

UN-REDD 2022 Technical Assistance Inception report

(shared with UN-REDD Executive Board on 14 February 2022)

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1. Introduction

UN-REDD has been supporting countries with REDD+ implementation and increasing ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their NDCs, both through country assistance and knowledge management. From 2021, UN-REDD has established a need to also assist countries with emerging opportunities to implement Article 6 of the *Paris Agreement*, especially with regards to international cooperative arrangements and carbon market platforms for forests.

This inception brief derives from the UN-REDD 2022-2025 Technical Assistance (TA) Multiyear Plan and 2022 Annual Work Plan and Budget, which was approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board on 26 October 2021. The aim of the inception process conducted in the last quarter of 2021/January 2022 has been to calibrate the optimal deployment of TA to countries over the coming year, so to consolidate ongoing processes and harness new avenues. This inception brief provides a snapshot of the UN-REDD country focus and core delivery in 2022, including REDD+ finance innovations, and global communications and knowledge management.

The sections below provide the information by country and global communications and knowledge management areas. Each country section follows a similar format, presenting:

- (i) context and horizons: intended as an updated assessment from 2021 inception and earlier briefs, including on countries' REDD+ readiness/implementation status, NDCs dimensions, anchor projects, key investments, relevant partners, and 2025 horizons/targets;
- (ii) planning process: describing the consultations held and their outcomes;
- (iii) 2025 proposed country strategic priorities: providing strategic work streams in the "forest solutions" arena in the 2025 horizon, which may require funding support and/or critical capacity building and/or specific UN-REDD TA;
- (iv) 2022 proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services: including both a brief rationale for overall support, and a table with description of key deliverables mapped against the UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework outcomes.

The content for each country section varies depending on where the country stands, so the narrative might be shorter for some and more detailed for others.

2. Country Support (Realising, rewarding and enhancing forest solutions / Outcomes 1-3)

The following profiles provide details on the support anticipated to the current 18 UN-REDD TA priority countries during 2022:

Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

In addition to those countries – as this is a rapidly evolving space, building on the positive outcomes of Glasgow – we maintain a close look on the full set of countries for UN-REDD in case of any emerging opportunity to accelerate delivery in 2022. In this respect, some consultations are ongoing in particular in Nepal, being one of the LEAF LoI countries; and also in Lao PDR.

2.1 Argentina

Context and horizons

UN-REDD has consistently supported Argentina with technical and policy advice since 2013, first through targeted support on REDD+ safeguards and national forest monitoring system, and then through a full UN-REDD National Programme (NP). Through the implementation of the UN-REDD NP, and in close collaboration with other key initiatives such as the WB FCPF, Argentina successfully completed the REDD+ readiness phase, fulfilling all of the requirements under the Warsaw Framework. Specifically, the country developed in a participatory manner and submitted to the UNFCCC its national REDD+ strategy which, together with other

policies and initiatives acting under the overall framework of the “Forest Law” (Law on minimum environmental protection standards for native forests - Law No. 26331), is a key instrument for the country to achieve its NDC LULUCF commitments. Some examples of relevant mitigation actions identified in the NDC and REDD+ strategy include: the national plan on sustainable forests management with integrated livestock (MBGI); the territorial planning of native forests (OTBN); the 2020 decree on agricultural crops export aiming at increasing crop/grain production and values, achieving higher income from export gains, recovering degraded land buffer areas. Argentina’s efforts to curb deforestation produced significant results for the period 2014-2016, some of which were rewarded by the GCF through its REDD+ RBP pilot programme “Argentina REDD-plus Payment for Results period 2014-2016”. This project, which is fully embedded in the National Forest Policy and its legal framework (the “Forest Law”), aims at contributing to the continuous and further reduction in emissions addressing selected drivers of deforestation (unsustainable livestock management, fires) and especially the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation, by strengthening economic and social opportunities (and diversified livelihoods), the control and oversight capacities at provincial and national level, and the overall forest governance. Most recently, and of remarkable importance, at the UNFCCC COP 26 Argentina signed the Glasgow leaders’ declaration on forests and land use, reinforcing its national commitments to halt and even reverse encroachment of native forests, and boosting continuous reductions of emissions from the LULUCF sector.

Planning process

The planning process for TA has built on discussions held with the Government of Argentina in early 2021 to explore interest in technical assistance on scoping and evaluations of climate finance opportunities, including analysing major emerging certification schemes with high environmental integrity, such as ART/TREES (a robust REDD+ national and jurisdictional standard to promote equitable, inclusive and large-scale solutions through a range of innovative approaches for crediting reductions in deforestation, protection of intact forests and restoration of forest landscapes). Potential support discussed included assessing the country’s compliance/eligibility on carbon elements and safeguards for these schemes, with a view to produce technical and policy recommendations, and eventually draft a related expression of interest for the ART/TREES certification scheme. Although the Government of Argentina was interested in the thematic area, due to high-level planning and restructuring in the national climate change cabinet that was still ongoing, they were not ready to proceed with the work in 2021.

In late 2021, follow-up discussions were held with the Government (Directorates of Forests and Climate Change, and the General Directorate of Projects with External Financing and Cooperation of in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)) to discuss strategic priorities for Argentina, as well as opportunities for support and collaboration in the context of the new UN-REDD results framework. Following on from these discussions, in December 2021 the Government of Argentina sent a letter to the UN-REDD Programme expressing interest in participating in UN-REDD TA 2022-2025.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

Looking to 2025, Argentina has confirmed, and reinforced, its commitments to continue implementing actions to halt or even reverse deforestation of native forests, working towards the achievement of its national and international climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement and the trajectory to meet its NDC target of limiting net emissions to 359 MtCO₂e by 2030. Through specific programmes and national efforts, a large portion of it represented by the above mentioned GCF REDD+ RBP project, it will seek to achieve further emission reductions, among other things enhancing the economic value of forests promoting a more integrated management of livestock and forests, consolidating the implementation of the legal framework, enhancing forest monitoring and planning. The country will advance in fostering sustainable and legal livestock and forest products supply chains, promoting and implementing integrated community plans including women and indigenous peoples, enhanced fire management and early warning deforestation system. UN-REDD will work with the REDD+ focal point in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) as main counterpart and with other key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery (MAGyP) bringing in specific technical assistance in line with national overall framework, targets and policies. Specific milestones and goals for 2025 will be developed through consultation in the first half of 2022.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

In 2022 through the provision of technical advices and knowledge UN-REDD in Argentina will complement, support and leverage ongoing national efforts on reducing emissions from deforestation. Special focus will be provided on two critical areas: i) analyzing and contributing to unlocking potential new climate finance (for example identifying gaps/enhancing standards to fulfil emerging schemes and coalitions e.g. ART TREES, LEAF), including fostering dialogues and exchanges on impacts of most recent UNFCCC decisions on Article 6 (outcome 2); ii) share and enhance knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices (livestock, agroforestry, community forestry) and cutting edge tools on due diligence in agriculture supply chains (outcomes 1 and 4 of the UN-REDD strategic framework). Capitalizing on Argentina expertise, and promoting the sharing of new knowledge from other countries and international experts, UN-REDD Argentina TA will also support policy dialogues with other selected countries in the region on inter alia carbon markets, sustainable livestock, integrated land-use and forest management, agroforestry and community based forestry. A tentative deliverable table is reported below:

Outcome and Output as per overall UN-REDD Results Framework ¹	Deliverables of the Argentina Technical assistance (TA)	Lead UN-REDD agency in the TA	Observations / notes
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED <i>Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), unlocked at a level of 1 GtCO₂e per year</i>			
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Piloting of the practical tool to identify and address deforestation and forest degradation risks in agriculture supply chains	FAO	<p>This TA will be implemented in conjunction with and benefiting from the overall global technical assistance on due diligence in agriculture supply chains. It might entail also exchanges with other key countries in the region / other regions.</p> <p>The work might entail also technical exchanges on the impact of recent EU and UK rules and regulations on imported deforestation and – towards 2025 and in dialogue/ collaboration with MAGyP - on how to potentially adapt national systems in this regard.</p>
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Need assessment undertaken and related technical advices provided to continue to strengthen the quality of REDD+ emission reductions and related reporting, linking them with criteria of environmental and social integrity and improved standards (e.g. ART TREES / LEAF)	FAO	Plan to overcome gaps and fulfill the MRV requirements of forest carbon markets, initial focus on ART/TREES. This activity will be undertaken in conjunction / close collaboration with the following one (on safeguards).
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout	Capacity-building and continuous improvements in national safeguards approach supported	UNEP	This could include capacity building and technical support for the identification of opportunities for strengthening the safeguards information system (SIS) ; for

¹ The information in this column is needed for the UN-REDD agencies and Secretariat so to link the deliverables of the country's technical assistance to the overall UN-REDD results framework.

the implementation of REDD+ actions			updating the summary of information; and for developing a unified approach to facilitate collection and reporting of information to help meet different safeguards requirements for REDD+ climate finance (e.g., UNFCCC, GCF, ART/TREES, FCPF, etc.).
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED <i>Enabling USD 5 billion mobilised for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Opportunities for accessing REDD+ climate financing assessed and systematized, including links with Art. 6 Potentially: draft ART/TREES concept note prepared and submitted	UNEP and FAO	Through this activity UN-REDD will Support the country in an analysis of the impact of most recent UNFCCC decisions and will connect specific MAYDS as well as GNCC representative with key experts on climate finance
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED <i>More than 15 countries enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs in the 2020-2025 cycle, including quantitative targets</i>			
			No deliverables identified for Argentina TA under this specific outcome
OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS <i>Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative nature-based solutions movement to accelerate climate action</i>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	South-south exchanges / regional / bilateral dialogues led on forest management with integrated livestock, community based agroforestry, and climate financing opportunities ²	FAO and UNEP	Argentina developed knowledge and experience on the topic and is dedicating increasing amount of efforts and attention to it. Such experience could be disseminated with other countries in the region sharing a similar agenda, and, boosting at the same time a share of knowledge and mutual benefit. Additionally, Argentina is interested in debating and sharing knowledge with other countries (technical officers and decision makers) on community based forestry. Key countries could include Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Peru. This and other activities will contribute to efforts to remove deforestation from supply-chains (livestock, forest products) and in the achievement of reduction of emissions. Dialogues on climate financing could focus on opportunities and challenges of jurisdictional approaches, and exchanges between provinces and/or countries.

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² The deliverable indicated could be captured either under UN-REDD RF outcome 1 or 4. Final decision will be taken when refining the overall UN-REDD workplan document, with no impact on the activities agreed with Argentina.

2.2 Chile

Context and horizons

Chile has made significant increase of ambition throughout the updated of the NDC. The mitigation goal, replacing the previous emission intensity indicator, conditional and unconditional, with unconditional absolute indicators, with a goal of 95 MtCO₂eq by 2030, an emissions maximum in 2025, and a GHG emissions budget of no more than 1,100 MtCO₂eq in the period 2020-2030. Regarding the LULUCF sector, the NDC recognized the synergies between mitigation and adaptation actions in the face of climate change and commits its contribution through the following measures:

- to the sustainable management and recovery of 200,000 hectares of native forests, representing GHG captures of around 0.9 to 1.2 MtCO₂eq annually by 2030.
- to afforest 200,000 hectares, of which at least 100,000 hectares will comprise permanent forest cover, with at least 70,000 hectares of native species. Recovery and afforestation will be undertaken primarily in land suitable for forest growth and/or priority areas for conservation and will represent captures of between 3.0 and 3.4 MtCO₂eq annually by 2030.

Chile has been a leader in the UNFCCC framework for REDD+ fulfilling all the requirements to receive results-based payments for REDD+ as set out in the GCF REDD+ Pilot Programme. The Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), through the National Forest Corporation (CONAF) has been working since 2013 in a National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV), which is a public policy instrument validated by the Council of Ministers for Sustainability which is already in full implementation. In this context, Chile secured support from a wide array of sources, including the FCPF Carbon Fund and GCF Results Based Payment pilot programme that will provide roughly USD 90 million for results achieved from 2014 to 2024.

This Strategy has various direct and facilitating measures, defined based on a national highly participatory process, focused in addressing climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) through an adequate management of the vegetation resources aiming to prevent or decrease historical rates of deforestation, vegetation clearance and degradation of native forests, xerophytic formations and other vegetative resources, while promoting the recovery through reforestation, revegetation and sustainable management of native habitats nationwide. The estimated total budget for administration and implementation of the activities included in the ENCCRV is USD 433 million, for a planning horizon of nine years. MINAGRI, CONAF and other national institutions are already scoping their prospects and needs to potentially engage in new carbon finance schemes with high environmental integrity that are emerging under Article 6 of the *Paris Agreement*. Likewise, the country, alongside with the preparation of the Climate Change Framework Bill, is working in the following policy instruments:

- Update of the Law N°20.283 on Native Forest Recovery and Forest Promotion,
- Encat of Law on forest fired recovery and forestation
- Operationalization of the domestic carbon market through the carbon tax offsetting mechanism established in the Law N° 21210

Chile needs to develop a nested approach to articulate national and local climate action and avoid overlapping of finance instruments. This nested approach will complement the rules of procedures under consultation that establishes the CONAF obligations and procedures related to the measure, report and verification of projects to certificate emission reductions to compensate carbon tax in accordance with the law n ° 21210.

By the end of 2022, Chile will optimize its financing strategy, including the assessment of the feasibility and potential to generate emission reductions/removals under the ART/TREES standard, submit an updated FRL, the National Monitoring system will be improved in order to monitor the ENCCRV at property level and implement a sophisticated and transparent benefit sharing mechanism that provides a sound basis for the use of the proceeds from REDD+ results. At the moment, there is no clear definition of emission reductions

rights, or who is entitled to the GHG certifications. These aspects might be regulated in the future, taking into consideration a sectorial perspective. So far, article 14 establishes that: The Ministry of the Environment must create, manage and maintain a public registry, which will contain the approved reduction or removals projects, as well as the certificates that certify verified emission reductions or removals, which must have a unique electronic identifier and may be transferred.

[Planning process](#)

A consultation session with CONAF was held on 9 December 2021. The meeting mainly focused on presenting the new TA 2022-2025 with outcomes/outputs and deliverables, then CONAF presented their main achievements challenges and lessons learned during first period of the ENCCRV implementation process. They have expressed their interest to work more closely with the private/productive sector they recognized the fact that without private sector involvement the NDC target will not be attainable. In order to promote private sector specifically for the LULUCF sector they are working in the nesting mechanism to allow active participation of the private sector in forest carbon projects without compromising ambition and environmental integrity of Chile's NDC. The TA 2022 could also provide support in this area and also seek other financial window that might be of interest of the private sector.

In the legal aspect CONAF expressed the need to improve the current legal framework so incentives could reach a greater number of forest owners that have opted to either preserve or manage the native forests they also working in the development of a new law aimed to the recovery of burned forest in close collaboration with the MMA (Ministry of Environment). Also under the offsetting or green tax law (reglamentación de la ley de compensaciones o de impuesto verde) scheme the government plans to allocate the 50% share of the total c credits potential to be generated under this scheme to NBS projects, and the entity responsible to develop the national baseline is CONAF.

With these instruments to be implemented in the coming years Chile could position itself as pioneer in the development of attractive mechanisms aimed to promote private investment in forest carbon initiatives however and according to the consultations held there are a number of challenges that Chile has to overcome in order to implement ER/R that are fully measurable. Some of the challenges mentioned are the following:

- Update and improve the current ENCCRV based on the lessons learned during its first implementation phase.
- How to institutionalize the PA, art 13 and 6, NDCs actions have to be reported under common reporting tables and tabular formats these include the report of the actions established not only under the ENCCRV but the private initiatives without compromising broad participation, ambition and environmental integrity.

Based on these lessons learned and challenges mentioned by CONAF during this consultation session UN REDD team elaborate the country strategic priorities described in section 3 below.

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

Looking to 2025, Chile will seek to consolidate the implementation of the legal framework, enhance forest monitoring and planning, as well as enhancing the economic value of forests. More specifically, the country will advance in the implementation of specific programmes including: forest supply area programs, integrated community plans, forest management with integrated livestock and early warning deforestation system, offsetting or green tax law. This with the aim of ensuring the country is in trajectory to meet its NDC target by 2030. As mentioned in section 2 the proposed technical assistance is based on the consultation held with CONAF on December 9th. UN-REDD technical assistance in detailing out and supporting the achievement of this national goal for 2022 will be further reassessed.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

In 2022, technical assistance will focus in supporting Chile to implement the improvement plan to overcome gaps and fulfill the MRV and safeguards requirements of forest carbon markets for both local and international demand with initial focus but not limited on ART/TREES. Also, strengthening its Safeguards Information System to report on how safeguards have been addressed and respected, as well as improved monitoring system able to report under the art 13 requirements and eventually generate ITMOs for art 6 of the PA.

Regarding legal aspects, as a next step, depending on the deliberations aimed to enact the climate change law in 2021, it may be relevant to understand the implications of articles 14 and 27 of the draft climate change law in relation to emission reductions ownership. Also, explore the possibility of preparing a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, and/or to provide support - as needed - in drafting the regulation, once the climate change law is adopted in 2022.

Chile is also interested as mentioned in section 2 above, in receiving support on how to develop a registry mechanism of its NDC mitigation actions for art 6 purposes. Chile will submit its first BTR in late 2024 including the reporting tables that will show the progress made towards the country NDC target. Based on the achievement of the target Chile will be able to apply art 6.2 cooperative mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Financial sustainability strategy document for the ENCCRV projects and other forest carbon initiatives including private sector prepared (5)	FAO/UNEP	Expertise and technical support to integrate sectorial public and private instruments (6)
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Chile's MRV system is improved and able to monitor 4 REDD+ activities (2)	FAO	CONAF is improving its methods to estimate 4 REDD activities at local and regional level. This specific support will be done back to back with the GCF project + Bosques. Also Chile will submit its updated Frel in early 2022 this new FREL will enable the inclusion of new forest areas with improved methodologies to estimate with more accuracy emissions from degradation, FAO will assist CONAF to the preparation of its second REDD TA at the end of 2022
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and			

reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	<p>A CN a registry document for ART/ Trees submitted. Legal support for carbon rights definition provided (1)</p> <p>Support provided for the development of a REDD+ nested system for the carbon tax offsetting mechanism.</p> <p>A coherent nesting allocation tool is development supported (4)</p>	FAO/UNEP	<p>Based on the preliminary assessment a CN for ART/Trees will be drafted and presented to CONAF for its endorsement in Q3 2022</p> <p>CONAF and Verra are working in the development of a nesting allocation tool, CONAF has requested support to ensure the consistency of the tool with the national reporting and accounting system</p>
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	<p>A monitoring framework of the NDC mitigation actions implementation in the LULUCF sector (transition from MRV to BTR) road map is developed</p> <p>ENCCRV consultation/revision process supported (3)</p>	<p>FAO</p> <p>UNDP</p>	Provide technical assistance to CONAF and the Ministry of Enviromnet on how to develop the reporting and accounting framework of the mitigation actions in the LULUCF sector.

* * *

2.3 Colombia

Context and horizons

Colombia has committed to reducing its emissions by 51% compared to the projection of emissions in 2030 in the reference scenario, tending towards carbon-neutrality by mid-century. The trajectory of the goal of reducing emissions from deforestation to 2030 contemplates an expected deforestation trend of 155,000 ha/year in 2022 and 100,000 ha/year in 2025 to reach a rate of 50,000 ha/year in 2030. Colombia has indicated that analyze making use of the cooperative approaches of Art. 6.2 to reach a complementary measure and achieve zero net deforestation per year by 2030.

