WHAT IS CLIMATE EFFECTIVENESS?

Climate effectiveness is a measure of the capacity of a given policy or practice to mitigate climate change. In the context of REDD+, this translates into the ability to measure whether productive or sustainable rural development activities reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to the atmosphere by maintaining standing forests and/or increasing forest cover.

THE THREE MAIN FACTORS OF CLIMATE EFFECTIVENESS

Climate Effectiveness considers three main factors:

Additionality

How does the policy or practice help reduce GHG emissions and/or store carbon?

Permanence

How do you ensure that the reduction of GHG emissions and increases in carbon storage will be maintained over the long-term?

Leakage

How do you ensure that the emissions you have reduced through your actions do not simply move to another area?

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE EFFECTIVENESS

Sustainable Rural Development includes activities in rural areas to promote economic, social, and environmental well-being of communities in the short and long term. However, not all Sustainable Rural Development activities explicitly address climate change. For an activity to be climate effective in the context of REDD+, it must reduce deforestation and/or forest degradation and/or increase forest cover. Additionally, the activity must promote socio-economic development of the participating communities in order to ensure permanence and reduce the risk of leakage. Additional benefits include:

Climate
Activities help mitigate climate change by maintaining forest carbon stocks

Economy
Activities improve access to markets and increase land productivity

Biodiversity
Activities favor natural forests and conserve biodiversity while maintaining the quality of air, water, and land

Society
Activities contribute to the well-being of local actors and promote better governance and gender equality

Sustainability
Activities help us to have a more healthy and just planet for future generations

WHICH TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE CLIMATE EFFECTIVE?

Interventions are Climate Effective when they comply with the factors of Additionality, Permanence, and Non-Leakage. Here we present four examples of Climate Effective Rural Development activities, though many others exits:

1

2

3

4

REDUCING DEFORESTATION

1 Intensive Silvopastoral Systems (SSPI)

- SSPI includes improved ranching practices such as intensified pasture rotation, protein banks, and tree cover in order to increase productivity per hectare and reduce the need to expand pastures into forested areas, thereby reducing deforestation
- Additionally, SSPI can include restoration of forests that had been degraded by traditional ranching practices
- SSPI helps increase and diversify sources of income, which help ensure permanence and reduce the risk of leakage

2 Conservation Agriculture

- Conservation agriculture improves soil fertility and texture by reducing tillage and improving management of crop residue
- Applied to shifting cultivation systems, conservation agriculture allows the reduction of migration cycles and recovery of secondary forests and fallows
- Reduces production costs which benefits the producer and helps ensure permanence and reduce the risk of leakage

FOREST CONSERVATION

3 Agroforestry (Coffee and Parlour Palm)

- Shade-grown coffee and parlour palm are low-impact activities that have an established market that generates income for communities, adding value to forests and ensuring that they remain standing through sustainable management

INCREASING FOREST COVER

4 Restoration of post-fire areas

- Wildfires generate forest degradation and trigger erosion in areas of bare soil which impedes natural regeneration
- The combination of soil conservation practices, management of pioneer vegetation, and reforestation with locally adapted species increases the survival rate of the trees to ensure successful forest restoration
- These practices increase carbon storage and allow surrounding communities to benefit from the environmental services provided by forests