



Supported by:

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TITLE: "Protocol for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) linked to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to the benefit of biodiversity and society (REDD+)" – *Protocol PES – REDD*".

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KEYWORDS: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Paraguay Land Use, ParLu, REDD+, PES-REDD+ Protocol, Paraguay.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a protocol for the implementation of PES at the national level and provide a link to REDD+ financing mechanism.
- Simplify the process to obtain ecosystem services certificates to obtain payments.

MAIN RESULTS

- The PES-REDD+ Protocol simplifies the process and provides the requirements to obtain ecosystem services certificates (Figure 1).
- The PES Protocol integrates REDD+ requirements, such as the free, prior and informed consent, before an area is certified.
- The Protocol includes environmental and social safeguards in the process of certifying areas that provide ecosystem services.
- The Paraguayan Secretariat of Environment (SEAM) used the new PES-REDD+ Protocol as input for an internal administrative re-organization of its Ecosystem Services Direction.
- The Protocol is reflected in a series of SEAM's Official Resolutions that complement the Law 3001/2006 on Payment for Ecosystem Services. The PES-REDD+ Protocol has been incorporated into SEAM'S Official Resolution 199 of 2013.

IMPACT

This protocol identifies the legal requirements for PES and contributes to building capacities of the Paraguayan government. This is a stepping-stone towards the successful implementation of PES schemes in Paraguay.

MORE INFORMATION:

Full report available at: http://parlu.org/fileadmin/user-upload/5 1 PES REDD Protocol.pdf

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

- a. For landowners: copy of property title.
- For tenants: copy of contract, landowner permission, and copy of property title.
- For land occupants or lands own by the Institute for Rural Development and Land Rights (INDERT): copy of census registry.
- d. Others: copy of documents that prove land possession in good faith.
- For indigenous communities: proof of the land possession by any means.

PROPERTIES WITH 20 HECTARES OR MORE

- Technical report proving presence of forests or reforestations with native species additionally to the 25% legal reserve required by the Law 422/73 on Forests.
- One satellite image of the area taken in December of 1986 or a date no latest than January of 1990.
- One recent satellite image of the area of about two months old to the date where the process has been initiated.
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PROPERTIES WITH LESS THAN 20 HECTARES

- Report to certify the presence of two or more hectares of forests or reforestations with native species.
- One recent satellite image of the area of about two months old to the date where the process has been initiated.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AWARED

Affidavit certifying that areas for ecosystem services do not affect indigenous communities or that these communities agree with the certification.

AUDIT COSTS

Commitment of the applicant to cover audit costs, up to once every two years.

FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

Fire Prevention and Control Plan for the area to be certified.

MONITORING AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PLAN

Monitoring and biological control Plan for the area to be certified, the legal forest reserve and riverine forests.

DISEMMINATION THROUGH DIFFERENT MEDIA

The Ecosystem Services Direction will inform about the area to be certified using the following media:

- Website: for a period of ten (10) business days.
- Newspapers: publication during three (3) consecutive days in two newspapers.
- Radio: One radio station with national coverage and another one with local coverage.

COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC

Any individual or group can submit comments, remarks and objections within the ten (10) business days after the last publication. The applicant has five (5) business days to respond to comments. In case comments prove that the possession of the land is in bad faith, the certification will not be granted.

CERTIFICATE ISSUED

Fifteen (15) business days after comments were responded the Ecosystem Services Direction (after receiving the assent of the Legal Support Direction) would issue the ecosystem services certification.

CERTIFICATE NOT ISSUED

In case the Ecosystem Services Direction refuses the application, reconsideration can be asked within five business days.

Figure 1. Requirements to certify areas that provide ecosystem services (PES-REDD Protocol)