Colombia has completed the elements of its Warsaw Framework, including the publication of its national REDD Strategy, five information summaries on safeguards submitted to the UNFCCC, an updated reference level at the national level, and an NFMS, a defined Safeguards Information System, and advances in various elements that make up the National Safeguards System (the SIS is currently in operation). Colombia has presented two technical annexes on REDD+, accrediting results for more than 60 MtCO₂e/year between 2014-2016, receiving payments for 34.5 MtCO₂e/year from the REM program and offering 6.95 MtCO₂e/year to the REDD RBP pilot program of the GCF.

Colombia has advanced in the implementation of an important set of forestry policies and actions in recent years, including:

Elements of the Warsaw Framework: Colombia transition from a subnational to a National Reference Level (2019). The country presented its 5th summary of safeguards (2021).

Implementation of the REDD strategy: The country created of the National Council to Fight Deforestation (2018) and made progress in agreeing on the content of a decree to create a National Indigenous Environmental Commission as a body for technical and political dialogue on environmental issues between the national government and indigenous organizations, this decree is ready for presidential signature. Several key national policy documents have been issued, including: a Green growth policy, (CONPES 3934, July 2018) and a National policy for the control of deforestation and the sustainable management of forests (CONPES 4021, December 2020), a Long-term strategy to comply with the Paris Agreement E2050 Colombia (2020), submitted its updated NDC to the UNFCCC (2020), and issued a Policy for the consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas - SINAP- (CONPES 4050, September 2021).

Key actions and incentives have been advanced, including a National Restoration Plan with an associated goal of planting 180 million trees, a carbon tax (2016) coupled with a carbon neutrality tax-break (2017) that incentivizes forest carbon, payment schemes for environmental services, the agricultural frontier was defined (2018) and the community forestry model has been promoted.

REDD results and access to climate finance: The Country signed a second phase of the Joint Declaration of Intent with Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom (2019) and accessed Payments for results within the pilot program of the Green Climate Fund in August 2020. In addition, the country presented a subnational concept note to the TREES Standard in November 2021.

Deforestation in Colombia increased significantly in 2017, largely due to anticipated post-conflict scenarios, with deforestation declining in recent years, although the trend has reverted in recent years. In light of the Presidential elections to be held at the end of May, the UN-REDD Programme will be ready to engage with the incoming administration with a view to maintain and support momentum to meet its forest related NDC target and the various related processes and commitments.

Planning process

Virtual meeting were held with various areas of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) as well as with the IDEAM. The preparation of the proposal also took into account various exchanges with staff at the Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

The country needs to continue progressing towards the full implementation of the national REDD Strategy along with the consolidation of the peace process and implementation of the peace agreements, including sustainable agrarian reform and support for community development. This includes acceleration of climate action by identifying and replicating successful experiences of early implementation (DCI/Amazon Vision) as well as various initiatives (GIZ, FCPF, FLEGT, UN-REDD, GCF).

Securing access to climate finance and additional results-based finance (including through REM) will be important to complement domestic efforts and reach the conditional goal of their NDC. In this regard, capacities to demonstrate the quality of their REDD+ emission reductions will need to be improved, linking these emission reductions to environmental and social integrity criteria and improved standards.

The consolidation of mechanisms for the participation of actors, particularly indigenous peoples and communities, including evaluating, monitoring and strengthening the processes of participation and governance around forests and climate change of indigenous peoples, peasant and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as strengthening and monitor cross-cutting approaches to NDCs (human rights, gender, generational, ethnic).

The continuous improvement of REDD+ elements (Monitoring, safeguards, transparency mechanisms and citizen attention) continue to be important. This includes strengthening the consistency and integrity and appropriate nesting among the various national and international mechanisms for managing reduced emissions, including through systematizing lessons learned, managing information and knowledge; reduce

information asymmetries at the regional and local levels, mainly in vulnerable communities, women, young people and the elderly; articulation of initiatives and platforms and development of capacities to nest public and private actions through a collaborative, territorial and landscape approach and, establishment of dialogues between the government and project developers, financiers and sectors related to the drivers of deforestation to promote public-private-community partnerships to implement REDD+; strengthen capacities to meet social and environmental standards.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

Outcome 1 – Forest solutions realised

Deliverable	Lead UN-REDD agency Lead UN-REDD agency	Notes (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
<i>1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</i>		
<p>Institutional arrangements and processes designed to manage engagements with multiple funding sources (including non-state actors) that may encompass different requirements and standards</p> <p>Process established in instances of participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (CNAI/MPC, MIAAC/MRA, black people table and local communities tables) to promote climate agendas of forest solutions, in line with the NDC.</p> <p>Recommendations made on a financial instrument to channel, focus and prioritize actions against mitigation measures for ecological restoration (26) and intersectoral reduction of deforestation (31) of the NDC of Colombia.</p> <p>Support for the fulfillment of the goals of the JDI (to be defined in detail)</p>	<p>FAO</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>UNEP</p>	
<i>1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated</i>		
<p>Support for the development of the necessary financial instruments to carry out the adaptation goal by 2030, defined in the NDC "Increase of 18,000 hectares in the process of restoration, rehabilitation and / or ecological recovery in protected areas of the National System of Natural Parks and their areas of influence". (ME)</p> <p>Advice and recommendations for the integration of restoration monitoring activities as part of the SNMF through technical assistance for the implementation of the methodology for monitoring restoration activities at the national level- to define the next steps in collaboration with GGGI and IDEAM</p>	<p>UNEP</p> <p>FAO</p> <p>FAO</p>	

Continued support to the implementation of the community forestry model in line with EICDBG through technical assistance and knowledge management, including the exchange of experiences among key stakeholders		
<i>1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed</i>		
Facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries in the implementation of deforestation-free production schemes	UNDP	
Complementary activities to support the piloting of the practical business tool on deforestation, forest degradation and due diligence in agricultural supply chains, including specific regional exchanges and analyzes in selected commodities	FAO	
<i>1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems</i>		
Continue to strengthen the quality of REDD+ emission reductions, linking them to environmental and social integrity criteria and improved standards	FAO	
Identify options to enhance financial sustainability of national forest monitoring system and strengthening of RENARE to ensure environmental integrity of accounting		
<i>1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions</i>		
Streamlined stakeholder engagement for national REDD+ processes (ideally covering NDC, JDI/REDD+, REM, Carbon Fund, ART/TREES and VCM).	UNDP	Based on the request of Norway and the National Government, the evaluation of the instances (National REDD+ Table, forestry tables, climate change nodes) will be carried out in order to optimize agendas and methodologies for climate solutions with the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. This activity will be developed in coordination with the Participation Subdirectorate of the Ministry of the Environment
Platforms for the participation of indigenous peoples, black communities and peasants are strengthened to guarantee the full and effective participation of the communities.	UNDP	
Experience is shared with the government on how to address safeguards in the development of the REDD + project in the territories of indigenous and local communities	UNDP	
Support to strengthening National Safeguards Committee of the Ministry of Environment to address and respect social and environmental safeguards	UNEP	

Outcome 2 – Forest solutions rewarded

Deliverable	Agency	Notes
<i>2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results</i>		
Financial sustainability strategy document for the National REDD+ Strategy, including <u>identification of opportunities to leverage private sector finance</u> and stablish synergies with national incentives.	FAO	

<i>2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated</i>		
Assist the government in the articulation of different initiatives (ART Trees, DCI, REM, FCPF) within indigenous and local communities	FAO	
Follow-up of the TREES concept note and high integrity, including gaps and development of scenarios for prospective volumes at different scales, including the national scale.	FAO	
Support the government of Colombia in the design of the TREES Registration Document and TREES Monitoring report as well as in other requirements that are part of the ART Cycle, including actions to identify and address gaps that need to be solved to show conformity with TREES safeguards indicators	FAO/UNEP	

Outcome 3 – Forest solutions enhanced

Deliverable	Agency	
<i>3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time</i>		
Improving capacities and participation mechanisms of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples, as well as farming and forest communities, on national climate and forestry issues (including NDC/LULUCF implementation and REDD+ financing).	UNDP	Indigenous leaders have requested NDC training to strengthen their participation around REDD+. During 2022, work will continue with indigenous peoples and local communities, and a process of accompanying the agricultural sector will begin (starting with the coffee and livestock sectors).

Outcome 4 – Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions

Deliverable	Notes	
<i>4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action</i>		
Incorporation of Colombia in events for the exchange of South-South experiences on selected topics, including the protection of traditional knowledge associated with forests and their biodiversity	UNDP	
<i>4.2 Collective political and societal support to NbS increased</i>		
Exchanges will be carried out between countries with Results Based Payment and in the process of registering ART/Trees & Leaf Coalition	UNDP/FAO	

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2.4 Costa Rica

Context and horizon

Costa Rica has historically been a global leader in forest conservation and environmental finance, starting with a groundbreaking forest law adopted in 1995, which pioneered a scheme of payment for environmental services. These achievements are internationally recognized. In fall of 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica has been selected as the winner of the Earthshot Award in the category 'Protect and Restore Nature'. The Earthshot Prize, a Nobel-like prize founded by the Duke of Cambridge and the renowned British naturalist David Attenborough. As Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica pointed out in her acceptance speech: "This award is the recognition of thousands of people who have dedicated their lives to caring for our biodiversity. Our protected areas and our Payment for Environmental Services system are now recognized around the world".

Costa Rica's NDC commits to an absolute maximum of 9.11 MtCO₂e net emissions by 2030 including all gases and all sectors covered by the National GHG Inventory submitted to the UNFCCC. This ambitious goal is consistent with the trajectory of the National Decarbonization Plan, the Long-Term Strategy presented by Costa Rica in 2019, which seeks net-zero emissions in 2050, consistent with the 1.5 °C trajectory. Independent evaluations show how Costa Rica's commitments are the most ambitious of any developing tropical forest country (see <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/>).

The National REDD+ Strategy is one of the policies and plans fully embedded in Costa Rica's NDC. Costa Rica's participation in initiatives such as LEAF is an objective of the National REDD+ Strategy's Policy 3 Incentives for Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management, which, among other actions, establishes the need to expand the coverage of economic incentives and flexibility mechanisms for the conservation, regeneration, and management of forests.

Reaching this ambitious target relies on the country's ability to maintain and further expand its PES programme. Over the last 5 years the PES program has been fully funded by the national carbon-tax and water fee, and minimal contribution of the national private sector. However, in the current economic downturn international resources are of enormous importance to further consolidate the gains of the last 25 years of effective implementation. Furthermore, the national PES programme will be an important mechanism to transfer needed cash resources directly to impoverished groups to support the COVID-19 recovery phase. In fact, the Costa Rica PES scheme is the only existing government cash transfer programme that directly targets indigenous people.

The country is currently seeking international partners to finance its results and contribute to this ambitious goal. 100% of the resources that Costa Rica will access through REDD+ result-based payments will support the implementation of the NDC.

Costa Rica is already engaged in REDD+ Results-Based Payment Initiatives from both market and non-market sources.

First, in late 2020 the country signed an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for up to 12MtCO₂ or USD 65M. A first monitoring report was submitted in June 2021 and the issuance and transfer of the first FCPF ERs is expected by the end of 2021. In this context Costa Rica also provided a groundbreaking report on the non-carbon benefits of the implementation of the FCPF ER Programme with support from UNREDD. This has now become the global standard for reporting on non-carbon benefits at a jurisdictional scale.

Second, Costa Rica received approval from the Green Climate Fund for a USD 54M REDD+ Results-Based payment proposal to the GCF for the emission reductions achieved in 2014 and 2015. Roughly 90% of the proceeds from the GCF will be used to support the National Payment for Environmental Services Programme and the National Forest Fire Prevention and Management Programme. In the context of the GCF project from September to November 2021, these two programmes have undergone an independent technical audit to assess their effectiveness. This detailed technical verification process including extensive desk review and field visit using robust statistical methods concluded that the PES and Forest Fires management programme achieved the following results in 2021:

- 239,190 hectares were under forest protection within the Payment for Environmental Services Program benefiting 4192 forest landowners including 1102 women and 2263 smallholders.
- 545,849 trees have been planted under agroforestry systems through the Payment for Environmental Services Program including 115,899 trees planted on lands belonging to women and 200,601 trees planted in districts with Very Low Social Development Index (SDI).
- 98% of forest fires were managed at the local level, this early action is key to limit the damage of fire events as reflected in international best practice.
- On average fires in Costa Rica 80.6% of the area burned was pastureland. Only 19.4% of the critical forests and moorlands ecosystems were affected by fire. This shows the high effectiveness of fire breaks and other containment measures designed to limit the impact of fires on forests and moorlands and hence the associated GHG emissions.

Also, in the context of this GCF project, in July 2020 the Government of Costa Rica and UNDP have signed a Technical Support Services agreement to design and implement a diversified strategy to access REDD+ Result-Based payment from market and non-market sources.

More recently in July 2021, Costa Rica submitted a proposal to Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition, which will use carbon-credits certification under the “The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard” (TREES) and be registered under the “Architecture for REDD+ Transactions” (ART).

Costa Rica’s proposal has successfully completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of technical experts. Costa Rica recently signed a Letter of Intent at COP26 and will be in the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants.

Furthermore, Costa Rica has engaged in discussion for the sale of TREES credits to buyers outside of the LEAF coalition for earlier vintages from 2017 and has signed another LOI with Emergent for this purpose. Costa Rica is now seeking buyers for remaining REDD+ which are expected to be generated in 2022.

Planning process

In November-December 2021, the National REDD+ Secretariat has scoped the objectives and key milestones on REDD+ performance finance for 2022, building on the notable advancements in the GCF programme for RBPs/REDD+ during 2021 and the signing of a LoI with Emergent during the Glasgow climate conference in November 2021 to access ART and LEAF carbon credits. UNDP – as the UN-REDD agency leading the international technical assistance in Costa Rica – has been participating in these planning efforts, which are presented below, and which were adopted during a meeting held on December 3rd, 2021.

It is important to note that the country disposes of a detailed workplan to implement its diversified strategy to access and implement REDD+ result-based payments from both market and non-market sources, thus including GCF, ART/TREES and LEAF. The UN-REDD technical assistance that the Government requested and that is outlined below fits this broader strategic and implementation pathway.

In this pathway for REDD+ performance finance, Costa Rica faces three main challenges, related to the national ambition to uphold the highest environmental integrity in any carbon payment and transaction, as follows:

Costa Rica is open to participate in carbon markets as part of its NDC implementation plan but will require any buyer to display the same high level of environmental integrity. This implies that any transaction with Costa Rica must adhere to the San Jose Principles for High Ambition and Integrity in International Carbon Markets. Costa Rica considers that these principles should be applied to voluntary market transactions which makes it very challenging to find buyers.

Costa Rica faces important challenges in terms of collecting clear proof of ownership of ERs. The country is undertaking an expensive and time-consuming process through which rural landowners cede their rights to the government in exchange for payments. With payments received from the GCF for results achieved in 2014 and 2015, Costa Rica is working to fill these gaps to allow for its registration by the end of 2021. It is likely that by then, only about 55% of the total results will meet the legal requirements. A key challenge for Costa Rica to generate TREES units is the demonstration of proof of ownership over emission reductions, which will require substantive work in 2022.

Finally, Costa Rica wants to provide evidence of the generation of the significant non-carbon benefits associate with the implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy. These are benefits for local communities, biodiversity, and water resources, etc. The must be carefully monitored and reported.

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

The priority to 2025 is for Costa Rica to consolidate its position as the world leader in the niche market for the highest integrity carbon credits. This involves not only the generation of the highest integrity carbon credits using the TREES standard, but also finding the highest integrity buyers, which are willing to pay to be associated with a country that provides the highest NDC ambitions, compliance with the San Jose Principles, significant and demonstrable non-carbon benefits and the highest level of respect for local resource rights holders as it engages in carbon markets.

All TREES readiness efforts have so far been financed by Costa Rica with results-based payments resources received from the GCF, but the country requires additional technical support from UN-REDD in order to move forward in its dealing with Emergent, both outside and inside the LEAF Coalition.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

In 2022, the UN-REDD support to Costa Rica will aim at meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES) and to conclude a first ERPA with Emergent to transact TREES units for emission reductions generated in 2017 and prepare the way for accessing LEAF performance finance from 2021 onwards. The milestones will require TA on a broad set of technical matters, including MRV, REDD+ safeguards, and legal compliance, as well as planning for the use of proceeds.

Outcome/ Output as per RF	TA streams / deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
Output 2.2	Preparation of the TREES Registration document, including the first monitoring report	UNDP	Deliverable related to other areas of support, namely legal and non-carbon elements of TREES. Collaboration among UN-REDD Agencies to mobilize best expertise is envisioned.
Output 2.2	Assessment of legal and technical options to enable the country to address the TREES requirements on carbon ownership	FAO	This will involve a deep dive into national legal framework to propose alternative legal options to the current approach regarding the ownership of REs, in line with ART-TREES requirements as well as sharing some context elements with key stakeholders in the area of reduced emissions ownership (PPT, and / or note or brief that includes experiences from other countries and provide legal briefs to help Costa Rica deliberate on this matter).
Output 2.2	Assist Government with the process towards the delivery of the first TREES credits	UNDP	
Output 2.2	Support Government preparing an ERPA with Emergent	UNDP	
Output 2.2	Development of a plan for the use of proceeds for the sale of TREES units, in line with the NDC	UNDP	Building on the ongoing work with, and lessons from the GCF/RBPs project as well as the FCPF benefit-sharing plan.

Output 1.5	Support to the reporting on Non-Carbon Benefits (NCB) in REDD+ actions and finance, including linkages with the TREES safeguards requirements and with the SIS.	UNEP	This work will build on the successful support to the NCB report presented to the FCPF in 2021.
Outcome 4	Participation in bilateral and multilateral knowledge and policy exchanges	FAO, UNEP and UNDP	The objective is to disseminate the pioneer experiences of Costa Rica with their diversified strategy for REDD+ finance and their efforts around high environmental integrity of carbon finance

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2.5 Côte d'Ivoire

Context and horizon

Côte d'Ivoire is a country in the West African forest biome that has lost much of its natural forests. With only 2.77 million hectares of forest left and almost no pristine forest outside the National parks, the country has probably one of the world's fastest rates of deforestation and forest degradation. Based on the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) submitted to the UNFCCC (FREL, 2017), forest cover was 7.8 million hectares in 1990, 5.09 million ha in 2000 and 3.4 million in 2015. Current estimates indicate 250,000 ha of forest loss annually from 1990 to 2015 (BNEDT, Ecterra, 2016), 4.32% loss p.a. from 1990 to 2000, and 2.69% for 2000-2015 (FREL, 2017). However, this decline was slower in the past years reaching 37,500 ha a year³. Expansion of cash crops is the main direct driver of deforestation due to its economic attractiveness. Indeed, the country is one of the world's leading cocoa producing countries with an average production of 2,150,000 tons in 2018/2019 representing about 32% of global offer (FAO, 2015).

Despite deforestation-free cocoa commitments made during COP 23 in 2017 by leading chocolate companies and states⁴ through programmes such as the Cocoa and Forests Initiative, the trend of forest loss due to cocoa production continues even inside protected areas and national parks. Studies show that deforestation contributes to climate change by emitting CO₂ and the resulting climatic disturbances (temperature increases and reduced precipitation) have a significant impact on cocoa production, whose yield can fall by 10 or even 20% (Dje K.B., 2007). GHG emissions related to agriculture account for 32.2% of total GHG emissions for Côte d'Ivoire. Agriculture accounts for 62% of deforestation, 38% of which is coming from cocoa (MINEDD, 2019). To tackle these issues, Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 28% compared to the business-as-usual scenario and is developing a new national agricultural policy known as 'zero-deforestation agriculture'.

