAND TOTAL**</b>		1	1	3,996,450

\*\* The AA requires only completion of 'AMOUNT,' 'Total Programme Costs,' Indirect Support Costs,' and 'GRAND TOTAL.' The Steering Committee may require additional details which can be included in this budget.

\*\*\* Indirect support cost should be in line with the rate or range specified in the Fund TOR (or Joint Programme Document) and MOU and SAA for the particular JP. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs is 7%.

All other costs incurred by each Participating UN Organization in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 62/209 (2008 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review principle of full cost recovery).

Note: This budget format needs to be submitted for each Participating Organization's budget allocation within a National Joint Programme, in addition to the total budget for the entire Joint Programme.