

Round table of experience sharing in the FOLU sector, lessons learned and preparation for Reporting commitments under the ETF

Min. of Environment, Rural Modernization, Kalinago Upliftment & Constituency Empowerment

Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division

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Technical Assistance for the Establishment of a National REDD+ Strategy Dominica



In 2010 in Cancun COP16 decided that a low-carbon development plan or strategy is indispensable to sustainable development and that “addressing climate change requires a paradigm shift towards low-carbon society that offers substantial opportunities and ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, based on innovative technologies and more sustainable production and consumption and lifestyles, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs” (decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 10).

REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) the innovative concept introduced by COP13 and crystallized as an implementation mechanism by the Paris Agreement, should be one of the pillars of the so-called low-development strategies, especially in rainforest nations such as Panama, where the forestry sector is one of the building blocks of national economy. The examples provided by the climate compatible development plans prepared by the Dominican Republic and Papua New Guinea so far show that an approach based on integrating climate change and economic development is possible and can put developing countries in the best position to grow in a sustainable manner and in line with national priorities and circumstances.



1. National Forest Monitoring System

Decision 11/CP.19 refers to the modalities for National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) and the following paragraph 3 expressed very clear concepts that Dominica will have to follow in designing its own NFMS.

“Paragraph 3. Also decides that robust national forest monitoring systems should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and are suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, taking into account paragraph 71(b) and (c) consistent with guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15”.

Dominica will define the modalities and procedures to have transparent, consistent and suitable anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks. Dominica will update its National Forest Inventory starting in the three protected areas parks. Carbon pools will be defined in an exercise that will bring the best technicians as well as stakeholders that could provide the necessary expertise to define them having in mind above ground biomass, below ground biomass, dead organic matter, dead wood, litter and detritus as well as soil .





DOMINICA FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL 2018-2025

January 2022

- In 2015, in accordance with relevant paragraphs of Decisions 1/CP19 and 1/CP20 towards achieving the ultimate objective Article 2 of the Convention, the Government of Dominica committed through its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), to a progressive reduction of total greenhouse gas emissions below 2014.
- Consistent/in accordance with Decision 18/CMA.1 and its annex (the Katowice Climate Package), as well as Article 13 under the Paris Agreement, Dominica provides information under the *Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)*, which details a set of Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) to build trust and confidence; and strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. Regarding the forest sector, Dominica also intends to provide information as indicated in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) following the guidance developed since COP13 ensured transparency in the implementation of REDD+ activities. It is important to recall that REDD+ Conference of the Parties (COP) guidance emphasizes the importance of accurate and robust national GHG inventories and puts in place a unique verification process compared to all other sectors responsible for GHG emissions.
- Small Island Developing states (SIDS) like Dominica, are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and are among the most vulnerable to its adverse impacts, but at the same time are at the forefront of climate actions. Dominica has taken national, sub-national and sectoral approaches towards its transition to a carbon-neutral, green, climate-smart and climate-resilient nation, with a cross-cutting emphasis on accessing climate change finance. Dominica has established a strong track record for the continual development, implementation and communication of policies and strategies to support climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience, with a focus on nature-based solutions.

FRL/FREL KEY ELEMENTS

Modalities for FRL/FREL according to 12/CP.17

- Paragraph 7. The FRL/FREL presented by Dominica is expressed in tons of CO₂ equivalent per year, to serve as a benchmark for assessing the country's performance in implementing the REDD+ activities.
- Paragraph 8. Dominica developed a single database for the National GHG Inventory, the FRL/FREL and the NDC. This grants full consistency. All calculations are explicit to maximize transparency. This database also allows to easily check which emissions and removals from the National GHG Inventory are selected for the FRL/FREL.
- Paragraph 9. In this submission, Dominica includes information and rationale on the development of the FRL/FREL and how the national circumstances were considered.
- Paragraph 10. In this submission, Dominica presents an improvement plan, which considers the gradual improvement of methods.
- Paragraph 11. Dominica's FRL/FREL is presented at the national level.
- Annex, chapeau. the information provided by Dominica is guided by the IPCC guidance and guidelines, specifically the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National GHG Inventories.

- Annex, paragraphs (a), (b). A comprehensive database is attached to this report. Also, extensive descriptions of the methods and data used are provided below, well as in technical annexes to facilitate understanding by the readers and the UNFCCC reviewers.
- Annex, paragraph (c). Those carbon pools included and the reasons for those excluded are provided. In terms of activities covered, historical emissions and removals are considered for Forest land remaining Forest land and conversions to and from Forest land. In essence, this is equivalent to measuring and monitoring activities in the FRL/FREL. However, due to specific country circumstances only removals from conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks are included for the whole island; and reduction of emissions from deforestation for only a section of the forest. Reduction of emissions from degradation is not included.
- Annex paragraph (d). The forest definition used for the FRL is the same as for the National GHG Inventory to be included in the 1st Biennial Update Report.