The country is politically committed to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, including through REDD+. Diverse governmental agencies including the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and, more recently, the regional governments of Bélier and Cavally are engaged in promoting a wide range of forest solutions. Côte d'Ivoire has completed its REDD+ readiness phase, fulfilling each of the Warsaw Framework pillars. Both the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and National REDD+ Strategy (NS REDD+) were submitted in 2017. The Third National Communication and the second Biennial Update Report (BUR) were planned to be submitted in July 2020, but the country wanted to assess first, in the framework of PROMIRE, potential ER results before the submission of this BUR. The submission of the BUR and REDD+ technical annex was then delayed to 2021. The country has also advanced towards developing an Emission Reduction Programme (ERP) under the FCPF Carbon Fund and initial results have been reported in 2021. The country has successfully launched two jurisdictional

³ <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/glasgow-declaration-what-countries-are-leaders-in-reducing-deforestation/>

⁴ <https://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/>

approaches to deforestation-free cocoa production and rural development, in a context of protecting the country's last forest reserves in the Cavally region and deploying forest ecosystem restoration solutions in the Bélier region. In addition, the GCF/SAP/REDD+ project (PROMIRE) led by FAO aims to advance opportunities for ecosystem restoration in the context of the Cocoa & Forest Initiative and is under implementation.

The REDD+ NS was adopted with the aim of *reducing deforestation and forest degradation by 80% compared to 2015 in order to conserve remaining forests and avoiding loss of forest cover area in protected areas* and another objective of *putting wood and forest cover back on the agenda through the promotion of sustainable agriculture and effective reforestation mechanism by restoring 5,000,000 hectares by 2030*. To achieve such objectives, the National Investment Framework (NIF) proposed a budget of USD 5.37 billion to undertake REDD+ NS activities from 2018 to 2040 (244 million USD per year). Hundreds of actions were identified to implement the eight components of the REDD+ NS. Based on NIF projections, by 2040, the strategy is expected to generate ERs of 8.2 billion USD from more than 1.6 billion tCO₂ sequestered over the same period. It would become by 2036 a net profit generating mechanism (global income exceeds implementation costs), although potential annual returns from sale of emission reductions would exceed implementation costs as early as 2025 (UNDP, 2018).

As the leading cocoa producing and exporting country in the world, the cocoa-forest nexus remains the nucleus of the forest solutions in Côte d'Ivoire, and an essential avenue for a successful REDD+ implementation. The country is engaged in different partnerships to advance deforestation-free agriculture, with a focus on cocoa, including the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI), the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative and, more recently, an initial policy dialogue process with the EU on deforestation-free cocoa trade in view of forthcoming EU trade legislation to remove deforestation from value chains. The CFI is an active commitment of top cocoa-producing countries part of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) to end deforestation and restore forest areas through no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The "Joint Framework of Action of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative of action" was presented at the COP 23 meeting in Bonn in November 2017 where signatories agreed to respect eight commitments under the Joint Framework. The country is also revising its NDCs to reduce climate change (first draft under review). It is a comprehensive, intense process, with diverse governmental agencies, national stakeholders and international partners working together. The aim is to capture forest solutions well and submit an enhanced and ambitious set of NDCs to the UNFCCC before the CoP-26.

However, many barriers still exist thus preventing a good implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ strategy:

- Financial and technical options available do not yet match REDD+ ambition, current investments are a fraction of the expected needs for implementing the country's policies and measures (PAMs),
- Forests must become a national priority; their protection is still not mainstreamed into national and sectoral development strategies and this must be addressed. Furthermore, forest protection is not among domestic and development partners' spending priorities,
- Côte d'Ivoire and its partners have an opportunity to green significant shares of existing finance. By doing so, with for instance agricultural finance from domestic and international sources, the country can deliver over five times more REDD+ aligned finance,

Land-use planning is not sufficiently funded, if one wants to implement sustainable action on the ground, it must address this key question. Increased finance for enabling environments is needed to drive investment in productive and resilient land use.

[Planning process](#)

This workplan is based on consultations with officials from concerned governmental agencies, UN country offices and international partners. Meetings have been organized between UN-REDD agencies (UNDP, UNEP and FAO) to discuss foreseen activities and agree on a workplan. Key stakeholders who provided inputs into this workplan, and to benefit from the proposed technical assistance include the National Secretariat for REDD+ (SEP-REDD), the Ministry of the Environment & Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Water & Forests, the Cocoa & Coffee Board (CCC), the Cocoa and Forests Initiative, and the regional governments of Bélier and Cavally. Discussions were organized with UNDP, FAO and UNEP to define the foreseen activities.

Nevertheless, due to a change of staff in the national coordination of the SEP-REDD, no final meeting was organized with the country in January 2022 to validate this programme of actions.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

By 2025, Côte d'Ivoire's jurisdictional programmes in Cavally, Belier and in the Eastern part of the country have delivered positive REDD+ results (avoided emissions and removals), and rewarded by international results-based financing, to allow the country to curb deforestation and degradation, while continuing agroforestry and forest restoration efforts. In addition, deforestation-free supply chains (cocoa, timber, etc.) are rooted into a jurisdictional approach and scaled up at national level. UN-REDD will support Côte d'Ivoire in delivering REDD+ results with high social and environment integrity, to be rewarded with results-based finance through carbon standards such as ART TREES, and removing deforestation from the supply chains.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

In 2021, the UN-REDD technical assistance has supported the country's engagement to advance deforestation-free agriculture, with a focus on the cocoa and the policy dialogue process with the EU and the private sector on deforestation-free cocoa trade and support to revision of the NDCs to capture forest solutions and submit an enhanced and ambitious set of NDCs to the UNFCCC. Moreover, UN-REDD also supported the NFMS and a safeguards information system (first Summary of Information in 2019, initial database and design of the webpage in 2020) which could be interlinked with the jurisdictional-scale actions. Finally, the programme finalized the development of economic and financial agroforestry models for cocoa and timber rooted in jurisdictional approaches and now moving to leverage potential public funding for jurisdictional actions to scale up sustainable business practices.

In 2022, Cote d'Ivoire will require technical support towards accessing results-based finance at jurisdictional level. The several jurisdictional programmes, and efforts to remove deforestation from supply-chains are expected to deliver emission reductions going forward. UN-REDD will support a policy dialogue on how to capitalize on carbon markets based on anticipated progress in Bélier and Cavally jurisdictions and Eastern Côte d'Ivoire. Support is needed towards compiling the necessary documentation for accessing carbon finance, and this may be accompanied by necessary upgrades to the NFMS and SIS (to be determined in consultations with SEP-REDD). Moreover, at the national-scale, continued support for submissions of emissions reductions/enhanced removals results and safeguards will provide essential basis for jurisdictional-scale actions. Support is also planned for the effective implementation and monitoring of the revised NDC related forest solutions and REDD+ plans.

The table below gives information about the UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2022 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Expected outputs (UN-REDD logical framework)	Main goals and activities	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observation
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED <i>Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), unlocked at a level of 1 GtCO₂e per year</i>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Jurisdictional approaches on the cocoa-forest nexus for the regions of Cavally (deforestation-free cocoa production strategy) and Bélier (forest ecosystem restoration strategy) supported and strengthened.	UNDP/UNEP	UNDP and UNEP will work jointly to advance jurisdictional approaches aiming to achieve deforestation-free cocoa production in Cavally Region through communication and advocacy, partnership and capacity building and support to resource mobilization.
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed.	Technical backstopping support provided to the dialogue process between the country and donors on deforestation-free cocoa production & trade, promoting field innovations and lessons, financing options and jurisdictional approaches.	UNDP	UNDP will contribute to the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and EU on deforestation-free cocoa production through policy advisory focusing on jurisdictional approaches to deforestation-free commodity production.
	Platform for dialogue and coordination with stakeholders around optimal business models for the sustainable development of agroforestry systems and value chains strengthened.	UNEP	UNEP through the Partnership 1for20 organizes annual dialogues with stakeholders since 2018 and will continue to do so as COVID-19 restrictions eased.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	PLANET data daily imagery leveraged to enhance measurement of emissions and emission reductions from forests. Activities will essentially focus on the validation of the maps supporting activity data (deforestation and degradation) for 2015-2020.	FAO	Linkage with the GHG on-going work.
	Activity data statistically valid at provincial level (active project zones from the different on-going projects) in order to feed the FREL and ensure consistency across scales.	FAO	<p>Period for the updated FREL not decided by SEP REDD, still uncertainties on what would be strategic for Cote d'Ivoire.</p> <p>There is a strong potential on degradation and + activities.</p>
Outcome 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED <i>Enabling USD 5 billion mobilised for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>			
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Analysis and review of the implications of the status of emission reduction and/or carbon rights / titling in the framework of the development of the national REDD+ benefits sharing mechanism	FAO	This analysis will build upon the assessment of potential legal options of emission reduction rights, respectful of the new forest code, and the draft Decree determining the management rules for REDD+ projects and

			programmes and related greenhouse gas emission reductions, once adopted.
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for Cote d'Ivoire in relation to recent key commitments made at COP26, with a focus on legal and policy frameworks that relate to recognition of the rights of local communities.	FAO	Analysis to be conducted against global COP26 commitment in support of Indigenous and local communities' tenure rights in recognition of their global contributions to climate change mitigation.
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED <i>More than 15 countries enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs in the 2020-2025 cycle, including quantitative targets</i>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	Consolidation, finalization and submission of the reviewed NDC, with due integration of forest solutions and REDD+ plans.	UNDP	UNDP has led the revision of the NDC and will support successful submission to UNFCCC, effective implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions in the forest and land use sector and linkage to article 6 of Paris Agreement.

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2.6 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Context and horizon

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the second largest tropical forest country in the world with 152 million hectares of forest, almost 70% of the country's land area and representing 60% of the Congo Basin Forest. This is equal to 7.6% of the world's total tropical forest area. In 2018, the forest cover for the whole country was 61.5% and the deforestation rate 0.17% making DRC a high-forest cover and low-deforestation country (HFLD). The DRC lost the second-largest area of tropical primary forest of any country (after Brazil) in 2018. Main drivers of this deforestation are small-scale slash-and-burn agriculture, wood exploitation and charcoal production, all of this being exacerbated by strong population growth. Indeed, *slash-and-burn agriculture*, which is a *farming* method that involves cutting and *burning* of plants in a forest or woodland to create a field called a swidden⁵, is largely used in the country. However, due to growing demand, large scale agriculture is once again seizing the attention of governments, business leaders, communities, and development donors, as a powerful future driver of the country's relentless growth – impacts on forests are expected in the future.

DRC has committed to reduce forest loss across the country through the REDD+ mechanism since 2009 and is one of the pilot countries that benefitted from international funds to embark into the readiness phase. With financial and technical support from UN-REDD and the World Bank-administered Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), DRC has convened multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society, and research institutions to engage in readiness process. It became the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa with an approved REDD+ Preparation Plan (R-PP) in March 2010 and it received funds from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and the Norwegian government to support studies and the implementation of REDD+ pilot projects on the ground. The country's National REDD+ Framework Strategy was adopted in 2012, aiming to stabilize forest cover to 63.5% by 2030, and maintain it thereafter. The National REDD+ Investment Plan 2015-2020, adopted in 2015, brings a programming framework for all sectors related to forests, and served as the basis for the first Letter of Intent (LoI) signed between DRC and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) in 2016. With the accompanying capitalization of the DRC's REDD+ National Fund (FONAREDD), this marked the beginning of the REDD+ investment phase.

⁵ This is the conversion of a forest into a cleared land for cultivation by cutting and burning the vegetation.

Two years later in 2018, a proposal from DRC for USD 60 million to scale-up REDD+ activities was approved by the Forest Investment Program (FIP). In 2012, DRC became the first sub-Saharan Africa country to build a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), establish a National Registry and develop a REDD+ Framework Strategy. DRC was also one of the first countries in the world to implement a National REDD+ Fund (in 2015) and the first country in Africa to sign a result-based payment with the FCPF for a jurisdictional project in 2018. This engagement goes to the same direction as the country's revised NDCs aiming at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This strategic national document to combat climate targets a reduction of 21% of GHG emissions (19% conditional and 2% unconditional), updates and reinforces the first goal in terms of contributions to mitigation and adaptation on the one hand, and through improved data collection, in-depth technical analysis and broad stakeholder engagement on the other. It includes four sectors (agriculture, forests, energy and waste) associated with CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O gases over the period 2021-2030.

DRC's priority is to move towards accessing climate finance and investments for reducing emissions and has an approved an ART/TREES concept note for 2017-2021 vintage emissions reductions. A second concept note is planned for future emissions to the LEAF Coalition, as well as the TREES registration document, in early 2022, with an objective to learn lessons from synergies between ART and LEAF submissions. DRC and CAFI extended their engagement with a new CAFI-DRC Lol covering the period 2021 – 2031 which was signed in November 2021 at the COP 26 in Glasgow by President Tshisekedi of the DRC and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom on behalf of CAFI donors. Of this new Lol, **an initial allocation of USD 500 million** has been approved over the period 2021-2026 to achieve concrete objectives to halt deforestation and restore degraded lands through a sustainable & inclusive rural development that fights poverty and creates jobs and revenues.

However, many barriers still exist thus preventing a good implementation of the REDD+ mechanism in the country:

- Financial and technical options available do not yet match REDD+ ambition, current investments are a fraction of the expected needs for implementing the country's policies and measures (PAMs),
- The Warsaw Framework must be finalized, notably with regards the NFMS and the SIS. The NFMS is yet to be fully functional, which is key to advance with any TREES compliance process, to access LEAF and to engage in VCMs with adequate environmental & accounting integrity. Once the SIS is completed, the country will then be able to submit its first summary of safeguards information, which is also key for any REDD+ payments (work ongoing, expected to be finalized in Q1 of 2022).
- The national REDD+ register is not yet operational and could be by the end of 2023,
- An adequate REDD legal framework, especially for carbon rights, needs to be strengthened together with the revision of the approval decree,
- There are limited capacities on carbon accounting and NDC implementation, especially in priority sectors. Such capacities need to be reinforced,
- Forestry code must be updated accordingly,
- Lack of national land use plan (or geographical planning).

Planning process

This workplan is based on ongoing REDD+ processes in the country, as well as on consultations with officials from relevant government agencies, UN country offices and other development partners. Discussions with government agencies have been conducted both bilaterally and alongside regional and global consultation processes, such as the New York Declaration on Forests refresh assessment, the UNFCCC COP26 works, and the process around the new Lol between DRC and CAFI. Inputs provided from these interactions have informed the development of this inception brief. Discussions have also been organized with UNDP, FAO and UNEP to define the foreseen activities. The proposed set of technical-assistance activities was jointly reviewed with the FONAREDD team in January 2022.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

By 2025, DRC aims at having reformed its core policies on forest (forestry code), land (land use planning) and agricultural management on a pathway for sustainable and inclusive development, having them under implementation and territorial deployment. The second Lol with CFI should be under implementation and should channel some USD 500 million in REDD+ investments. More concretely, the country plans to further reduce GHG emissions by planting approximately 3 million ha of forests under the framework of afforestation and reforestation programmes, leading to the sequestration of approximately 3 million tons of CO₂. The country should also receive funding from high-integrity carbon finance schemes, recognizing its REDD+ results – nationally and through the provincial jurisdictions – as well as its commitment to safeguard intact and indigenous forests.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

In 2021, FONAREDD has initiated institutional reviews, to enhance its functioning, while at the same time the country has negotiated and secured a new Lol with the CFI donors, for the next five years. Under the CFI NFMS project finished in 2021, DRC has carried out a carbon finance scoping exercise, with a particular focus on the ART/TREES version 2.0 and successfully submitted a concept note to LEAF Coalition for future ER results under HFLD modality for Tshuapa Province. The initial technical screening of the proposal was successfully completed. In addition, DRC has submitted its updated NDC, with an enhanced level of ambition, in which forests are the major climate mitigation component.

In 2022, UN-REDD agencies will continue to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the investment programmes under their responsibility, to help with qualitative and timely delivery, as well as with the innovations underway – so these are well crafted and disseminated. In addition, UN-REDD will help catalyse the implementation of the forest component of the NDCs, including advice on the linkages to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and recent developments under the Glasgow Climate Pact. Depending on the prospects of jurisdictional proposals for carbon markets, UN-REDD may help with capacity building on carbon-market readiness and access, such as with regards to stakeholder engagement, carbon rights or use of REDD+ proceeds.

The table below gives information about the UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2022 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Expected outputs (UN-REDD logical framework)	Main goals and activities	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observation
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED <i>Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), unlocked at a level of 1 GtCO₂e per year</i>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Implementation of FONAREDD's UNDP-CFI portfolio on land use policy, clean energy transition, integrated development in the ex-Oriental Province and CSO capacity building implemented.	UNDP	Technical assistance on the implementation of FONAREDD's UNDP-CFI portfolio on land-use policy, clean energy transition, integrated development in the ex-Oriental Province, and capacity building of civil society to ensure integration and timely delivery.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	First SOI finalized, SIS webpage and database completed and operationalized. Continuous improvements in safeguards systems, including strengthening of capacities to address and respect safeguards.	UNEP	This is ongoing work that started in 2021 through UNEP's Environment Fund to be completed in Q1 of 2022. UN-REDD support will continue with identification of opportunities for stepwise improvements, capacities strengthening to address and respect safeguards, including identification and elaboration of inputs to help show conformance with TREES safeguards indicators. In the short

			term, this action will be focused on TREES structure and process safeguards indicators, and development of plan to have information and show in the medium-term compliance with the outcome safeguards indicators. All relevant resources and evidence of conformance can be reported in the TREES registration document and later in the TREES monitoring reports.
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED <i>Enabling USD 5 billion mobilised for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Development and submission of the ART/TREES concept note for Tshuapa Province, for LEAF vintages 2022-2026 period, and registration document (if needed) developed and submitted.	FAO/UNEP	FAO and UNEP have been supporting the country to submit the first TREES concept note for past emissions 2017-2021 period for Tshuapa Province as HFLD jurisdiction before the end of 2021. Further support will be required to develop registration document in 2022 along with another TREES concept note for LEAF vintages 2022-2026 period.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Design and implementation of a diversified strategy to access REDD+ results-based financing from both market and non-market sources, including notably the GCF and LEAF, amongst others.	UNEP	Support related to safeguards requirements of TREES to transact forest carbon with LEAF may not be sufficient if the other legal or carbon elements are not supported by UN-REDD or another collaborator. Issues of carbon registry, institutional, legal and fiduciary architecture, and transfer of titles need to be addressed and require additional resources.
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED <i>More than 15 countries enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs in the 2020-2025 cycle, including quantitative targets</i>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	NDC implementation and monitoring supported, especially with regards to forest and land-use sectors, including linkages to article 6 of the Paris Agreement.	UNDP	UNDP has been leading the development of the revised NDC through the NDC Partnership project and will support the next phase of implementation and monitoring of investments in the forest and land use sectors. The objective here is to ensure that the programmes implemented by FONAREDD contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the NDC, whether they are currently being implemented or in the pipeline, by the UNDP and other development partners.
	High-level dialogue to increase access to forest finance and linking climate finance to the NDC and the National REDD+ Strategy supported.	UNEP	UNEP has initiated this high-level dialogue and identified champions – DRC has been part of the initial dialogue that led to the event at COP 26 and will continue next year with UNEA 5.2 amongst other major climate change conferences/events.

OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS			
<i>Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative nature-based solutions movement to accelerate climate action</i>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	Information and knowledge management exchanges supported on various topics (e.g., access to results-based payments and safeguards, etc.)	FAO/UNEP /UNDP	South-South cooperation workshops on access to RBP for African and Asian countries.

