



# Report: Kick-Off Meeting Report

October 2019



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## Report: Kick-Off meeting the CEO of the Forest and Environment Department and Stakeholders

### Introduction

Agroforestry today continues to face various challenges such as unfavourable incentives, inadequate knowledge dissemination, legal constraints, poor coordination among sectors to which it contributes, it is poorly addressed in national policy making, and its potential contribution to the economy and sustainable development goals has not been recognized.

For this reason, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development** and Immigration (MAFFESDI) through the National Climate Change Office (NCCO) along with assistance from the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) has developed a technical assistance through CATIE.

As mentioned in the policy workplan, the general objective of the technical assistance is to “develop an integrated and comprehensive agroforestry policy framework that will aid in mainstreaming this form of land use countrywide, providing practical knowledge and skills to the national team (National Climate Change Office, the Agriculture Department and the Forest Department) to understand and use a tested and successful process to develop a National Agroforestry Policy (NAP) of Belize.”

Therefore, as part of the project and according the workplan schedule, a Kick-Off mission took place to meet with Belize’s NDE, support team and stakeholders. The purpose of the activity was to give initiation to the project of the NAP-Belize. Two kick-off meetings were held, first with the CEO of the MAFFESDI and then with stakeholders.

### Description of the Task

The kick-off meeting was held with the CEO, Dr. Percival Cho on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and a subsequent meeting was held with other stakeholders in the Ministry of The Environment’s Conference room in Belmopan on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A total of 19 stakeholders participated such as Forest Department, Agriculture Department, and Department of the Environment, among other stakeholders who play an important role in the forestry, environmental, and agricultural sectors, explaining the importance and necessity of developing the national agroforestry policy for Belize.



## Objectives

### General Objective 1

Kick-off meeting with the CEO of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development** and Immigration:

1. To get feedback about the NAP, in order for the team to successfully develop the policy and satisfy the needs of the government and country.
2. To present the idea of the South-South Exchange Program to be held in Costa Rica.

### General Objective 2

Kick-off Meeting with stakeholders:

Introduce the purpose and start-up of the Technical Assistance (NAP development) provided by CTCN through CATIE (implementing party) to Belize.

## Methodology

1. Arrangement was done between the National Coordinator and the Deputy Chief of the Climate Change Office where the objective of the kick-off meeting was presented along with an agenda of the kick-off meeting.
2. A meeting via skype was held with Mr. Colin Mattis to determine and discuss details on the Kick-off meeting whereby a date was established (October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019), along with a meeting with the CEO Dr. Percival Cho. In addition, a list of outcomes (ideas) of what is expected of the south-south exchange was also developed and presented to the CEO, where it was approved along with adequate suggestions to accomplish the goals of the South-South exchange program.
3. The kick-off meeting with stakeholders was held in the Ministry of The Environment's Conference room in Belmopan on October 16<sup>th</sup>,
4. A power point presentation emphasizing the importance of the Agroforestry Systems, its general definition, classification, scope and road map for the development of the National Agroforestry Policy including what needs to be done with all participants was done by Helen Choco. A small written interview was conducted at the end of the first group discussion.



## Results

### **Meeting with the CEO Dr. Percival Cho from the Forest and Environment Department**

Kick-off meeting with the CEO was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. The objective of the NAP was presented along with the agenda of the kick-off meeting and the south-south exchange program, which was defined to be held in Costa Rica.

The preliminary idea on the south-south exchange program was presented to Dr. Percival Cho where the team was aiming to identify and explain the following:

1. Which organization runs the policy in the country?
2. How do NGOs & the Government work together to meet the objective of the policy?
3. How do they incentivize the population to accomplish the objective of the policy?
4. What do NGOs & Gov. do to implement water and forest protection?
5. Give other options and strategies implemented from other countries, what was their capacity building?
6. Emphasize and let participants get the "know how" from both the farmer and government's perspective.

Results were positive, the CEO expressed enthusiasm and approved on the preliminary ideas of the South-South Exchange and kick-off meeting with the stakeholders. The dates for the exchange were established on November 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.