DOMINICA SECOND FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL / FOREST REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVEL 2018 -2025

January 2024

The Government of Dominica considers it to be an important part of its mission to lead a process of collaboration with others with a view of preserving the nation's forests, rivers, and eco-tourism product, preserving the marine environment and the country's biodiversity; and popularizing even as preserve the nature island concept and brand. It is Government's intention to make an active and deliberate contribution to sustainable development of the natural and built-in environment, giving special attention to the larger environmental issues such as biodiversity, land degradation, climate change and the emission of GHG gases that cause global warming. We will give high priority to pursuing policies and programs that are consistent with well-researched proposals and programs developed by the international community and are consistent with our countries' needs and capacities.

The Government will contribute to ensure that in his or her personal behavior, a consciousness and pride in our Nature Isle is manifested by every Dominican. It is Government's policy that the Nature Isle will take the lead in enshrining green principles as the guide to our national planning, and to inform initiatives in all sectors.

Pursuant to the commitments set by the Government; **Dominica** has the honor to present to you the Second Forest Reference Level/Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL/FRL) for the years **2018-2025** of the country at the national level to be evaluated during the period of 2024.

FREL/FRL KEY ELEMENTS

Modalities for FREL/FRL according to 12/CP.17

- **Paragraph 7.** The FREL/FRL presented by Dominica is expressed in **tons of CO₂ equivalent per year**, to serve as a benchmark for assessing the country's performance in implementing the REDD+ activities, in particular the restoration and regeneration of Dominican forests after the impact of Hurricane Maria in 2017.
- **Paragraph 8.** Dominica developed a **single database for the National GHG Inventory, the FREL/FRL and the NDC.** This grants full consistency. All calculations are explicit to maximize transparency. This database also allows to easily check which emissions and removals from the National GHG Inventory are selected for the FREL/FRL.
- **Paragraph 9.** In this submission, Dominica includes information and rationale on the development of the FREL/FRL and how the national circumstances were considered. A key national circumstance is that Dominica is a net carbon remover (removals are higher than emissions) across all sectors and when considering forest-related sources and sinks; this circumstance is the basis for the current FREL/FRL.
- **Paragraph 10.** In this submission, Dominica presents an improvement plan, which considers the gradual improvement of methods.
- **Paragraph 11.** Dominica's FREL/FRL is presented at the national level.
- **Annex, chapeau.** the information provided by Dominica is guided by the IPCC guidance and guidelines, specifically the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National GHG Inventories.
- **Annex, paragraphs (a), (b).** A comprehensive database is attached to this report. Also, extensive descriptions of the methods and data used are provided below, as well as in technical annexes to facilitate understanding by the readers and the UNFCCC reviewers.
- **Annex, paragraph (c).** Those carbon pools included, and the reasons for those excluded are provided. The FREL/FRL covers the historical emissions and removals associated to Forest land remaining Forest lands, and conversions to and from Forest land. In essence, this is equivalent to measuring and monitoring all possible REDD+ activities in the FREL/FRL.
- **Annex paragraph (d).** The forest definition used for the FREL/FRL is the same as for the National GHG Inventory to be included in the 1st Biennial Update Report and 1st Biennial Transparency Report.

REDD+ ACTIVITIES

As indicated in the Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71, Dominica has decided to develop a national forest reference level (FRL)/ forest reference emission level (FREL) in accordance with national circumstances and as a benchmark to assess the country's performance in implementing all five REDD+ activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70:

Included REDD+ Activities

1. Deforestation
2. Forest degradation
3. Conservation of forest carbon stocks
4. Enhancement of forest carbon stock
5. Sustainable management of forest

Definition of Forest

Forest is defined as lands with a tree canopy cover equal or higher than 60%, with minimum area extension of 1 ha and woody vegetation of minimum 3m height or high including temporary unstocked areas with the potential to reach the forest definition. There are seven (7) forest types on the island: Elfin Forest, Montane Cloud Forest, Montane Rainforest, Semi-evergreen Forest, Semi-deciduous Forest, Dry Scrub Forest and Littoral Forests which vary depending on altitude and location. Characteristics of each forest type are described in section 7.1.