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2.7 Ecuador

Context and horizon

Ecuador has been an early partner to the UN-REDD Programme and a leader in the UNFCCC framework for REDD+, participating in all 3 REDD+ phases. After Brazil, Ecuador is the second country in the world to have completed the REDD+ readiness process and fulfilled all the requirements to receive results-based payments for REDD+ as set out in the UNFCCC's Warsaw Framework for REDD+. In its 2016 BUR, Ecuador reported forest-based emission reductions of over 28 MtCO₂ from 2008-2014.

In terms of political commitment under readiness (phase 1), Ecuador has adopted a National REDD+ Action Plan (2016-2025) under full implementation. In 2016, the GCF approved a USD 41 M grant for financing its implementation, being the first time that the GCF approved a REDD+ phase 2 project grant for REDD+, which totals USD 84 M when including co-finance. In terms of REDD+ performance finance (phase 3), in 2019, Ecuador signed an agreement with the KfW REM, where the governments of Germany and Norway provided 11M Euro and 50 M USD, respectively, in results-based payments for the reduction of emissions from deforestation from 2015 to 2019. An additional agreement covering 2020-2021 has been recently reached with Norway. In 2019, Ecuador also received approval for USD 18.5 M funds from the international community (GCF) in Results-Based Payments (RBPs) for REDD+ from the GCF with UNDP as Accredited Entity for results achieved in 2014.

This progressive cycle resulted in an enhanced NDC, with a major focus on forests, developed through an inclusive process and submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019. The NDC in the LULUCF sector, building on the National REDD+ Action Plan goals, sets a reduction in gross emissions by at least 20 % by 2025 compared to FREL 2000-2008. Ecuador's unconditional NDC target for the LULUCF sector is a reduction of 4% of GHG emissions compared to Ecuador's UNFCCC forest reference level by 2025. The conditional NDC target for the LULUCF sector foresees an additional 16% reduction of GHG emissions, conditional on the provision of international financial support. The NDC is a first stepping stone towards a long-term commitment where the Government of Ecuador has set a national target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 (Executive Decree 059 – 2021).

In 2021, following the NDC review process under the UNDP Climate Promise initiative, Ecuador mapped financial REDD+ options with UN-REDD technical assistance: UNDP assisted with a national analysis on NDC/LULUCF/REDD+ finance linkages and options, which included feasibility for ART/TREES; while FAO and UNEP supported with forest & carbon monitoring dimensions and safeguards elements, respectively, for ART/TREES compliance. After the US climate summit, UN-REDD support was readjusted to harness the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition, helping Ecuador to prepare and submit a proposal to LEAF in July 2021 Ecuador's proposal successfully completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of independent technical experts from the LEAF Coalition. In the road to the Glasgow climate conference, Ecuador pursued intensively the LEAF pathway, managing to sign a Letter of Intent with Emergent during the conference, thus becoming part of the first wave of jurisdictions entering ERs purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants.

During 2021, UN-REDD also actively supported Ecuador in developing and submitting a concept note to achieve certification under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES). This concept note was registered under the "Architecture for REDD+ Transactions" (ART) Programme.

Finally, during 2021, UN-REDD helped Ecuador advance the national deforestation-free export brand ("Ecuador Premium & Sustainable"), particularly by supporting the signing of the inter-institutional agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Directorate for the regulation and control of agriculture and animal health to coordinate, regulate, and promote sustainable and deforestation-free production in Ecuador. In addition, advice and technical assistance were provided for the consolidation of commercial agreements with international companies (Lavazza and Silva cacao), which allows the strengthening of the capacities of local producers and the commercialization on international markets of their deforestation-free products.

At the international level, UN-REDD promoted the participation of Ecuador to present and share progress and lessons learned on REDD+ implementation and finance, including at the UN-REDD knowledge forum on REDD+ finance, at fora organized by the New York Declaration on Forests, and the mentioned Glasgow climate conference (COP26). Ecuador was active in virtual knowledge and outreach platforms, such as perfect daily grind and ICCO, among others.

[Planning process](#)

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE) leads REDD+ processes and programmes in Ecuador, including implementing the major REDD+ investment and results-based programmes, the NDC process, and the national engagement in the UN Climate Promise, ensuring consistency and synergies among these processes. Given the developments and synergies mentioned in the context and horizons section, UN-REDD integrated Ecuador into the 2021 workplan. Looking towards 2022, Ecuador continues to present opportunities for REDD+ implementation and accessing results-based finance. The technical assistance of UN-REDD has been examined in this evolving context. The opportunities brought by ART/TREES and LEAF will be at the core of UN-REDD support to Ecuador, led by UNDP, in conjunction with the UN Climate promise, NDC implementation and the existing GCF/Ecuador/REDD+ portfolio.

Due to new forest monitoring requirements in the ART/TREES standard, Ecuador faces the challenge of monitoring and reporting forest degradation as well as improving its ability to reduce the uncertainties on the emission reduction for deforestation. Therefore, the Government has asked FAO to provide technical assistance on forest degradation as part of the RBP programme, as well as along the UN-REDD support during 2022 -2025.

In November and December 2021, internal meetings between national REDD+ professionals and the UN-REDD team to review the UN-REDD technical assistance for 2022 took place. On Thursday, January 13, a meeting was held between the UN-REDD agencies and MAATE. In this meeting, the Undersecretary of CC presented their 2022 planning, including targets to 2025. Then, the support that UN-REDD can offer in this context was discussed. Continued support in the TREES process was confirmed, focusing efforts on improving the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and its information system. Other supports related to increasing the sources and flow of climate financing were discussed, including the engagement of finance and private sectors, these elements are key to achieve the conditional scenario of their NDCs.

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

The period between 2022 and 2025 is highly strategic for MAATE due to the completion in 2025 of prior planning processes such as the first NDC and the REDD+ Action Plan, becoming a priority to develop a new public policy that will govern the coming years. To do this, MAATE will carry out a REDD+ evaluation this year that will provide inputs for this new post-2025 programming (Second REDD+ Action Plan, NDC, and National Climate Change Strategy).

The 2022-2025 objectives established by MAATE are divided into the following axes:

- Promote the implementation of emission reduction commitments linked to the country's NDCs. For this, the goals to be achieved in mitigation is reducing GHG by 22.5% by 2025, having established a goal of 4% reduction in the LULUCF sector with respect to the 2000-2008 reference level.
- Increase the sources of climate financing flows, focusing on the mobilization of resources from the private sector and using instruments such as debt swaps and payments for environmental services considering Ecuador's legal framework. The goal of the MAATE is to be able to double by 2025 the climate financing obtained between 2009-2021 (270M USD). Also, ensure new income from carbon compensation through non-market mechanisms, according to the country's legal framework.
- Enabling the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, including the deforestation-free production strategy, and the need to strengthen capacities to comply with the UNFCCC ETF
- Increase the participation and impact of climate action, where subnational governments need to be empowered ensuring actions are aligned with national goals, and finance and private sectors need to be engaged. Also, MAATE wants to ensure that all PROAmazonia actions improve local livelihoods (measured through access to water among other criteria); and strengthen leadership in REDD+ issues among young people and indigenous peoples for their effective participation in processes at a technical and political level.

In the coming four years, Ecuador must work both to implement and update its REDD + Action Plan and its NDC. Also, it will be a priority to support the country to fulfill its commitments under the Paris Agreement Transparency Framework and continue to strengthen its National Forest Monitoring System. Also, FAO was asked to develop a concept note for technical support for the new national forestry strategy, which should be linked to the REDD+ action plan to strengthen sustainable forest management, conservation, and forest restoration activities.

Based on progress with then NDCs and REDD+ results, Ecuador will continue to scope and access performance-based finance for REDD+, including international schemes of results-based payments and carbon finance under the UNFCCC, such as the GCF/RBPs programme and ART/TREES. In 2025, the country would wish to have a regular flow of performance-based finance from the international arena to match their sustained REDD+ progress and achievements, all in compliance with the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC monitoring requirements, international social & environmental safeguards, and high-integrity carbon approaches.

In addition, Ecuador, which is a major commodity export country, aims to get the national sustainable trade initiative ("Ecuador: Premium & Sustainable") fully established and functional by 2025. This is one of the key REDD+ objectives of the national Government, with the ministries of agriculture, environment and foreign trade working closely together. This requires establishing an integrated approach that connects domestic agricultural policies, national financial arrangements (both public and private sectors), foreign trade partnerships and the international finance for REDD+.

Finally, the government is planning to develop a national forestry strategy, which should be the link to the REDD+ action plan related to strengthening sustainable forest management, conservation, and forest restoration activities.

Some additional areas for which support needs, associated to REDD+ implementation, have been identified, these are:

- Support to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of National REDD+ Action Plan (2016-2025), process that will contribute to the update of this plan
- Strengthening the country's programme for sustainable production free of deforestation, including other agriculture products and non-timber forest products
- Support to strengthened and address gaps for effective and continuous monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation
- Development of strategy to involve the private sector more directly in the commitments and implementation of public policies that Ecuador has regarding climate action
- Address the necessary policies to incorporate Carbon Neutrality in the productive sectors of Ecuador

- Have sustainable long- and medium-term financial instruments to maintain the financing of the National REDD+ Action Plan, complementing or following contributions of PROAmazonia, REM Programme and other initiatives, and in general the actions associated with forests in the NDC
- Definition of criteria to determine the potential and follow up on the contribution of subnational governments and private enterprises to reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

In 2022, the UN-REDD support to Ecuador will focus on meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under TREES as well as to access financial resources through LEAF for emission reductions for 2022-2026, including support towards an ERPA with Emergent. To achieve TREES requirements, UN-REDD will provide TA on critical aspects of MRV, safeguards, and legal compliance. For instance, a key challenge for Ecuador to access ART/TREES is the inclusion of carbon emissions from forest degradation, which will require substantive work and capacity-building in 2022.

In addition, with regards to decoupling agricultural production/trade and deforestation, TA is likely needed to help the country design and deploy new credit lines for deforestation-free producers with public banks, coupled with TA on a certification & traceability system to ensure that production of key commodities in the Amazon region is compliant with REDD+ objectives.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
Output 1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Support through the design of financial instruments, the restructuring of the "Credit Compensation Fund" (FCC) so that it has the capacity to attract and mobilize public, private, and cooperation resources towards short, medium, and long-term actions of the Climate commitments of the Republic of Ecuador, in particular, those associated with its natural capital.	UNEP	This represents an opportunity to turn the FCC into a vehicle for the mobilization of long-term climate resources, which addresses the needs of the NDC in mitigation and adaptation, as well as supports the existing REDD+ initiatives in Ecuador.
Output 1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	Inputs to the new forestry strategy based on the National REDD+ Action Plan and PROAmazonia experiences and deliverables	FAO	The concept note for the forestry strategy is on development, supported by the FAO Investment Center.
Output 1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Assistance in closing gaps for the Implementation of Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) in the BDE, COAC and BanEcuador with a focus on deforestation risk management and the development of products and services to mobilize climate resources in the areas of influence of PROAmazonia.	UNEP	This activity aims to connect quickly the Ecuadorian development banks and private banks with actions and procedures to avoid financing / investment in value chains associated with deforestation and, on the contrary, support projects associated with the sustainable use of resources from low-carbon and deforestation-free forests and agricultural activities

	Support the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains through the implementation of the Premium & Sustainable national strategy, including the signature and compliance arrangements of commercial agreements with national and international companies (at least 2 international and 2 national commercial agreements), and the development and implementation of the traceability system for deforestation-free production	UNDP	To continue the assistance provided in the past year, the 2022 TA will be focus on the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains on coffee, cocoa, and palm oil, by implementing the P&S national strategy (local producer capacities will be strengthened, the national certification of def –free will be implemented and commercial agreement will be signed)
Output 1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Technical assistance for the updated forest reference level to the UNFCCC Support the NFMS unit on improving the organizational structure and management model to allow the integration of new monitoring needs	FAO	The National Forest Monitoring Unit will develop deforestation analysis under the Secretary of Heritage of the MAATE.
Output 1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Inputs provided on linkages between national and subnational safeguards processes and reporting	UNEP	Based on the experience of the PROAmazonia and other key existing initiatives further guidance may be developed, and learnings will be documented
Output 2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	TREES readiness pathway updated and TREES registration stage advanced including: a) information obtained from the gap assessment performed during 2021 and continuing building stakeholder capacities and dialogues throughout (potentially leading to a TREES registration document) b) technical inputs on reference period 2017-2021 for deforestation and forest degradation c) safeguards technical support to promote high-integrity ER, focused in advancing with development of safeguards section of TREES Registration Document	UNDP- FAO-UNEP	UNDP support to item a). FAO support focused on item b). Financing resources for the inclusion of forest degradation are under discussion to enhance the NFMS, the TA includes the support on the discussions with LEAF and ART Secretariat UNEP assistance related to item c).
	Support in the process towards an ERPA with Emergent as part of engagement with LEAF (including the development of an implementation plan; as well as a high-level benefit-sharing plan)	UNDP	A participatory approach will support this process, although additional financing for it is still required.
	Legal inputs for building an instrument to enable the reporting	FAO	The activity is linked to the offset marketing plan of Ecuador. Inputs

	of the companies' carbon footprint as part of the Zero Carbon strategy of Ecuador		should be linked to the REDD+ action plan.
	Technical inputs of a conceptual framework for building a platform of traceability on deforestation-free supply changes	FAO	The platform is an action of the 2022 climate change plan of Ecuador, will be developed in collaboration with Pro-Amazonia project, including the 'Punto Verde Forestal' certification. Progress depends on MAATE's planification
Output 4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	Ecuador's lessons on REDD+ safeguards-related themes shared with other REDD+ countries	UNEP	Ecuador is a REDD+ forerunner country, whose lessons and innovations will be disseminated under a South-South spirit (bilateral and multilateral) through the UN-REDD knowledge platform (UN-REDD Outcome 4)
	Support sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains exchanges	UNDP	Exchanges between stakeholders and among countries undertaking similar efforts will be explored during the year
	Exchange of experiences and inputs to the design of the 'Punto Verde Forestal' in the online market (e-commers) South-south exchanges on NFMS issues: forest degradation, restoration monitoring, national forest inventory, and community forest monitoring	FAO	The Country Programme Framework government- FAO is under construction and this action could be considered. Exchange of online markets experiences could be with Colombia

Funding gap for LEAF:

UN-REDD will provide TA to Ecuador on its LEAF pathway in 2022, but there is a critical funding gap to ensure success. In particular:

- MRV capacities in-country to ensure degradation is duly assessed, and first TREES monitoring report is delivered and capacities are installed for periodic delivery of future TREES monitoring reports.
- Capacity building to key stakeholders and participatory processes to inform the TREES registration and the LEAF engagement processes and discuss issues like implementation arrangements, benefit distribution mechanisms and the use of proceeds (e.g., training, consultation events, multi-stakeholder dialogues using existing local governance platforms). Indigenous peoples and local communities will be priority stakeholders.
- Validation and verification of TREES registration information by external third party (likely needed in 2023).

UN-REDD will help Ecuador mobilize resources from domestic and international sources for the above-mentioned processes. This funding gap is a critical factor for success.

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2.8 Gabon

Historically, Gabon was part of the UN-REDD Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. However, the Country concluded that the REDD + framework, as presented in Durban in 2011, was unlikely to provide sufficient incentives and flexibility for countries with high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) to simultaneously pursue their climate change mitigation and development goals. As such, Gabon could not engage in the REDD+ process without first defining and adopting its own development strategy.

In 2017, the Government of Gabon and Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) which establishes a partnership for the implementation of Gabon's National Investment Framework (CNI) and commits to reducing its gross emissions by 50%, compared to 2010 levels, by 2025 (this implies an emission reduction of more than 50% in the forestry sector). In 2019, Gabon signed an agreement with CAFI for payments of emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) to deliver results for the calendar years 2016 - 2020 (Period 1) and 2021 – 2025 (Period 2). By the end of 2020, Gabon had made progress on this path to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and has, therefore, opened the door to discussions on how to potentially engage in the REDD+ process for specific sectors. Since then, the country has made progress in preparing the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements and achieving ART-TREES conformance. Gabon has now a forest reference emission level (FREL) finalised, a national forest monitoring system (NFMS) completed, and a first summary of safeguards information submitted to UNFCCC.

In 2020, the UN-REDD Programme produced a new results framework that will run from 2021-2025. Concurrently, the Programme expanded its geographical scope to include countries willing to apply Architecture for REDD+ Transactions' (ART) The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) and attract demand from private sector buyers of forest carbon ERRs. In that context, UN-REDD was engaged in a series of consultations with Gabonese government to scope out indicative 2021 deliverables that should be aligned to achieving ART-TREES conformance. After an agreement with Gabonese government and in coordination with CAFI, two main activities were identified as priority for 2021, to which UN-REDD could add value: (1) technical assistance to support the design of a safeguards information system (SIS) webpage; and (2) review of CAFI-led assessment of safeguards conformance, gaps and gap-filling actions informing the development of safeguards conformance plan, as a contribution to an ART-TREES concept note submission.

However, after several conversations with Gabonese government and partners, in early 2021, it was agreed that support from UN-REDD on these two deliverables was not needed. This was largely due to attributional and coordination concerns among different development partners, on the part of the government. With CAFI having invested financial resources to support the Gabonese government's efforts to achieve ERR results, and fulfil their commitments, under the LoI, UN-REDD's technical assistance in 2021 was no longer required. Instead, UN-REDD reoriented resources to support other countries in the region, notably in support of proposals to the LEAF first call for proposals. In 2021, the government of Gabon received its first results-based payment and requests for support from UN-REDD in 2022 are not expected.

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2.9 Ghana

Context and horizon

Ghana has significantly advanced in implementing its REDD+ strategy, which was developed and adopted in 2017, just after the Paris Agreement was concluded. Ghana has currently two REDD+ investment programmes under implementation, with distinctive regional and eco zone approaches: The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project (GSLERP).

The GCFRP is the first REDD+ program to be developed in Ghana. It is jointly coordinated by the Forestry Commission (FC) – through its Climate Change Directorate and the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) – and the Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod). The FC is responsible for the regulation of the utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources, and the coordination of policies related to them, while the Cocobod's mission is to regulate the production, processing and marketing of good quality cocoa. The GCFRP is centered on the development of a sustainable commodity supply chain that hinges upon the non-carbon benefits that will be channeled to farmers as a result of significant private sector investments into the landscape and the supply chain. The GCFRP is financed by the Carbon Fund through REDD+ performance-based finance (see below).

The GSLERP is funded by the Green Climate Fund and focuses on the forest ecosystems of Ghana's Northern Savannah Zone (NSZ), an area of 9.7 million hectares with a population of over 5 million people. The loss and degradation of woodlands and forests poses significant environmental, social and economic risks in the NSZ,

where the three poorest regions of Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions) are located. These are also the most vulnerable to climate change. The project is specifically cited in Ghana's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), supports its commitment to the Bonn Challenge and the AFR. It is the first time that shea landscapes are considered in a climate change mitigation initiative. The project seeks to: 1) restore 200,000 hectares of off-reserve savannah forests/woodlands and place them under self-financing community management in Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA); 2) restore 100,000 hectares of degraded shea parklands; 3) create 25,500 hectares of modified taungya system/forest plantation in severely degraded forest reserves, and; 4) implement an integrated monitoring system and strengthen the national REDD+ safeguards and forest monitoring and reporting systems.