### **Meeting with the stakeholders and personnel from Agriculture, Forest and Environment Department**

Kick-off Meeting with stakeholders was held on 16<sup>th</sup> of October, with several organizations present such as Donaus Consultant, SIRD (Belize Sugar Industry Research and Development), Ya' axche Conversation Trust, IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture), Programme for Belize, CARDI (Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute), Agriculture Department, Forest Department, Belize Audubon Society, Environment Research Institute- University of Belize, and Belize Livestock Producers Association. Whereby, the following agenda was presented:

- **Welcome Address**
- **Scope of Technical Assistance**
- **Group Discussion**
- Discussion on Agroforestry policy and defining lead ministry
- Analysis and identification of Key Stakeholders in policy development
- **Coffee Break**
- **Group Discussion**
- Identification of NAP National Task Force



- Other matters

The stakeholders mentioned that it is necessary to involve other stakeholders such as the sugar cane, banana and citrus producers, other farmer groups and forest concessioners, agroforestry concessioners, the Ministry of Rural Development, livestock producers, etc. They also mentioned that the northern and southern section of the country are totally different where the north is more degraded, and their needs are different compared to the south. The north needs forest restoration through the REDD+ mechanism and Ya'axche in the south is promoting other kind of AFS, like honeybee production in association with tree species. They also emphasize that logging concessions needs to become engaged to ensure sustainable harvesting of log wood and they also need to be aware of the importance of sustainable agroforestry systems. They have also identified that REDD+ is going to have an important role in the NAP because it may be a potential source of funding with the implementation of the NAP.

For the identification of the lead ministry for the NAP policy, the stakeholders suggested the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration, specifically the Forest Department and Agriculture Department. As for the identification of the national task force for the NAP, stakeholders mentioned that first it is necessary to develop and know the terms of reference of this task force.

## Conclusions

1. Both Kick-Off meetings were successful, valuable feedback and points to consider were given by the different stakeholders
2. Stakeholders have mentioned various points that need to be taken into consideration when developing the National Agroforestry Policy, such as, to consider that the location and conditions of the Northern Belize is different from Southern Belize. In addition, there is a need to create awareness and ensure participation from the logging concessioners to harvest logwood sustainably.
3. Terms of Reference needs to be developed for the National Task Force for the NAP and in order to identify members.
4. Obtain the assistance of Ms. Vanessa Figueroa from the MAFFESDI in Belize to participate in the National Task Force.
5. Preliminary agenda for South-South exchange is established



## Annexes

### Annex 1. Picture of list of participants

Name	Place of work	Post	Contact email/s	Signature
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
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John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]
John Joseph	CTCN	Coordinator	john.joseph@ctcn.org	[Signature]



### Annex 2. Stakeholders in the Kick-Off Meeting





**Annex 3.** Kick-Off Meeting with Dr. Percival Cho CEO of the Forest and Environment Department

**Agenda**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Department of Environment Conference Room, Belize**

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Scope of Technical Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Briefly mention the purpose of the kick-off meeting</li><li>- South-South Exchange Program<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction and purpose of the exchange program</li><li>Agroforestry evolution and condition in Costa Rica</li><li>Workshop: Payment for Environmental Services</li><li>Importance of water protection</li><li>Agroforestry policies implemented</li><li>Field visit in CATIE and surrounding areas to see different modalities</li><li>Interview with Gov stakeholder and development of policy in Costa Rica</li></ul></li></ul>

Note: We would like to explain and identify

1. Which organization runs the policy in the country? Their organizational structure and capacity building.
2. How do NGOs and Gov works together to meet the objective of the policy?
3. How do they incentivize population to accomplish the objective of the policy?
4. What do NGOs & Gov do to implement water and agroforestry protection?
5. Give other options/strategies implemented from other countries
6. Also emphasize and let participants get the “know how” in terms of implementing the policy in the field.





**Annex 4.** Kick-Off Meeting with Stakeholders from Government of Belize, Non-profit Organizations and Private Sector

**Agenda**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Department of Environment Conference Room, Belize**

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Welcome
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Scope of Technical Assistance
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discussion on Agroforestry policy and defining lead ministry</li><li>- Analysis and identification of Key Stakeholders in policy development</li></ul>
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Coffee Break
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identification of NAP National Task Force</li><li>- Other Matters</li></ul>