Data Collection Process

Dominica
Landslides and floods triggered by
Hurricane Maria (18 September, 2017)



Dominica
Landslides and floods triggered by
Hurricane Maria (18 September, 2017)



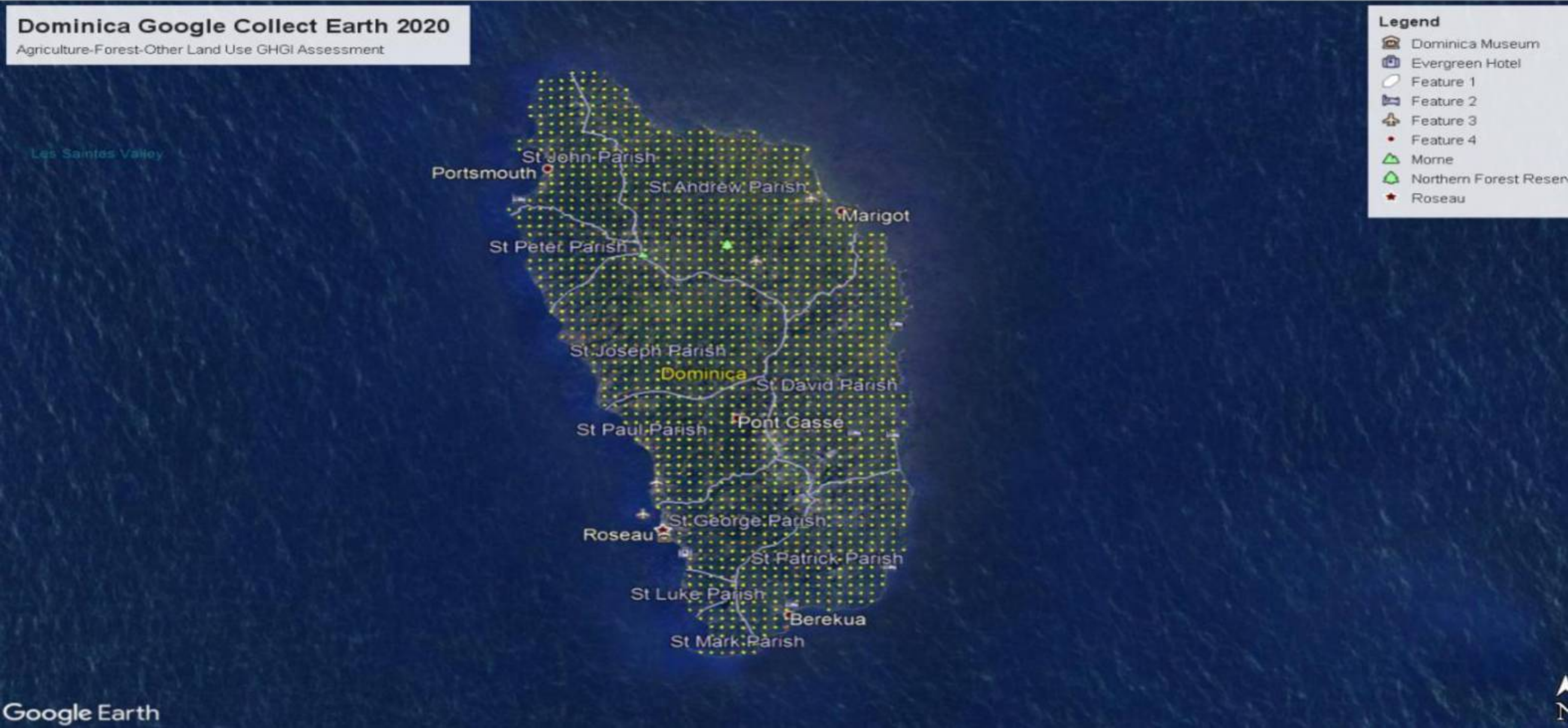
Plot Size: The size of the plot was decided to be 1Ha, to allow consistency with the Forest definition. This, along with the samples, 49 of them, facilitated counting the percentage of land use cover, as indicated in the hierarchy diagram



Distance among plots: Based on the experience and lessons learnt of Panama and Belize who have recently done their Collect Earth assessment, using grids of 3km by 3km and 1.5 km by 1.5 km (Panama) and Belize (1km by 1 km), Dominica planned to use a high sampling intensity, balancing country size, representatives of the samples, time and interpreters' availability. As a result, a sampling of 750m by 750 m was selected.



National grid: Based on the previous analysis and criteria, a 750m by 750m national systematic grid consisted of 1605 sampling plots of 1Ha was selected. These sampling points were visually evaluated.



The MRV, ETF and Carbon Trading Processes:

The Commonwealth of Dominica is committed to continue the process of managing it's FMS for the FOLU Sector and consequently seek beneficial returns for such efforts and plan for the best possible methodology/s to do so on the Carbon Trading Market.

- Trainings and capacity building on MRV Methodologies and procedures (MRV Hub, Grenada)
- Training on BUR/BTR development and submission (UNDP, PISLM, GoCD)
- Other International and Regional Capacity Development training workshops on relevant topics relating to over-all process, including Legislation and Policy, Technology transfer and certified training in the field.

Thank You – Muchas Gracias - Merci