Ghana has been also engaging in REDD+ performance finance. In June 2019, Ghana signed two ERPAs with the World Bank as a Trustee for the Carbon Fund (Tranches A & B). In April 2020, the World Bank declared all conditions of effectiveness to the ERPAs to have been fulfilled and thus USD 1.3 million as Upfront Advance Payment was released in September 2020 to support Program implementation. The Benefit Sharing Plan, which gives guidance on the sharing of Carbon Benefits that would be generated under the GCFRP, has been finalized and disclosed. The GCFRP has also developed a Safeguards architecture (see below).

Ghana submitted its First Monitoring Report to the Carbon Fund in 2021 with results for the second half of 2019 and an initial transaction with the Carbon Fund is expected to be carried out in 2022. Ghana has reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation quite significantly against the 2005-2014 reference level. Preliminary calculations indicate that Ghana may have significantly reduced emissions also against a TREES-compliant reference level.

Supported by UN-REDD, with FAO and UNEP in the lead, Ghana submitted in 2021 a proposal to the LEAF Coalition and successfully completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of technical experts. It was selected as one of the forerunners to engage with the LEAF Coalition. A Letter of Intent was negotiated and signed with Emergent – the LEAF financial representative – during the Glasgow climate conference in November 2021. Ghana has also submitted a TREES concept note and has designated a jurisdictional area for the LEAF engagement. Other partners already engaged with FC and UNDP are interested in developing large scale mitigation programmes in the eco zones designated in the national REDD+ Strategy.

Ghana submitted its first summary of information to the UNFCCC describing the country's overall approach to safeguards implementation. A sub-working group on safeguards is tasked to ensure that proposed REDD+ interventions to be implemented do no harm both socially and environmentally. Ghana's national approach encompasses the Cancun, World Bank, UNDP (as GCF AE), national and other safeguards requirements.

At the national level efforts are being undertaken to strengthen capacity: Ghana's REDD+ safeguards architecture has been decentralized to the district level and trainings have taken place to train safeguard regional and district level focal points. These safeguard focal points include the Forestry Commission's Assistant Regional Managers, Assistant District Managers, and Assistant National Park Managers who have been trained on the national safeguards approach, safeguards data collection and monitoring and social and environmental compliance. A Safeguards Information System (SIS) web platform has been developed - www.reddsis.fcghana.org. There is work on-going to define Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs) and these indicators will feed into the SIS. Ghana envisages to continue improving its SIS over time as new information comes in from different areas.

Planning process

For 2022, Ghana aims to capitalize on this policy and investment progress and further mobilise climate finance, including engaging with the emerging carbon markets in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact. In this sense, Ghana and the UN-REDD agencies have been working in 2021 to assess the country prospects to access carbon markets, particularly through the LEAF Coalition – in this sense, a joint pathway was initiated successfully and is intended to be the focus of UN-REDD support during 2022. Diverse dialogues and planning efforts have confirmed that Ghana counts on UN-REDD's technical assistance to move forward with the LEAF process, aiming at achieving TREES compliance and signing an ERPA with Emergent. The draft plan is presented below, and is under finalization between UN-REDD and the Government of Ghana (final planning

meetings are scheduled by the end of January 2022). In any case, UN-REDD has been already providing Ghana with technical assistance on TREES and LEAF, and this will continue during 2022.

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

Ghana's NDC puts much emphasis on forests, while expecting international finance will be at the scale required for the national ambitions to protect and restore forests as part of sustainable and inclusive rural development pathways across the nation. Carbon markets of high environmental integrity are expected to be one of the foundations for achieving mitigation goals for the 2020-2030 period. By 2025, Ghana expects to be already well advanced on the way towards meeting the national mitigation goals, including regular financial flows to underpin such efforts (from the Carbon Fund, and from emerging carbon markets catering for jurisdictional supply (e.g. using TREES) and other sources that comply with environmental integrity). This should enable the country to maintain deforestation and degradation at low levels while continuing landscape restoration efforts.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

Building on the successful cooperation between Ghana and UN-REDD around Ghana's LEAF pathway during 2021, and based on planning and strategic discussions held in late 2021, the UN-REDD technical assistance to Ghana in 2022 will aim at a successful agreement with the LEAF Coalition (i.e. an ERPA signed) with due compliance with TREES. This falls under UN-REDD's Outcome 2 (UN-REDD Results Framework, 2021-2025).

This milestone will require UN-REDD technical assistance on the following strategic lines, which may extend over 2023:

1. Aligning NDC implementation, REDD+ actions and carbon finance – led by UNDP

Technical assistance, using specific tools and national data, will help the country assess how NDC implementation in the forest sector can align with financing opportunities, including carbon market readiness, degree of compliance with high-integrity standards (notably TREES), and strategic options. Stakeholder consultations will take place, seeking for social inclusiveness in Ghana's REDD+ actions and finance.

2. REDD+ activity data collection and reporting, including enhancements to the NFMS – led by FAO.

- Re-assess the emission factors outside GCFRP in a consistent manner with the GCFRP (based on field observations where available)
- Further explore the impact of plot size (0.5 ha versus 1 ha) in past inventories in order to enable merging of datasets
- Obtain multiple interpretations of the existing plots, leveraging automated data processing along with visual interpretation
- Explore the possibility to distinguish reforestation statistics into natural regeneration and production forest
- Collect activity data for 2020-2021
- Update the standard operating procedures for TREES compliant activity data
- Update emissions calculations using updated activity data and reassessed emission factors
- Estimate emission reductions
- Update the uncertainty analysis
- Implement a TREES-compliant carbon accounting model, including a leakage assessment, non-permanence assessment, uncertainty discounts

3. TREES safeguards requirements, with a focus on gap assessment and analysis – led by UNEP

TREES safeguards compliance may require a second summary of information, or the implementation of certain policies and laws as well as processes to demonstrate conformance with the safeguard process indicators. The support will entail:

- Completing the TREES safeguards assessment with country's inputs, including identification of gaps and how these could be addressed). Depending on resources available, implementation of gap-filling actions could be undertaken

- Drafting safeguards section of TREES Registration document
- Elaborating the plan for conformance for TREES safeguards outcome indicators
- Providing specific recommendations and identify opportunities to advance/improve the safeguards information system.

4. Support Government with the preparation of an ERPA with Emergent, including TREES registration document – led by UNDP

The efforts under the strategic lines 1 to 3 will lead towards a national agreement with the LEAF Coalition, through an ERPA signed with Emergent (the LEAF intermediary for transactions) and the submission of a TREES registration document to the ART Secretariat. This will require an intense and coherent effort of strategic planning, data compilation & analysis, safeguards compliance, stakeholder consultations, carbon accounting, environmental integrity, transparency arrangements, inclusive plans for the use of REDD+ proceeds, and negotiations with Emergent and LEAF donors.

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2.10 Indonesia

Context and horizon

Indonesia's continuing efforts to reduce deforestation resulted in a 75% drop-in net deforestation rate for 2019-2020 period (115,500 hectares), compared to deforestation in the 2018-2019 period (462,500 hectares). This significant reduction was attributed to continued implementation of the moratoria on primary forest and peatland clearing and improved forest fire management. Indonesia had success in Results-Based Payments (RBP) under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) with USD 103 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for results from 2014-2016 in August 2020. The Indonesian Environment Fund (BLU BPDH), with technical inputs from UN-REDD, has also developed policy, legal and operational documents on REDD+ fund distribution. The drafting of the Plan for Peat Ecosystem Protection and Management (RPG) is receiving technical and policy inputs from all administrative levels and coordinated with support from the UN-REDD and is currently being implemented. A new FREL is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC. In July 2021, Indonesia submitted its updated NDC and the Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050. As well as its aim to achieve zero emission by 2060 or sooner in its Long-Term Strategy submitted to the UNFCCC, Indonesia "will increase ambition on GHG reduction by achieving the peaking for all mitigation sectors in 2030 with net-sink of forest and land-use sector". This objective will also be achieved by increasing removals. In November 2021, the Presidential Regulation on the Economic Value of Carbon was endorsed and efforts will commence to start developing a domestic carbon market that is designed to include forestry and land use GHG emission reductions, while potentially opening to international markets. These progress and achievements will contribute to financing its NDC and REDD+ implementation.

Planning process

During recent consultation meetings, both the Director General of Climate Change Control and the Director General of Social Forestry of the MOEF have raised the issue of the administrative renewal of the engagement of the UN-REDD Programme with the Ministry. Since 2013, the TA provided by the UN-REDD Programme has been handled through an Exchange of Letters, as a simple and straight forward modality to formalise the collaboration. A formal letter on the support of the UN-REDD Programme under the framework of the Global 2022-2025 Technical Assistance Multiyear Plan has been sent by the Head of the UN-REDD Programme to the Secretary General of the MOEF on 16th December 2021. Upon receipt of a response, a detailed activity workplan for 2022 will be prepared in consultation with the MOEF.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

Under the updated 2021 NDC, 17.2 % of planned emission reductions, against the business-as-usual scenario, have to be delivered by the forestry sector (by reducing the 2020-30 deforestation target from 450,000ha to

325,000ha by 2030). This equals to 497-692 MtCO₂e by 2030 and includes fire and peat-related GHG emissions. To increase the accuracy of measuring and reporting deforestation, degradation and GHG emissions, including those from fire peatland and mangroves, Indonesia aims to continue strengthening the technical capacity of national forest monitoring agencies and systems. An additional parallel new project to redesign and enhance the National Forest Inventory and monitoring systems including high-resolution 3m, daily satellite data SEPAL (with funding also from Norway). This support will enable Indonesia to be much better equipped to monitor and respond to deforestation, peat degradation and fires in near real-time which will increase the ability to make better decisions and take actions to reduce GHGs.

The BLU BPDH will be recognized as an entity on par with internationally reputable environmental fund agencies or other successful national environmental fund agencies, with the capacity to access various types of domestic and international blended climate finance: RBPs, carbon markets, public funding to support NDC implementation, particularly REDD+. This in collaboration with World Bank through their Technical Assistance to the BLU BPDH, this may include, among others, BLU BPDH achieving accreditation as a GCF National Accredited Entity, as well as other relevant accreditation.

The *Presidential Regulation on the Economic Value of Carbon* and complementary ministerial and lower-level regulations are implemented to support the operations of a forest carbon market domestically in the implementation of the *Paris Agreement* for the forest sector. Indonesia would also have assessed the status of international tradable REDD+ generated GHG emission reductions for potential future engagement internationally.

Finally, relevant evolving REDD+ policies, laws and regulations particularly for the forest sector, such as the Government Regulation No. 23/2021 concerning Forestry Implementation, which is subsidiary legislation under the Job Creation Act (Law No. 11/2020), remain a strategic priority.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia's view is that it has to focus on economic recovery. The second SOI FO released in December 2020 says that the Updated NDC concluded that *"...the emissions reduction targets of 29 percent and 41 percent would not be revised, taking into account that the unconditional 29 percent target is already very ambitious, and given the still large challenges to meet the conditions that must be achieved."*

The implication for UN-REDD activities in Indonesia is that work in 2022 is likely to continue to be focused on developing the capacities and systems for improving the accuracy and completeness of the MRV systems and especially on filling gaps in areas such as peatland and fire emissions. Identification of gap-filling actions will be based on demands formulated by the MoEF, through its research and development agency and the Directorate of Climate Change Control, with the aim to better capture GHG emissions from peat decomposition and fire (which have been not fully included in the latest FREL). Work will continue on supporting the operationalization of BLU BPDH in accordance with international best practice including social inclusion; ensure the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's Regulations on Economic Value of Carbon is aligned with Article 6 and further contextualized for Indonesia. Work will continue on promoting sustainable landscape management through blended finance to strengthen peatland governance and raise BLU BPDH's awareness of the added value of co-benefits (biodiversity, climate adaptation, Indigenous Peoples' rights) in Indonesian carbon transactions by the Indonesian forest sector.

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2.11 Mexico

Context and horizon

Mexico has submitted its revised NDC in late 2020⁶, reinforcing the role of the REDD+ National Strategy (ENAREDD+) to meet its zero net deforestation target by 2030 and contribute to its unconditional (-22%) and conditional (-36%) mitigation targets with respect to BAU. To achieve its climate targets, Mexico's Reformed Climate Change Law (2018) counts with several instruments, including a domestic emission trading scheme (currently in a pilot phase and fully operationalized by 2023) and the Special Programme on Climate Change (PECC) 2021-2024 with targets and actions, including on implementing the ENAREDD+ and reducing deforestation (30% gross deforestation by 2024 compared to 2018).

With regard to REDD+, Mexico has continued to improve its REDD+ efforts and achieved REDD+ readiness. The country has an advanced system on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) with the ability to assess the performance of the forest sector towards climate policy goals, including NDC. Also, Mexico is the first country in the world to have an operational REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS) and continues to update and refine its national safeguards system and approach. Currently, Mexico is working on a revised version of the SIS which will feed into a second summary of safeguards information (the first one was published in 2017). Limited public resources have made it more pressing for the country to access climate finance. A legal reform bill to the forest law is expected to clarify emissions reductions titling and support subnational action. REDD+ initiatives at the subnational level are under way with two Mexican states (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) that have submitted proposals under the LEAF Coalition.

To meet its targets on low-carbon rural development and reduced deforestation, by 2025 Mexico would need to consolidate its nested approach, enabling jurisdictional action effectively nested at the national scale. The implementation of REDD+ strategies, based on enhancing the economic value of forests while eliminating the negative impact of agricultural subsidies and promoting deforestation-free production approaches, also needs to be consolidated.

During 2022, key activities include advancing on the full implementation of the legal reforms on emissions reductions titling, consolidating the multi-use monitoring system and establishing the basis for high environmental integrity in a nested system that promotes enhanced jurisdictional action. Further advances on safeguards are expected, including continued strengthening of the updated SIS and the periodic collection, analysis and reporting of information on safeguards, to meet UNFCCC as well as other requirements. The development and promotion on deforestation-free value chain approaches will equally be part of the main work areas. Advancing to meet high environmental integrity standards like ART-TREES will also be part of the key activities to mobilize carbon finance from different sources (including potentially from non-state actors).

Planning process

The UN-REDD agencies held joint introductory and planning sessions with Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) during November and December. After changes in CONAFOR's management, the meetings had the double objectives of presenting the respective teams as well as the UN-REDD Programme and its 2021-2025 Framework, including defining jointly the specific outlook for the work plan 2022 (see 2022 section below).

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

As overall context for the UN-REDD support to Mexico in 2022, here follows a broad view of the long-term directions of the climate & forests agenda in Mexico, prepared by the UN-REDD team on the basis of the NDC, national and state development and climate plans, diverse legal and financial instruments underway, and exchanges held between UN-REDD and Mexico experts.

⁶ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Mexico%20First/NDC-Esp-30Dic.pdf>

1. Strategic work stream 1: Deforestation-free commodity supply chains (RF: 1.2, 1.3)

1.1 Alignments of incentives:

The expansion of agriculture is among the main drivers of deforestation in Mexico. While the country currently makes substantive investments into rural development with high carbon capture potential, particularly through investments programs administered by the Ministry of Agriculture (SADER), incentives towards sustainable forest and land management practices are under budgetary pressure. Furthermore, these incentives will have to be reformed, reinstated or expanded (e.g. payments for environmental services schemes) to align with policy goals of reduced agricultural and forest emissions.

Links to results framework:

- Reform and align economic incentives to reduce deforestation from commodity value chains
- Provide evidence-based inputs on policy approaches, management and reporting for deforestation-free supply chains

1.2 Implementation of deforestation-free production systems

The country and specific subnational entities demonstrate willingness to transform deforestation-linked sectors in view of recent international legislative and policy developments. As such, Mexico's roundtable for sustainable livestock has been established and deforestation-free commodity production approaches are being piloted at multiple scales. Beyond political buy-in, further developing these models will require technical capacities as well as leveraged financial resources, from both private and public sector actors. UN-REDD technical assistance aims to support the different actors in this transition.

Links to results framework:

- Redirect public and private capital to finance deforestation-free commodities
- Pilot public-private partnerships in deforestation-free supply chains
- Include deforestation-free standards in commodity platforms across multiple scales

2. Strategic work stream 2: Monitoring systems (RF: 1.4, 1.5)

2.1 Forest monitoring and MRV:

Mexico has advanced forest monitoring and MRV systems that serve multiple purposes of the country's forest and climate policies. While UN-REDD agencies and other partners have been involved in the development, these systems require continuous technical refinements to respond to updated policy and information needs. These areas include but are not limited to the generation of deforestation data at different scales, integration of further activity data (e.g. degradation), inputs towards reporting obligations under the UNFCCC (e.g. biennial transparency reports) as well as integration with different registries under traceability schemes, compliance and voluntary carbon markets as well as private sector initiatives (e.g. LEAF).

Links to results framework:

1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems

- Provide technical assistance for the continuous improvement of national forest monitoring systems
- Support development of carbon accounting frameworks, procedures, and tools
- Support resource-efficient solutions for data collection, management, and analysis, enhancing accessibility and transparency
- Support generation of policy relevant information and assessments of past actions and policies

2.2 Safeguards:

Mexico is the first country in the world that has an operational safeguards information systems (SIS), capable of informing how social and environmental safeguards are being addressed and respected. To keep up with legal and policy developments and to accompany REDD+ implementation at federal and subnational levels, the system requires continuous technical refinements and management as well as

corresponding capacity development at different scales. Furthermore, Mexico needs to comply with its reporting obligations under the UNFCCC, particularly the safeguards summary report. Given the track-record of supporting Mexico in the development of its national safeguards approach, UN-REDD will continue these efforts.

Links to results framework:

1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions

- Strengthen policies, procedures and institutional capacities to address and respect safeguards
- Improve SIS operations to compile, manage and analyse safeguards information

3. Strategic work stream 3: Accessing forest and climate finance (RF: 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

3.1 Scaling up investments into REDD+ actions

Mexico has a significant track-record of developing and implementing financial incentives for forest conservation, particularly with payments for environmental services. While technical and financial challenges remain to operate them at scale, these and other financial instruments have the potential to pave the way towards sustainable land management.

Links to results framework: Cross-cutting activities related to scaling investments and finance into sustainable land use

- Promote financing arrangements for scaled up REDD+ action (1.1)
- Scale up investment and action in forest landscape restoration (1.2)
- Redirect public and private capital to finance deforestation-free commodities, (1.3)
- Develop long-term financial mechanisms at the federal and state levels that encourage the participation of the private sector in the mobilization of resources to finance/invest in the scaling of deforestation-free, climate-resilient, and low-carbon value chains.

3.2 Results-based payments

Mexico develops and implements an emission trading scheme under its Climate Change Law (2018) and presents significant emission reduction potential that could be rewarded by private sector actors, through market or non-market-based approaches (e.g. LEAF, Green Climate Fund, taxes, voluntary carbon markets, etc.). With at least six Mexican states eligible under ART / TREES and two states with developed project proposals under LEAF (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) as well as overall compliance with the Warsaw Framework on REDD+, there are real opportunities to access international results-based payments for REDD+ results. At the same time, there are technical, legal and political hurdles to fully operationalize this potential, including the pending approval of the revised Forest Law. UN-REDD technical assistance is well equipped to work with partners at national and subnational levels in meeting the various technical and legal eligibility requirements.

