Sierra de las Minas

Initiative
Country Guatemala
Other Readiness Initiative:
No
REDD+ project:
Yes
Level Subnational
Status Planned

Summary

Sierra de las Minas is a planned early REDD+ initiative in the Sierra de Las Minas Biosphere Reserve (Reserva de la Biosfera de la Sierra de la Minas; RBSM). The RBSM is the second largest protected area in Guatemala after the Maya Biosphere Reserve (Reserva de la Biosfera Maya; RBM), with an extension of 240,000 Ha on a mountain range in Eastern Guatemala, to the South of Lake Izabal. Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN) has administered the RBSM since it was founded and are the project proponents, in association with the National Council for Protected Areas (Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas; CONAP) and/or other stakeholders.

The RBSM is approximately 20% publicly and 80% privately owned and is classed as a private reserve by CONAP. The South of the RBSM is owned by a mixture of small and large landholders, many with title. The North of the RBSM is mainly owed by large landholders and 80% of communities don't have legal title. The RBSM is under pressure from land clearing both for subsistence agriculture and for large-scale cattle rearing.

The REDD+ project will receive support from Rainforest Alliance under the USAID-funded Climate, Nature and Communities in Guatemala (CNCG) programme and will use the Sarstún Motagua subnational reference level, which will be prepared with CNCG and is planned to be the second subnational reference level that will be developed. At the time of writing (September 2013) planning is still at an early stage and it is unlikely that the REDD+ project will be operational before 2016.

Related Actors

Other
The Nature Defenders Foundation (Guatemala) [11]
Other
National Council for Protected Areas (Guatemala) [12]

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