

Brazilian “Program for South-South Cooperation in Climate Change and Forests”

The Brazilian experience in developing and implementing effective public policies to protect its forests and curb deforestation and in developing vegetation cover monitoring systems, which allowed better monitoring of the progress of such policies, has prompted international recognition and calls from many countries willing to establish knowledge sharing channels and partnerships for technical and institutional capacity building. The different stages developing countries find themselves in the process to operationalize REDD+ also opens a window of opportunity for cooperation initiatives and exchange of experiences and knowledge among the over 40 countries implementing the instrument under the UNFCCC.

Brazil was the first developing country to meet all the requirements established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) and to complete the implementation cycle of the Warsaw Framework for [REDD+](#) and to have its results (measured, reported and verified) released by the transparency portal of the Convention, the [Lima REDD+ Information Hub](#). The country is now able to receive payments for its RED results achieved in the Amazon biome between 2006 and 2015 - a total emission reduction of 6.1 billion tons of CO₂ and a funding potential of USD 30 billion (considering 5 USD/ tonne of CO₂).

The Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (MMA) is working in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency ([ABC](#)), which integrates the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([MRE](#)), in the development of a **Brazilian “Program for South-South Cooperation in Climate Change and Forests”**. With a focus on REDD+, the Program seeks to coordinate and better meet the demands made by countries interested in knowing the Brazilian experience in implementing the [Warsaw Framework for REDD+](#).

In its [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (NDC), Brazil has recognized the complementary role of South-South Cooperation and has undertaken a commitment to promote efforts, based on solidarity and common priorities of sustainable development, to expand cooperation initiatives with other developing countries and by inviting developed countries and relevant international organizations to further support such initiatives.

Given this context and in line with Brazil’s NDC, the Brazilian “Program for South-South Cooperation in Climate Change and Forests” can generate solutions to common challenges, strengthen institutional, technical and scientific capacities and promote the engagement of developing countries in mobilizing payment resources for REDD+ results.

In addition, to achieve the commitments established by the [Paris Agreement](#) and the goals of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), support, cooperation and partnership among countries must be improved, and in this sense, South-South Cooperation with a focus on REDD+ is a gateway and a key factor for success and implementation of NDCs in developing countries.

The Program has as its **overall objective** to contribute to the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and the achievement of Parties commitments under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, through their NDCs, by strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of developing countries holding tropical forest with potential to generate results of reduction of deforestation and degradation, conservation and increase of forest carbon stocks and

sustainable management of forest resources (REDD+). It also seeks to increase collaboration and exchange at the regional level and to promote the alignment of developing countries in the international negotiations on climate change.

To achieve its overall objective, the Program will converge its efforts on the following **specific objectives**: implement the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other REDD+ decisions under the UNFCCC; develop technical and institutional capacities for the implementation of long-term monitoring systems and free access to information; transform information into public policies and promote their integration to reduce rates of deforestation and forest degradation globally and also promote actions to mitigate greenhouse gases from the forest sector; establish governance structures and national funds to receive results-based funding and jointly build international and national REDD+ resource transfer structures, considering the key role of the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and implement REDD+ Safeguards at the regional level.

For its implementation, the Program proposes the organization of activities into **four general action lines**:

- (i) **Forest Cover Monitoring**: Investments should be made in partner countries to develop technical and institutional skills to develop monitoring systems and to enable free access to information through data sharing platforms - receiving station and access to Brazilian satellites or the ones developed in partnership with other countries (with a focus on land use). Given Brazil's capacity in developing forest cover monitoring technologies and the partnerships already established by the National Institute for Space Research ([INPE](#)) in this area, Brazil considers it to be a strategic starting point to advance South-South Cooperation in this field.
- (ii) **Developing Evidence Based Integrated Public Policy**: the Brazilian government adopted specific [plans](#) to address the drivers of deforestation and to promote sustainable use of natural resources in the Amazon and the Cerrado - the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon ([PPCDAm](#)) and the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation and Forest Fires in the Cerrado ([PPCerrado](#)); they are the product of extensive high level political articulation and of the integration of forest cover monitoring and law enforcement efforts. The implementation of these policies, with the support of states, municipalities and other key actors, contributed to a significant reduction in the deforestation rates in Brazil. Such initiatives have been incorporated in the National Policy on Climate Change ([PNMC](#)) and, along with the Brazil's National REDD+ Strategy ([ENREDD+](#)), they are references for designing national actions to mitigate forest related greenhouse gases emissions in developing countries.
- (iii) **Measuring, Reporting and Verifying ([MRV](#)) REDD+ results and developing REDD+ technical documents to be submitted to the UNFCCC**: that includes the necessary steps to implement the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other REDD+ related decisions agreed under the UNFCCC. More specifically, it addresses the preparation and submission of technical documents such as: [National Communication](#), Forest Reference Emission Levels ([FREL](#)), REDD+ Technical Annex, Biennial Update Report (BUR), summary of information on the Safeguards, as well as the facilitative processes of evaluation of the submitted documents. It also includes compiling information to produce national

greenhouse gas inventories and their communication to the UNFCCC and quality and accuracy of information control processes. In addition to that, this action line may address the Brazilian experience in elaborating and developing its National REDD+ Strategy.

(iv) **Governance Structure and National Funds for REDD+:** The experience gathered by Brazil and other developing countries in establishing governance structures and national funds to receive results-based finance can provide valuable contribution for establishing international and national structures to enable the flow of resources for REDD+. Brazil has earned relevant experience throughout the implementation of the [Amazon Fund](#), the main national REDD+ results-based payments supported fund. The lessons learned by Brazil in designing and implementing the Fund may prove useful to other developing countries.

Among the Brazilian organizations that represent the expertise that Brazil can offer to other developing countries, acting as **Brazilian technical implementing institutions** of the Program and its Projects: the National Institute for Space Research ([INPE](#)), the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources ([IBAMA](#)), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation ([Embrapa](#)), the Brazilian Development Bank ([BNDES](#)), the Brazilian Forest Service ([SFB](#)), the National Institute of Amazonian Research ([INPA](#)), also the Ministry of Environment ([MMA](#)) and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications ([MCTIC](#)).

For both the achievement of its overall objective and the specific objectives, the Program will converge its efforts to the following **outcomes**: increased number of developing countries with a national REDD+ strategy or action plan; increase in the number of developing countries with national forest reference emission level or forest reference level (or, as an interim measure, the corresponding sub-national levels); increased number of developing countries with a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system that enables the monitoring and reporting on REDD+ activities (with sub-national monitoring as an interim measure); increased number of developing countries with information systems to cover the implementation of the [REDD+ Safeguards](#); and also, increased number of developing countries with governance structures and national REDD+ funds. These results are in line with the requirements established by the UNFCCC for a country to be considered REDD+.

The direct **beneficiaries** of the Program will be mainly ministries in charge of the forestry and climate change policies of the countries to cooperate with Brazil. Indirectly will benefit the users of forest resources and the general population of each country, as well as those responsible for policy and decision-making at all levels, including indigenous peoples and traditional communities, nongovernmental and civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, international organizations, among others.

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