Links to results framework:

- Help countries meet eligibility requirements for, and access to, RBPs from multiple sources (2.1)
- Inform the revision of existing, and design of new, scaled-up RBP programmes (2.1)
- Help countries meet eligibility requirements of ART-TREES and entry into emerging carbon markets (2.2)
- Conduct carbon market readiness assessments and create synergies across carbon finance options (2.2)
- Clarify rights related to emission reductions titles (2.2)
- Provide evidence-based inputs to standard-setting initiatives (2.2)
- Identify and connect private companies committed to invest in forest-based solutions (2.3)
- Stimulate private sector investment in forest-based solutions of high environmental integrity (2.3)
- Facilitate partnerships between countries and private sector to scale up investment into REDD+ (2.3)

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

Mexico is at a critical stage of REDD+ implementation. The country has achieved full REDD+ readiness, with an approved REDD+ strategy that aims towards integrated territorial governance as well as highly advanced

systems on forest and safeguards monitoring. Furthermore, the country is making significant stance on implementing subnational REDD+ initiatives. Against this backdrop, policies and programs that contribute towards sustainable rural development and the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy are under increasing budgetary pressures. UN-REDD technical assistance builds upon knowledge and experience gathered during ten years of supporting REDD+ readiness and implementation in the country. The lead agencies are technically well positioned to support Mexico's National Forestry Commission as well as other partners at federal and state levels in continuously improving and integrating existing systems, developing models for sustainable production as well as leveraging sustainable finance.

Based on the technical assistance previously provided to Mexico and the guidance of the UN-REDD 2021-2025 results framework, the technical assistance plan for 2022 as prepared together between UN-REDD and the Mexico counterparts in the climate-forest nexus is presented next:

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	1.2.1 Analysis of the current state of fiduciary/bank guarantees (public/private) associated with the forestry sector, sustainable forest use and production and restoration.	UNEP	Based on this analysis, the aim is to design an improvement process to make them more efficient and/or facilitate the support processes. The analysis will enable the mobilisation of resources from public and private financial organisations for activities associated with reducing deforestation or forest degradation, such as: incorporating more land into sustainable forest management, harvesting of non-timber products and their value chain, restoration of degraded areas, among others.
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	1.3.1 Support for the design of up to two financing schemes, mechanisms or architectures (one federal and one state) oriented towards deforestation-free and low GHG emission production.	UNEP	The support will include the participation of the federation according to the corresponding competences: for regulation, SEMARNAT; for inspection, PROFEPA; for information systems, CONAFOR, SEMARNAT and SADER; etc. For the design of financial mechanisms, the prioritisation and context of <i>commodities</i> will be considered: beef, soya, oil palm and avocado. Considers support regarding monitoring and verification of NON-Deforestation of <i>commodity</i> crops (estimation of costs of verification. analysis of the capacities of the institutions involved, - it would be sought that such costs would be self-financing in the future) (MRV scope is already considered in 1.4.1).
	1.3.2 Technical assistance for the promotion and mainstreaming of deforestation-free products in GCFTF jurisdictions	UNDP	Provide recommendations on the replication and/or scaling up of deforestation-free <i>commodity</i> practices in state jurisdictions in complementarity with GCFTF Window B projects (cattle ranching in Jalisco, meliponiculture and milpa-maya in Yucatan).

	1.3.3 Inclusion of private sector actors in priority chains in awareness-raising activities and piloting of the tool to demonstrate due diligence associated with deforestation-free agricultural commodity chains.	FAO	<p>Linked to a project developed by FAO in collaboration with OECD on a "Guide to Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains" (https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/rbc-agriculture-supply-chains.htm) and in coordination with activities proposed by UNDP and UNEP.</p> <p>Activity to be developed together with SADER and SEMARNAT-CONAFOR in the framework of the Working Groups for the implementation of the ENAREDD+. Priority will be given to the following commodities: beef, soya, oil palm and avocado. Ongoing collaboration with the National Livestock Confederation and the National Association of Diversified Livestock, as well as other initiatives with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the World Wildlife Fund, will be considered.</p>
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	1.4.1 Scope, quality and sustainability of the improved forest monitoring system	FAO	<p>Exchange of experiences and lessons learned with countries / initiatives implementing MRV for other REDD+ activities (forest degradation, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management). Technical assistance in the design and implementation of community forest monitoring in the context of the National Forest and Soil Inventory, including the exchange of experiences with countries that have implemented community forest monitoring schemes. Technical assistance in the development of mobile applications for data collection and analysis based on Open Foris tools. Improved algorithms for satellite monitoring of land cover under the wall-to-wall approach, including the use of SEPAL.</p>
		UNEP	<p>Considers support for monitoring, reporting and verification of no-deforestation of <i>commodity</i> meat, soybean, oil palm and avocado crops (linked to activity 1.3.1).</p>
	1.4.2 Plans to integrate aligned national and state MRV methodologies for GHG emissions in the forest sector (in support of LEAF or similar payment by results initiatives) formulated and implemented.	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for GHG emissions accounting and reporting, as well as the formulation of properly aligned national and state-level NREF/NRFs. • Capacity building and training materials on the application of MRV methodologies (particularly on GHG emissions accounting and reporting) in the forestry sector for state governments.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected,	1.5.1 Support for continuous improvement in	UNEP	<p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building processes on environmental and social safeguards

monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	safeguards monitoring and reporting		<p>(REDD+, World Bank, ART /TREES, etc.), aimed at CONAFOR, beneficiaries and technical advisors of institutional programmes, and forest development promoters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for continuous improvements in the safeguards information system (SIS) • Support for the finalisation of the second safeguards information summary
2.1 RBPs accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	2.1.1 Assessing options for accessing international climate and forest finance	UNDP, FAO	<p>Support in the assessment of options for accessing results-based payments, in consideration of the national scenario (NDC), national environmental policy, international climate finance landscape (GCF RBP Phase 2 considering the REDD+ Results Technical Annex for the period 2017-2019; voluntary carbon markets; LEAF Initiative; ART / TREES standard; or other initiatives). The analysis of options may include, where appropriate, the provision of inputs into the formulation of the concept note and funding request for the GCF RBP.</p> <p>Regarding the LEAF Initiative, targeted support will be provided to the states that submitted proposals to the Coalition (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) and further definition is expected from SEMARNAT regarding the relevance and scope of enabling access to international carbon finance.</p>
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	4.1.1 Organisation of up to two international exchanges on deforestation-free commodity approaches (related to 1.3)	UNDP	Organise exchanges (e.g. Paraguay, Ecuador, Para, Colombia; and/or other Mexican GCFTF States) on global and national scenarios, sectoral approaches (with a focus on the agricultural sector and potentially "luxury commodities" such as coffee and cocoa) of deforestation-free chains (potentially linked to livestock) with participation of relevant actors (producers, ejidos and communities, technical advisors, relevant agro-industry, SADER, SEMARNAT, CONAFOR, etc.).
	4.1.2 Organisation of a dialogue on CITES for mahogany and rosewood (related to 1.3)	UNDP	The dialogue is the continuation of an activity initiated in 2021 and is envisaged with countries that have experience in this area, particularly in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, etc.), with the aim of learning about experiences that will speed up the procedures for issuing certificates. In addition to promoting collaboration and synergy between CITES and ITTO for mahogany and other tropical species (e.g. <i>Dalbergia spp.</i>) within the NDF and TO framework.
	4.1.3 Organisation of an exchange on jurisdictional and national perspectives on participation in the LEAF Coalition (related to 2.2)	UNDP	Organise an international exchange between Mexican jurisdictions with international jurisdictions and/or countries participating in the LEAF coalition with a particular focus on stakeholder engagement approaches.

	4.1.4 Organisation of an exchange with countries and/or jurisdictions on climate finance (GCF, VCMI) - (related to 2.1)	UNDP, FAO	Organise an international exchange with countries and/or jurisdictions that are involved in Green Climate Fund payment for results projects and/or voluntary carbon market initiatives under the VCMI (<i>Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative</i>).
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This plan will be implemented with due attention to national circumstances, actual needs and evolving opportunities during the year.

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2.12 Myanmar

Up until the recent turn of events, the Government of Myanmar had made significant advancements against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ including the completion of the national REDD+ strategy development through an inclusive and gender-responsive stakeholder engagement process (the final document is currently in the process of official endorsement). Much of the achievements and lessons learned are the result of dedicated work carried out under the UN-REDD National Programme which ended in November 2020.

The country is currently receiving support under the UN-REDD TA on two initiatives launched in 2020: “Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Forest Governance in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR)” and “Integrating Mangroves into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar”.

In an already difficult context due to the continuous persistence of COVID-19 pandemic, deteriorating human rights and other social and political crises ensuing from the coup d’état of February 1st 2021 makes it impossible to realistically plan for the implementation of additional activities. In line with the “Myanmar UNCT Engagement in Current Context” guidance document, the country team intends to continue with the planned activities under the two initiatives mentioned above to the best extent possible, relying on remote support and international and national consultancies. However, to date, no engagement with Government counterpart is possible, also in view of widespread strikes by government officials.

Activities under the 2021 TA was put on-hold while the UN-REDD agencies reviewed the situation. The country team however, considers the UN-REDD support of paramount importance in order to build on and continue the successful work carried out in previous years. The country team therefore reserves the opportunity to re-assess the situation in 6-months’ time to identify windows of opportunities and for planning a re-entry later in 2022, or whenever the military regime steps back, and a civilian government can be reinstated by free and fair elections.

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2.13 Nepal

Placeholder section to be filled subsequently building on exchanges with the Government of Nepal, who recently indicated an interest in receiving UN-REDD support. Discussions are ongoing between UN-REDD and Nepal to identify the specific needs, including on LEAF, ART/TREES, REDD+ implementation especially in identifying the intervention areas, developing safeguard system, preparing the benefit sharing plan, carbon registry, MRV, and possible stakeholder engagement.

2.14 Papua New Guinea

Context & horizons

In Papua New Guinea REDD+ efforts are guided by its second, enhanced NDC, submitted in 2020. The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector is by far the most dominant sector for both GHG emissions and removals in the country. By 2030, PNG is committing to a reduction in annual emission from deforestation and forest degradation of 10,000 Gg CO₂ eq compared to the 2015 level. This target will be achieved by a 25% reduction in both the area of annual deforestation and annual degradation against 2015 levels (equating to a reduction in annual deforestation of 8,300 ha or annual degradation of 43,300ha). The target is significant in itself but should also be seen in the context of PNG's projected Business As Usual (BAU) scenario for the forest sector, which would result in significant increases in levels of emissions

Guided by the UNFCCC framework, PNG submitted its Forest Reference Level (FRL) and National REDD+ Strategy to the UNFCCC in 2017. The first Biennial Update Report (BUR), including REDD+ Technical annex was submitted in 2019. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) consists of remote sensing-based assessments (point sampling and wall-to-wall mapping), field inventories, and a web GIS-based platform with public access was fully described in the FRL, BUR, and other government publications. PNG submitted the Summary of Information (SOI) of the Safeguard Information System (SIS) in 2020. After a 2019 concept note, PNG is currently preparing a proposal for the GCF Results Based Payment (RBP) Pilot Programme, and submitted an expression of interest in 2021 to LEAF.

PNG has identified several REDD+ target interventions with the aim to enhanced forest management and legality, actions that support key stakeholder groups in priority areas to take direct action to undertake climate and conservation compatible land use development pathways, or ensure further development of PNG's REDD+ architecture and monitoring capacity. Identified areas include:

- Enhanced Forest Management and Legality. Actions focused on strengthening capacity to monitor and report on status of PNG's forests in more detail and to support progress towards a national Timber Legality System. As an interim step actions will help to reduce costs of (through improved access to information and financial support) and support early uptake of third party verification.
- Climate and Conservation Action. Provision of grants to applicant institutions to adopt site specific approaches to improved conservation and management of threat landscapes. With funds proposed to be channeled through PNG's Biodiversity and Climate Fund.
- Advance REDD+ Architecture. Ensuring an effective system for government, MRV and financial management in PNG critical to the success of any REDD+ related initiative, including:
 - strengthening of REDD+ governance framework –focused on capacity building of key actors and support to the establishment of central decision making structures linked to REDD+ and work to strengthen approach to nesting. As well as review and revision of NRS and investment plan in 2022;
 - Integration of climate indicators into development planning frameworks –support to integration of key indicators for REDD+ and climate performance into development planning activities as part of process of mainstreaming climate action;
 - Support to enhanced application of safeguards and PNG Safeguard information System;
 - Enhanced REDD+ Registry –strengthening of PNG REDD+ registry to address nesting needs of PNG;
 - Strengthened management and reporting of emissions from land use sector –Further investment in NFI as well as update of emissions data.

In 2021, UN-REDD made technical assistance available that has resulted in submission of an expression of interest to LEAF by PNG, as well as a concept note for participation in ART TREES. It has become evident continued work will be required to meet the requirements for participation under LEAF.

Ongoing initiatives include: RBP TCP, GCF Readiness, Australia (potential), and UN-REDD (LEAF submission). PNG plans to achieve the NDC target by promoting REDD+ and drawing on international results-based payments and finance from international carbon markets. Towards 2025, PNG aims to have a system established for the REDD+ RBP to be re-invested to implement the actions identified in the NDC, such as enhancing land use planning and monitoring, timber legality, protected area management, and sustainable community development.

In terms of ART-TREES and LEAF, PNG has received indication that its LEAF proposal passed initial screening. An Lol or an ERPA have not yet been signed. The following is the overall timeline for accession to TREES and participation under LEAF:

When?	What?
2021	Submission of LEAF proposal (completed) TREES concept note (completed)
2022	Signature of MoU and subsequently ERPA and concomitant agreement of a technical assistance work package
2022-2023	Work to address capacity gaps and meet TREES requirements, develop TREES registration document and monitoring report (for crediting period 2017-2021)
Mid-2023	Submit for completeness check the TREES registration document and TREES monitoring report (2017-2021), begin validation and verification
End of 2023	Conclude validation and verification (2017-2021), issuance of ART credits
From 2024	Ongoing progress monitoring with regular collection of forest monitoring data, safeguards data, verification audits and issuance of ART credits

[Planning process](#)

The proposed activities build on the support the UN-REDD programme provided to PNG in 2021, in addition two meetings in January 2022 were held to discuss the requirements and continued work towards accessing carbon finance (accession to TREES and participation under LEAF, GCF pilot programme, and necessary REDD+ elements to be completed)

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

As mentioned above, PNG is well-positioned and is already embarking on a number of strategic efforts towards accessing carbon finance. The UN-REDD programme is well positioned to advise PNG in embarking this process, and support PNG to address some of the gaps.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

In 2022, PNG aims complete assessment of PNG eligibility under ART TREES with a view to identify areas where PNG needs to strengthen its legal and institutional framework as well as safeguards, including the benefit sharing system in to register under ART/TREES, as well as to develop a draft ART TREES Registration Document.

Another area of support through 2022 TA is NDC implementation in the forest and land-use sector with a specific focus on international cooperative approaches under Article 6. This will involve, among others, building knowledge of the opportunities and requirements presented under Articles 6.2 and 6.4 as a starting point through webinars and related materials.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED			
Output 1.5	Technical support to the development of safeguards policies including SIS, benefit sharing, GRM and FPIC	FAO & UNEP	UNDP will support linkage to support provided through the earlier UN-REDD national programme, FCPF Project, while FAO will ensure coordination with work on UNFCCC RBPs.
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Detailed assessment of PNG eligibility under ART TREES 2.0 requirements, looking at carbon, safeguards and legal aspect.	FAO & UNEP	To finalise the assessment of PNG eligibility ART TREES 2.0 requirements, looking at carbon, safeguards and legal aspects (included in the 2021 TA, however focus shifted to make a LEAF submission, the assessment still needs to be finalised). Findings will be presented during webinar/ workshop.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Development of draft ART TREES Registration Document, including (1) a Monitoring Plan, (2) a Plan for Conformance with the safeguards indicators that are not met yet, (3) a Plan for securing ownership rights of the ERs from local stakeholders and (4) a detailed description of the crediting level calculations.	FAO, UNEP	
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Knowledge of Article 6 opportunities and requirements disseminated through webinars and related materials	UNDP	Potential synergies with ongoing work under FAO-led GCF Readiness project in particular the development of an authorization process to allow government to screen and monitor climate-related initiatives and investments in REDD+ and AFOLU.

Further discussions will take place in the following days and finalization is expected in late February.

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2.15 Peru

Context and horizon

Peru has strong national commitments and policies in place on climate and forests. Peru submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the UNFCCC in 2015, including Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) as part of its mitigation contribution. The LULUCF sector represents 43.1% of GHG reduction potential and includes eight specific measures related to forests, distributed among four components: i) Forest conservation, ii) Forest management, iii) Reforestation and agroforestry, and iv) Rights entitlement. In December 2020, Peru presented its updated NDC report for 2021-2030 in which it increased its commitment of GHG emissions reduction from 30% to 35%, equivalent to an absolute maximum of 208,8 MCO₂eq net emissions, by 2030⁷.

Peru's climate and forest policy is structured around its Framework Law on Climate Change (Law N° 30754) and its regulation (Supreme Decree N° 013-2019-MINAM), its National Forests Conservation Programme for Climate Change Mitigation (Forests Programme) (Decree Supreme N° 008-2010-MINAM), as well as its National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change (ENBCC) (Supreme Decree N° 007-2016-MINAM). The Framework Law on Climate Change's regulation states the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) is the responsible entity to identify and classify REDD+ actions in the framework of the ENBCC; measure LULUCF emissions and emissions reductions; manage and periodically update information on safeguards; manage and distribute REDD+ benefits payments; and design and implement the Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC). The Forests Programme promotes forest conservation, by implementing the Conditional Direct Transfer Mechanism (Conservation Incentives), which provides economic subsidies to communities that are committed to conserving forests and reducing deforestation. The National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change (ENBCC), which is currently under implementation, was created within the Forests Programme's framework and includes arrangements for stakeholder participation, institutional coordination, and decentralized REDD+ actions.

In addition to the ENBCC, Peru has also completed the other main elements of REDD+ readiness under the Warsaw Framework. Peru published its first summary of safeguards information in early 2020, covering the period 2012-2019, and has finalized and launched an initial version of its safeguards information system, the Safeguards Information Module (MIS, according to its Spanish acronym). In addition, Peru has developed a Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC), which is linked with the MIS. Peru will work on piloting the MIS and MAC including at the regional level, as well as collecting, analysing, and reporting information provided by 'proposing' or implementing entities for REDD+ actions. Peru has a National Forest Monitoring System (Geo Bosques) in place, and has also updated its FREL for the Amazon biome with an enhanced methodology and increased transparency which will allow the country to compare its performance of its national strategy on climate change and forests in order to access RBPs. More recently, in 2021 Peru published the Guidelines for identification and classification of REDD+ actions, in which it identifies and classifies eight REDD+ actions with their mitigation reduction potential and specific implementation activities established in the UNFCCC and ENBCC's frameworks.

A number of commitments and partnerships have been developed in support of REDD+ implementation in Peru. The Joint Declaration of Intent is an international cooperation agreement on REDD+, updated in May 2021, with endorsement from the governments of Germany, Norway, UK and the USA. This agreement includes performance finance for REDD+, under ART certification, which requires compliance with TREES. Along this line, Peru is committed to updating its JDI's Phase 2: "Transformation", by establishing clear annual GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation reduction targets to inform resource allocation. Such targets should be the result of a participatory process between national sectors, Amazonian regional governments, and indigenous organizations. Additionally, the JDI addendum confirms Peru is committed to reducing its GHG emissions for compliance with the NDCs by accessing Phase 3: "Contributions for verified emission reductions", or payment by results, in line with the TREES Standard and considering national

⁷ Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú (2021). URL: NDC Perú. Reporte de actualización periodo 2021-2030.

circumstances. Finally, Peru is committed to establishing an appropriate financial mechanism for REDD+ results-based payments.

In addition, the Sustainable Production Coalition, created by more than 50 members of the public and private sectors, also aims to contribute to reducing deforestation and degradation in the Amazon by promoting sustainable and deforestation-free agriculture. The Coalition sets as part of its priorities to support the ENBCC implementation at jurisdictional level and to contribute to the fulfilment of the NDC, the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), and therefore to the reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Peru. It should be noted the Sustainable Production Coalition directly responds to one of the JDI's six deliverables of its Phase 2, which sets the necessity to establish a public-private coalition with multinational companies committed to reach zero deforestation.

Moreover, Peru signed a carbon offsetting agreement with Switzerland in 2021, which will help fund sustainable development projects at the national level in Peru, with the resulting emissions cuts contributing to Switzerland's national targets.⁸ Similarly, Peru is in the last phase of a bilateral agreement on climate change with South Korea, which could potentially include REDD+ activities as part of GHG reduction and forest protection strategies.

Planning process

Over the last half of 2021, the UN-REDD Programme and the Government of Peru have had a number of meetings and working sessions related to the finalization of the UN-REDD National Programme in Peru, which also helped for scoping of needs and opportunities related to Peru's REDD+ agenda and planning of the post-Glasgow pathways. This provided initial ideas and guidance on activities for which the UN-REDD Programme can provide technical assistance (TA) in 2022 and beyond. In addition, there has been continued coordination and follow-up on the implementation of the 2021 TA activities, and finalization of the 2018-2021 TA work plan for Peru, which has provided opportunities to identify continuing and new priorities for TA 2022.

As part of 2021 TA activities, a draft concept note for ART/TREES was developed (then submitted in December 2021 to the ART Secretariat, which has endorsed it), building on an assessment of the potential emissions reductions (ER) generated for the period 2017-2021, as well as an analysis of conformance with safeguards requirements. This process has further served to help assess technical assistance requirements and identify potential gaps to be able to respond to differing financing opportunities.

The UN-REDD team and counterparts from MINAM carried out meetings in preparation for and during the Glasgow climate conference (COP26), which served to further refine areas for collaboration in 2022. In addition, there has been continued coordination on UN-REDD support with the Norway Embassy in Peru. A specific planning call related to TA 2022 was held with the UN-REDD and MINAM teams in early December 2021, and follow-up is continuing through January.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

In the 2025 horizon, Peru has identified a number of strategic priorities to consolidate the national agenda on climate and forests, summarized as follows:

Strategic priority: Continuous improvements in forest monitoring and safeguards systems to facilitate access to results-based payments

Peru has made substantial progress on REDD+ readiness to be able to access results-based payments, developing a National Strategy (ENBCC), a national monitoring system (Geo Bosques), and a forest reference emission levels for the Amazon biome, as well as developing the MIS and the MAC.

Further UN-REDD support will be needed to help pilot the MIS and the MAC at the regional levels, and to ensure that fully functioning and operational systems are in place, with protocols to collect, analyze, and periodically report information on safeguards to the UNFCCC, as well as different donors and funders and

⁸ It is important to note that neither REDD+ nor LULUCF activities are part of carbon offset activities since they cannot be considered as part of Switzerland's Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), under the Paris Agreement framework. Accounting emissions from REDD+ activities are still pending to be reviewed and accepted in the bilateral agreement.

civil society, among others. Peru also aims to work on continuous improvements for the interpretation and conceptualization of the Cancun safeguards in the national context, as well as unifying safeguards reporting for interventions related to climate change and forests.

In addition, Peru aims to work on continuous improvements to its national forest monitoring system, aiming to have a robust, transparent and harmonized system, with subnational information to monitor, report and demonstrate forest-based emission reductions according to UNFCCC provisions and international best practice. Resources and continued support from UN-REDD will be needed to improve reporting on emissions in the Amazon region, and for generating reports to the UNFCCC on forest degradation.

This would also help to contribute to Peru's recently updated National Strategy of Climate Change, which aims to reduce emissions related to the forest sector with significant goals related to reducing forest deforestation and degradation by 2050. Additionally, this would contribute to the Forests Programme's goal to conserve and protect 10 million ha of forests by implementing Conservation Incentives by 2030. These 2025 milestones are also aligned with and contribute to the Sustainable Production Coalition that promotes sustainable and deforestation-free chains of production under a low emissions approach.

Improvements in these systems will help to access results-based payments for REDD+, contributing to the RF Outcome 1 of Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), with links to Outputs 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5.

Strategic priority: Forest and climate finance mobilized

Continued support from UN-REDD will be important to help Peru in fulfilling its JDI/REDD+ agreement by 2025, and continuing to mobilize performance finance for REDD+ results in line with the Paris Agreement, including through ART/TREES. Further UN-REDD support will be needed to develop the ART/TREES registration document, monitoring plan, plans for safeguards conformance, and to carry out regular monitoring, reporting and follow-up, as well as help access new results-based financing opportunities.

UN-REDD guidance and support could also contribute to Peru's work to make operational a national mechanism to channel REDD+ performance-based finance to jurisdictions and rights holders engaged in REDD+, including robust measures for carbon and finance accountability, as well as a commitment for social inclusion. It would also help Peru to establish entities responsible to implement and verify actions to tackle deforestation and forest degradation, as well as entities responsible to report the application of safeguards in the actions implemented.

This will contribute to UN-REDD Outcome 2, helping to enable the mobilization of finance for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, in particular Outputs 2.1 and 2.2.

Strategic priority: Comprehensive and robust stakeholder engagement processes implemented, particularly with indigenous peoples

It is a priority for Peru to continue to develop and implement stakeholder engagement processes, including improving the participation of and strengthening capacities of the indigenous populations related to participation in REDD+. UN-REDD advice will be important to help contribute to the new initiative of the Intercultural Dialogue on REDD+, with Amazonian Indigenous Organizations, that the government is planning to undertake from 2022. Furthermore, UN-REDD support could also help to involve the private sector, as well as the forestry and agriculture sectors, in discussions and activities on REDD+.

This would help support a dynamic REDD+ cycle, with forest-based emissions reductions achieved and rewarded with the engagement of the Amazon regional governments and a strong participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

This will contribute to RF Outcome 1 (as above) as well as 4 Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative nature-based solutions movement to accelerate climate action (Output 4.1).

Strategic priority: Successful implementation of the NDC, with higher ambition particularly with regards to the forest sector

Peru aims to implement its NDC, with higher ambition for the 2030 horizon, particularly with regards to the forest sector. Continued UN-REDD support could help Peru to develop robust methodologies of carbon and finance accounting, to directly contribute to the updated NDC mitigation goal of developing greater

methodological robustness and transparency for its carbon measurement and reporting. It could also contribute to identifying and defining new mitigation measures in the LULUCF and agriculture sectors. It could also potentially contribute in the future to reviewing pilot activities for LULUCF related to the System for Monitoring Mitigation and Adaptation Measures (SIMON).

This will contribute to RF Outcome 3, related to countries that enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs in the 2020-2025 cycle, including quantitative targets (Output 3.1).

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

In view of Peru's REDD+ and NDC activities and relevant milestones up to 2025, and taking into account UN-REDD expertise and strategic planning, UN-REDD TA could be provided during 2022 on the following areas and processes below. Further discussions have been held between UN-REDD and MINAM in early February 2022, following changes in the Minister of Environment and Director of Climate Change and Desertification, to refine and adjust activities; a final version is expected shortly (by late February 2022).

In order to help **realise forest solutions**, financial instruments will be designed to help mobilize public-private climate resources and a REDD+ nesting approach and arrangements will be developed, including a REDD+ registry and nesting allocation tool. In addition, emissions from forest degradation will be reported, with a transparent and robust methodology and the strengthening of the national forest monitoring system and related UNFCCC GHG reporting under art 13 of the Paris Agreement. This will include an MRV protocol that recognizes regional efforts and the indigenous MRV, and supports the development of the first REDD+ Technical Annex. In addition, to ensure forest solutions are implemented with the highest environmental and social integrity, continuous improvements in the Safeguards Information Module and Citizen Attention Mechanism, as well as updating of the summary of safeguards information will be supported. This will be key in helping to access high quality REDD+ results-based payments.

To help ensure **forest solutions are rewarded**, an ART/TREES registration document will be developed and submitted to the ART Secretariat.

To help **enhance forest solutions**, NDC implementation will be supported, including assessment and advice on the implementation of mitigation actions, assessment of REDD+ finance options, linkages with Art. 6, and transparent monitoring and reporting. This will help Peru in meeting national commitments, and in the path towards COP27.

To **connect actors and knowledge for forest solutions**, information and knowledge management exchanges will be supported, for example on topics related to nesting, the development of REDD+ registries, benefits-sharing arrangements, and access to results-based payments, among others.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED <i>Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), unlocked at a level of 1 GtCO₂e per year</i>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	REDD+ nesting approach and arrangements supported, including a REDD+ registry and nesting allocation tool	FAO/ UNEP	This includes technical assistance on developing approaches for the integration of social and environmental criteria into geospatial tools for assigning emissions reductions (ERs) quotas, building on previous UNEP-supported work on the Geodesición tool (supported by UNEP).

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
			This also includes support to the pilot phase of the nesting allocation tool, based on the updated FREL submitted to the UNFCCC. This will include an MRV protocol that recognizes regional and indigenous MRV efforts (supported by FAO).
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Emissions from forest degradation reported, with a transparent and robust methodology	FAO	This includes technical assistance for strengthening the national forest MRV system and related UNFCCC GHG reporting, including supporting the development of the first REDD+ Technical Annex subject to BUR submission. This will also include support on a number of key technical inputs that will be required to complete the ART/TREES registration document, such as calculating ER potential from forest degradation and developing a transparent uncertainty assessment based on UN-REDD National Programme outputs. This will also include technical assistance and training, such as SEPAL training sessions on the use of UHR images.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Continuous improvements in safeguards systems, updating of summary of information, and capacity building on safeguards supported	UNEP	This includes technical assistance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • piloting of the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and the Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC), initial versions of which were developed and launched in 2021; this will focus on testing/improvements in the operation in both systems; • updating the summary of safeguards information (for 2020-2021); • developing information and analysis to facilitate access to results-based payments; and • supporting the development and delivery of capacity-building sessions for the sectors and/or actors that will use the MIS.
	Intercultural Dialogue on REDD+ strengthened	UNDP/ UNEP	This includes participation of UN-REDD experts in the multiple sessions of the Intercultural Dialogue on REDD+ with Amazonian Indigenous Organizations, to provide information and facilitate inclusive, knowledge-based exchanges.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED <i>Enabling USD 5 billion mobilised for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>			
2.1. Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Financial mechanism for REDD+ and associated instruments scoped	UNDP/ UNEP	This includes technical assistance on assessing options for managing REDD+ financing, including mechanisms and systems for the use of REDD+ proceeds, ensuring strong stakeholder engagement processes.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	ART/TREES registration document developed and submitted	FAO/ UNEP	<p>This includes technical assistance on safeguards (supported by UNEP), as well as on carbon elements (related to the estimation of ER potential and associated uncertainties) and legal aspects related to ERs (supported by FAO). Information on ERs from degradation and an uncertainty assessment will be developed with MINAM and key partners, such as SERFOR and other institutions which supported the FREL development.</p> <p>This also includes review of Guidelines linked to REDD+ in the context of the Regulation of the Climate Change Law (RLMCC) in Peru.</p>
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED <i>More than 15 countries enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs in the 2020-2025 cycle, including quantitative targets</i>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	NDC implementation, monitoring and reporting supported, including on the implementation of actions, financing and opportunities related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and transparent monitoring and reporting of the actions in Peru's first NDC	FAO/ UNDP/ UNEP	<p>This includes technical assistance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the update of the JDI implementation plan, to align it to the NDC pathway and the prospects of REDD+ financing (UNDP); • advice to indigenous peoples' organizations, to help them contribute to NDC achievements (FAO/UNDP/UNEP); • identifying and designing tentative programming of new mitigation measures for the LULUCF and Agriculture sectors (FAO/UNEP); and • helping to close financial gaps to improve Enabling Conditions for LULUCF and Agriculture measures (UNEP).

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
	REDD+ financing options analyzed, aligning NDC objectives with the provisions of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement	UNDP/ UNEP	This includes the assessment of options, strategic issues and requirements to access results-based payments opportunities and jurisdictional carbon markets for the forestry sector.
OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS <i>Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative nature-based solutions movement to accelerate climate action</i>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	Information and knowledge management exchanges supported, for example on topics related to nesting, REDD+ registries, benefits sharing, and access to results-based payments, among others	FAO/ UNEP/ UNDP	Topics of interest include South-South cooperation workshops on reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, for example on topics related to nesting, REDD+ registries, benefits sharing, and access to results-based payments, among others

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2.16 Republic of Congo

Context and horizon

With a forest area of 21.9 mln ha (64% of the country) and a deforestation rate of 0.06% (FRA 2020), Congo is a high forest low deforestation (HFLD) country⁹. Forests are a key component of Congo's first NDC (2017) with the vision that "the sequestration potential of the forest is maintained and reinforced both through better management and reforestation". The FSC certified forest area in Congo has recently increased¹⁰, and with 3.0 mln hectares of forest certified, it is the country with the largest amount of certified forest in the Congo Basin.

The Republic of Congo has engaged in REDD+ since 2008. The country has submitted a Forest Reference Emission Level to the UNFCCC in 2016 (including deforestation and forest degradation) and published its REDD+ strategy in 2017. In 2019, Congo became part of the Carbon Fund pipeline with an Emission Reduction Programme in Sangha and Likouala departments. CAFI is funding two new large REDD+ readiness and implementation programmes that started in 2021 to scale up REDD+ results together with a full GCF REDD+ project focusing on wood-energy supply. Congo has not yet submitted a safeguard summary of information to the UNFCCC but has made progress on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA).

In 2022, UN-REDD will made technical assistance available to further consolidate national REDD+ readiness and implementation ensuring consistency of the REDD+ investments across domestic and international sources, with particular attention to CAFI and GCF support.

⁹ These values give a 0.58 HFLD score according to TREES v2 published February 2021 but the score needs to be calculated for all years with data in the reference and crediting period and for all assessments it needs to exceed 0.5

¹⁰ <https://fsc.org/en/newsfeed/fsc-certified-forest-area-in-the-republic-of-congo-has-increased>

[Planning process](#)

The proposed activities build on the support the UN-REDD programme provided to the Republic of Congo during the last years and have therefore been discussed on many occasions. While continued work towards improving the national forest monitoring system will, in parallel, also be funded through a project proposed to CAFI, the UN-REDD programme will focus on options for accessing carbon finance in 2022. The specific set of proposed activities for 2022 has been discussed with CN-REDD and CNIAF.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

Deliverables under Outcome 1 – forest solutions realized

- 1) Updating emissions and emission reductions calculations leveraging newly available NICFI imagery: The FAO team will supporting Congo in completing the activity dataset, combining both measurement of deforestation and forest degradation. This will, in particular, involve the use of government statistics on logging and concession management, as well as recent peatland mapping activities from other projects. A set of preliminary calculations will be carried out to estimate emission trends as an essential input for the “carbon finance scoping” exercise planned within the NFMS institutionalization project implemented through CAFI. [FAO]

Deliverables under Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded

- 2) Support Congo to draft ART-TREES sections dealing with ERs titles and transfer of ERs within a HFLD modality. This could include an analysis of options, and development of recommendations for fulfilment of ER legal requirements under the standard. [FAO]
- 3) Analyze strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in relation to recent key commitments made at COP26, with a focus on legal and policy frameworks that relate to recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities [FAO]

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2.17 Uganda

[Context and horizons](#)

Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa with valuable forest resources which are an essential foundation for the country's current and future livelihood and growth. Forests are important for timber, for their role in increasing agricultural productivity and obviously for energy (firewood). They also support wildlife and other forms of biodiversity vital for the country's future heritage, as well as for generating foreign exchange through a tourist industry focused on the diverse flora and fauna like for example in Kenya. This being said, the country is facing deforestation and forest degradation: in 2015, forest cover was estimated at 12 % of the total land area, or 2.42 million hectares. Woodlands are the dominant forest type accounting for about 62% of the forest area, tropical high forests for 21% and plantations for 17%. Local forest users consume a wide variety of forest products in all five forests. Some of these uses are legal; a great number are not. Significantly, the intensity and pattern of these consumptive uses vary across the forests. For instance, demand for fuelwood and charcoal is high and expected to increase with 6% annually due to population growth and migration from rural to urban areas. Especially demand for charcoal is a main driver of forest degradation and non-sustainable management of the remaining forests. A survey from 2006 (The Uganda Household Survey 2006) indicates that on average, a household uses 150 kg (2–3 m³) of firewood per month (58.9% of the firewood used for cooking is obtained from natural forests and trees growing naturally on farm and 34.6% is collected from plantation/planted forests).

Uganda is among the countries having the highest deforestation rates globally. The natural forest cover has experienced a strong decline the past decades. Forest cover went down from 24% of the total land area in 1990 to 12% in 2015. A total of 3.05 million hectares of forests have been lost in 25 years. Out of this loss about 2.2 million hectares were from woodlands. Data show that the forest estate outside of protected areas

reduced from 68% of the total area of forested land in 1990 to 61% in 2005 and to 38% in 2015 – a loss of nearly half of the unprotected forests in just 25 years. Over the same period, 46% of protected woodlands, mostly those under National Forestry Authority, were also lost. Direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are expansion of subsistence agriculture, unsustainable harvesting of tree products (mainly for charcoal, firewood and timber), expanding settlements and impacts of refugees, free-grazing livestock, wildfires, artisanal mining operations and oil exploration activities. Indirect drivers are also important to highlight such as demography, high dependence on subsistence agriculture, natural resources and biomass energy, as well as competing economic returns from land that disfavour long-term investments in forestry, weak forestry governance, weak policy implementation, climate change and land tenure systems (MWE, 2021).

The national REDD+ mechanism started in 2008 when the country became a participant of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) after approval of the Forest Carbon Partnership Readiness Plan Idea Note (ER-PIN). Since 2013, with funding in form of grants from FCPF, Austria Development Cooperation (ADC), UN-REDD National Programme, and the Government of Uganda embarked on implementing a REDD+ Readiness phase. The objective of this phase was to contribute to a design of a socially and environmentally viable national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, a national forest reference emission level for deforestation (FREL), National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) including a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) component, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Safeguards Information System (SIS). These grants were also utilized to analyze a National Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+, propose Benefits Sharing Arrangements (BSA) for REDD+, Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback in Readiness Process, support to the Coordination and Monitoring of REDD+ Readiness Process. Uganda was also able to mobilize support for preparing its Forest Investment Plan as a roadmap for priority activities for implementation of Uganda's REDD+ Strategy.

Thanks to this, Uganda has now several elements of the Warsaw Framework in place. In addition, the country is the first country in Africa to report on REDD+ results of 8,071,231 tCO₂e to the UNFCCC for the period 2015-2017. Through its NDC, Uganda has pledged to conditionally reduce its GHG emissions by 22% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, focusing specifically on three sectors – energy, forestry and wetlands which collectively produce 77.3 MtCO₂e annually. Uganda has made a commitment to restore 2.5 million hectares of deforested and degraded land, as a pledge towards the Bonn Challenge.

The National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan describes strategies and actions intended to address policy approaches which promote sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan aims at addressing issues of deforestation and forest degradation and eventually will contribute to the mitigation of climate change impacts. It will help to improve the status of forest resources, mitigate climate change effects, promote fair and balanced benefits including gender consideration and the welfare of communities in general and forest dependent indigenous communities. In this way negative perceptions, attitudes and practices by forest, trees, and climate change management stakeholders will be improved which will in turn contribute to sustainable socioeconomic development. It will increase awareness of all categories of stakeholders about climate change, role of forests in climate change mitigation and the forests' role in providing non-carbon benefits will substantially contribute to wise use of forest resources. Implementation of the REDD+ Strategy is planned to be integrated into the governmental administration of those ministries and authorities, which have leading roles in the implementation and coordination of the implementation of the eight main strategies. This may require revisions of staff job descriptions in ministries and agencies responsible for forestry, agriculture, livestock, environment or renewable energy to reflect REDD+ Strategy implementation and coordination responsibilities commensurate with the mandate of their institutions. The REDD+ strategy will thus be fully incorporated into the management structures and budgets of these ministries, and agencies (MWE, 2021).

Nevertheless, despite good progress, many barriers still exist thus preventing a good implementation of the REDD+ mechanism in the country:

- Financial and technical options available do not yet match REDD+ ambition, current investments are a fraction of the expected needs for implementing the country's policies and measures (PAMs),

- The Warsaw Framework must be finalized with the first summary of information to be submitted to the UNFCCC and SIS development,
- Forest governance is still very weak and must be reinforced,
- Over the years a strong MRV team has been created, if not sustained, this could be a barrier for assessing future ART-TREES compliant emission reductions and removals,
- Efforts in assessing forest degradation have been on-going but have not yet resulted in area estimates,
- Efforts in assessing forest restoration have seen progress but further work is needed for such an assessment to produce sufficiently accurate estimates for reporting under ART-TREES.

Planning process

Consultations with the Government of Uganda (Ministry of Water and Environment, National Forestry Authority, Forestry Sector Support Department) and the World Bank allowed the Programme to gain an understanding of what has been done already in Uganda, especially by the World Bank, in terms of readiness support and large-scale forest sector investments, so we can ascertain potential UN-REDD add-value. After discussions with the Government of Uganda, the deliverables proposed below were identified as priority for 2022. Discussions have then been organized with UNDP, FAO and UNEP to define the foreseen activities. Unfortunately, due to lack of answer from national counterparts, no final meeting was organized with the country in January 2022 to validate this programme of actions.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

Progress of the country so far, focusing on where the country is expected to be by end 2021. Uganda is among the countries that have several elements of the Warsaw Framework in place, including the National REDD+ Strategy, National Forest Monitoring System, and the Forest Reference Emission Level. In Addition, Uganda is the first country in Africa to report on REDD+ results of 8,071,231 tCO₂ to UNFCCC for the period 2015-2017. Uganda made a commitment to restore 2.5 million hectares of deforested and degraded land, as a pledge towards the Bonn Challenge and has potential for emissions removals.

The UN-REDD TA support in 2021 will allow Uganda to scope for private investments in forest, which is not well developed, and upgrade carbon accounting and SIS development to access RBPs for any achieved emissions reductions and removals results. First, an evaluation of the results of the ongoing assessment is underway to look at deforestation, degradation, and enhancement for 2018 against the assessment of deforestation for 2016-2017. Second, UNREDD is assessing safeguards conformance, gaps, and gap-filling plans for conformance to ART-TREES requirements by the end of 2021. Third, UNREDD is assessing potential performance to generate carbon credits and access carbon finance under ART TREES and formulate strategic recommendations.

In addition, the World Bank approved the Elgon and Albertine Rift World Bank Investment Programme (USD 160 M) for REDD+ implementation project, focusing on biodiversity conservation, restoration and avoided forest emissions. UN-REDD and World Bank have discussed a partnership to scale and explore boundaries for these landscapes that would be TREES-compliant, as well as facilitate partnerships between the country and private sector actors to scale up investments.

Key milestones/goals to be achieved by 2025. Uganda expects to reduce its GHG emissions by 22% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, focusing specifically on three sectors – energy, forestry and wetlands which collectively produce 77.3 MtCO₂e annually. By 2025, the country will rely on TA inputs from UNREDD program (especially in carbon accounting, safeguards and scoping private sector carbon finance through ART TREES) and FCPF grant/investment programme that enable progress and allow the country to maintain deforestation and degradation at low levels while continuing landscape restoration efforts. Uganda's jurisdictional programmes in Elgon and Albertine Rift regions have hopefully both delivered positive results. Emissions should have been reduced and have been rewarded by international results-based payments. The national forest monitoring system and the safeguards information system should both continue operating and provide important inputs for jurisdictional programmes.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

The UN-REDD national programme support to Uganda ended in December 2017. The country, however, continued to make progress in the implementation of REDD+ actions. **Main TA focus areas for 2022.** In 2022, Uganda will require technical support towards accessing carbon finance following the results of ongoing assessment by end of 2021. If the results suggest the country to have potential for vintage ERs under TREES, develop a TREES-compliant workplan for vintage ERs to be assessed in 2022. If the evaluation of results does not suggest potential for vintage ERs, explore a potential longer-term TREES-compliant workplan for future ERs, including to scale up jurisdictional programs in Elgon and Albertine Rift landscapes.

The table below gives information about the UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2022 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Expected outputs (UN-REDD logical framework)	Main goals and activities	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observation
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED <i>Forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence), unlocked at a level of 1 GtCO₂e per year</i>			
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Comprehensive interpretation key of land use and land use change classes for improved future emissions/removals assessments created and updated; Forest mask updated using previous land cover maps as a basis; and Methodology to assess deforestation, forest degradation and forest restoration using dense time series analysis identified and refined.	FAO	Possible support to update the FREL using this output and also support preparation of the 2 nd Technical Annex to the BUR.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	SIS webpage completed and operationalized. Continuous improvements in safeguards systems, including capacities strengthened to address and respect safeguards and filling gaps for advancing with TREES concept note and elements for registration stage.	UNEP	TA support to finalize the SIS webpage currently ongoing and expected to be completed in Q1 of 2022. UN-REDD support will continue with identification of opportunities for stepwise improvements, capacities strengthening to address and respect safeguards, including identification and elaboration of inputs to help show conformance with TREES safeguards indicators. In the short-term the focus will be on TREES structure and process safeguards indicators, as well as development of plan to show in compliance with the outcome safeguards indicators the medium-term.

OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED <i>Enabling USD 5 billion mobilised for REDD+ from results-based payment schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	GCF RBP concept note finalized and submitted to GCF Secretariat.	FAO/UNEP	UN-REDD will provide support to Uganda during the preparation and submission of GCF RBP concept note for past emissions 2016 and 2017. Uganda is the only African country with REDD+ Results submitted to UNFCCC and interested in submitting a proposal for potential GCF's RBP Phase 2.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Design and implementation of a diversified strategy to access REDD+ results-based financing from both market and non-market sources, including notably the GCF and LEAF, amongst others.	UNEP/FAO	UN-REDD will continue to follow-up on the LEAF proposal submission and provide needed technical advice as negotiation conversations between seller and buyer take place.
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilised	Partnerships between the country and private sector actors to scale up investment to/buyers from targeted REDD+ programmes facilitated	UNEP	UN-REDD support includes organizing dialogues between corporate buyers, investors and government to achieve a common understanding of expectations and conditions regarding both public and private investments on forest carbon. Partnerships to scale up investment from current and future REDD+ Programmes (notably the Albertine Rift regions under World Bank investment programme) will also be facilitated.
OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS <i>Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative nature-based solutions movement to accelerate climate action</i>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate actions.	Information and knowledge management exchanges supported, on for the example the topics of access to results-based payments, safeguards, and non- and markets transactions following Article 6, among others.	FAO/UNEP	<p>South-South cooperation workshops on access to RBP for African and Asian countries.</p> <p>In addition, training of government and CS organizations on REDD+ and the voluntary carbon market to strengthen their in-house capacity to interact with REDD+ project developers, government agencies and international REDD+ actors such as the ART-secretariat and Emergent might be required.</p>

* * *

2.18 Viet Nam

Context and horizons

Viet Nam is one of the most advanced countries in the Asia Pacific region in terms of REDD+ Readiness. Following the approval of the revised REDD+ Strategy (National REDD+ Action Programme) through Prime Ministerial decision in 2017, submission and revision of the FRL, completion of a national forest monitoring and information system that incorporates information on safeguards, and submission of its first safeguards summary of information, the country is moving towards measurement and reporting of REDD+ results. For implementing the national REDD+ action plan, the country focuses on developing multi-sectoral and sub-national approaches. A number of jurisdictional programmes are considered critical to ensuring market pressures from coffee and other commodities are managed sustainably and that policies and natural forest conversion and management are implemented. The sustainable supply from domestic long-rotation plantation resources is also among the key REDD+ priorities. Such efforts are already paying off and according to preliminary forest monitoring data, Viet Nam has significantly reduced emissions and enhanced carbon removals.

During 2021, Viet Nam further advanced its MRV efforts, including the reporting on emission reductions achieved against its FRL. Submission of the Third BUR, with a technical Annex on REDD+ results, took place in April 2021, with subsequent international consultation and analysis process underway. With this, Viet Nam will be in the position to applying for results-based payments at the national scale including from future potential opportunities through the GCF. Moreover, Viet Nam is advancing its engagement with the FCPF Carbon Fund, for which an Emission Reduction Purchasing Agreement was signed in October 2020, and a first monitoring report was submitted in May 2021. In 2021, with support from the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam also successfully submitted a proposal to the LEAF Coalition and signed a Letter of Intent with Emergent for its proposed results-based payment sub-national level programme (2022-2026). Viet Nam simultaneously submitted a TREES concept for the same programme which was approved by the ART Secretariat in August 2021.

Planning process

The proposed TA 2022 activities have been identified through assessments carried out in 2021 and consultation with VNFOREST and other government stakeholders involved in the ART/TREES process (namely, the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute: FIPI). Specific consultations on the TA 2022 draft workplan include email-based correspondence, as well as a virtual meeting held on 3 December 2021, with the head of REDD+ under the Viet Nam State Steering Committee on Sustainable Forest Development and REDD+ and other relevant stakeholders.

It should also be noted that the focus of TA 2022 reflects the main gaps that have been identified through the drafting process of the ART/TREES and LEAF proposal documentation, conducted through detailed discussions and meetings with VNFOREST and FIPI. The concept note/proposal drafting process also involved a consultation meeting with wider national stakeholders and particularly the provinces and relevant partners/initiatives working in those provinces.

The FAO and UNDP country offices, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, partners, projects and initiatives including JICA SUSFORM2 project, IFAD RECAF project, as well as CSOs and indigenous people's organizations (namely from SRD and CSDM who were the representatives of these stakeholder groups under the UN-REDD Phase II Programme for Viet Nam) have been provided with a draft version of this Viet Nam workplan 2022 document for information and comments, as a means of further consultation. Continued coordination and consultation is envisaged throughout the TA 2022 process.

Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025

Viet Nam's REDD+ efforts until 2025 will be guided by its National REDD+ Action Programme and by its NDC, which also foresees significant mitigation from forests. The ambition is for jurisdictional REDD+ programmes, ie. the Viet Nam FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction programme, and Viet Nam ART/TREES programme now under negotiation with the LEAF Coalition, to report emission reductions and successfully generate Results-based payments.

Viet Nam's National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) currently only specifies policies and measures for the period 2017-2020, and will therefore need to be updated to address the continuation of these efforts until at least 2030 (Note: the Prime Minister Decision approving the NRAP clearly sets a 2030 timeline). Furthermore, Viet Nam will need to address a number of gaps, in order to comply with ART/TREES but also to access other sources of result-based finance. The main challenges lie in Viet Nam's ability to demonstrate adherence to requirements around tenure, benefit sharing, safeguards and monitoring, including over the long-term, and to diligently conduct information campaigns and consultations and to ensure buy-in from local stakeholders. Updating the NRAP and filling these gaps in time to seize the opportunities mentioned above (most notably LEAF) will require a strong commitment on the part of the government, as well as a significant mobilization of domestic and international resources.

Particularly, in the context of the ART/TREES programme, Viet Nam will be required to review, and expand and/or update as appropriate, the inventory of land and forest resources rights holders to seek opt-in (or opt-out) decisions by these rights holders, where planted forests are concerned. It will also be necessary to ensure appropriate procedures have been agreed and documented for benefit sharing, grievance redress, FPIC and other safeguards aspects (linked to demonstrating conformance with structure and process indicators upon registering with ART/TREES). In addition, the submission of an updated summary of information on safeguards will be needed in the medium term (before the end of the first registration period). Finally, the development and operationalisation of a detailed plan for the monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ implementation within the jurisdictions participating in the ART/TREES Programme will also be required. While these elements are all assumed to be technically feasible, ensuring sufficient time, human and financial resources to conduct them will be a significant challenge for Viet Nam. In this regard, the government is expected to mobilise international resources to augment domestic budgetary allocation. Ideally, the UN-REDD Programme would support the mobilization of such resources.

As mentioned above, Viet Nam is well-positioned in REDD+ readiness aspects, and is already embarking on a number of strategic efforts to address the main deforestation driver of agriculture expansion with support from UN-REDD agencies as well as other donors and development partners. Initiatives to promote deforestation-free supply chains, particularly in the Central Highlands region – the country's main region for coffee production – are being formulated/initiated.

As a result, Viet Nam's BUR Technical Annex on REDD+ as well as the first monitoring report submitted to the FCPF Carbon Fund reflects positive results and success to date in addressing the main deforestation and degradation drivers. Strategic support to Viet Nam in the coming years should focus on ensuring such efforts are prioritized, mainstreamed and sustained. It should be noted that this will be even more pressing considering the reshuffled priorities and various challenges posed to address COVID 19 impacts and constraints.

In 2022, under the Technical Assistance, Viet Nam will require full support from the UN-REDD TA to focus on the ART/TREES registration, validation and monitoring processes. The same support (ie., for monitoring and reporting) will continue throughout to 2025, possibly reducing in the intensity of advisory for repeated areas of work. Starting in 2022, but gaining further momentum in 2023, the UN-REDD TA should be strategically designed to interact and support the government at policy and technical levels. In order to do this, it is important that starting 2022, the Technical Assistance mobilizes a core team to strategically support Viet Nam, including trusted personnel in-country who will interact and advise on a daily basis with government personnel, and with partners/initiatives working in-country, while liaising with the other regional and global TA advisors. At least one full time personnel for the project needs to be envisaged, in the first years of the Technical Assistance.

Other key partners supporting government in related REDD+ processes include JICA, through the "Enhancing Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SNRM2)" and the FCPF. Sub-nationally, other partners are working on REDD+ related field-based initiatives, including USAID, IFAD, SNV, among others. The UN-REDD TA should work in close coordination with these initiatives.

In order for Viet Nam to successfully engage and to produce high quality ERRs under the ART/TREES, and beyond (FCPF, GCF, etc.), significant investments will be required including as well as beyond the UN-REDD TA mentioned above. These areas of work and gaps include the institutionalizing adherence to requirements around tenure, benefit sharing, safeguards and monitoring, including over the long-term, as well as building

institutions for consultations and monitoring. Furthermore, Vietnam will be required to submit Summary/ies of Information on Safeguards on the UNFCCC covering the entire TREES crediting period.

Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022

Technical assistance from the UN-REDD Programme in 2022 will focus on supporting Viet Nam to successfully complete the ART/TREES registration process. With the elements of the Warsaw framework in place through the decade of investments in the readiness process, Viet Nam is well-positioned. This said, the ART-TREES standard demands countries to demonstrate a number of different and additional aspects. These include, for instance, requirements for generating activity data using stratified area estimation in the carbon accounting process, as well as the ability to distinguish plantations from natural forests, and the status of land use historically, for plantations.

The ART/TREES safeguard requirements are largely consistent with those of the Cancun safeguards, though several topics are emphasised or interpreted differently (such as traditional knowledge, mapping/inventory of tenure and IPLC participation, among others). Viet Nam will therefore need to demonstrate conformance with the standard's structure and process indicators in the near future, which are focused on the legislative framework and the application of procedures, respectively. A plan for conformance with outcome indicators, i.e. safeguards outcomes achieved, will also be needed upon registration. On safeguards, complementary support will also be provided through the UN-REDD Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region initiative, focused on updates to the SIS.

Other areas of work for Viet Nam to ensure compliance with ART/TREES include clarifying the legal foundation of ER title – while this is largely established for natural forests through Viet Nam's FCPF Carbon Fund programme, provisions for planted forests are not yet clear, and will require careful review and drafting. Once clarified, the benefit sharing plan will need to be established through consultations to ensure buy-in by rights holders, namely those of planted forests – or alternatively, identifying those rights holders who wish to opt-out, in which case a mechanism for discounting related ERRs will need to be established and operationalized. While the consultations will be carried out by the government, the UN-REDD TA will provide support in drafting technical options for benefit sharing.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan will need to be developed and unrolled in the jurisdictions participating in ART/TREES. Noting that 2022 will mark not only the year for Viet Nam's registration into the ART/TREES, but the first year of implementation, monitoring and reporting, technical support from the Programme will be extended to the design of consultation processes, as well as to the monitoring and reporting process.

Another area of support through 2022 TA is NDC implementation in the forest and land-use sector with a specific focus on international cooperative approaches under Article 6. This will involve, among others, building knowledge of the opportunities and requirements presented under Articles 6.2 and 6.4 as a starting point. The UN-REDD TA will support development of webinars and related materials.

Continuing from the 2021 TA, support will also be provided to operationalize the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) implementation monitoring web-application tool – a tool to facilitate better evidence-based decision making for REDD+ interventions. Similarly, UN-REDD will continue to support the SSCO to monitor the NRAP by testing the template to gather information for pre-agreed prioritized indicators, which will be used to populate the NRAP monitoring app for further analysis.

Finally, in 2022, UN-REDD TA support for REDD+ implementation, and more specifically deforestation-free supply chains, will take the form of coordination with other initiatives and partners. The aim will be to promote a consistent approach closely aligned with the National REDD+ Action Programme, but also to catalyse impact and opportunities such as the Viet Nam ART/TREES programme. Initiatives and partners that will be closely coordinated with include:

- “Reduced Emissions through Climate Smart Agroforestry” (RECAF) GCF project by IFAD: The project will trigger the implementation of the REDD+ policies and NRAP at the nexus of forestry and agriculture, to directly address the major drivers of land use change in Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Lam Dong, and Ninh Thuan provinces where cash crop expansion, has been a primary driver of forest loss and degradation. Working with national and provincial governments, the project will

provide a blueprint for implementing sustainable forest and land use policies across the country. It is proposed that RECAF will be funded by a GCF grant of USD30 million and an IFAD loan USD 43 million. The foreseen project Components include:

- Enabling policy and institutional environment of emission reduction planning and delivery.
- Deforestation free supply chains in hot spots.
- Effective benefit sharing mechanism in REDD+ implementation through promotion of payment for forest ecosystem services (PFES) and collaboration forest management (CFM).
- EU-funded Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management through Deforestation-free Jurisdiction UNDP project in Lam Dong and Dak Nong that will address governance and supply chain challenges through four outcomes and implemented through a consortium of 5 partners: CIAT, EFI, IDH, UNDP and UNEP.
- The UN-REDD Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region: this regional initiative includes a number of country and local level activities to promote the transition to deforestation-free supply chains, accelerate responsible investments in the forest sector and support sustainable forestry enterprises ;
- A study on timber supply chains that limit the impact of tree plantations on natural forests based on the review and analysis of current actual forestland use situation and driving factors of land conversion and forest degradation in the Central Annamites Landscape focusing on the interaction of above factors with smallholders and small and medium enterprises (implemented jointly with WWF and through TA 2021);

The main focus of the UN-REDD TA 2022 will be the support to successfully register the Viet Nam programme submitted to the LEAF Coalition into ART/TREES, and to support the monitoring of its first year activities and results. Support will focus on filling gaps for the ART/TREES-unique requirements in carbon accounting, reviewing and analyzing a viable approach for ER titles and related benefit sharing provisions, meeting ART/TREES safeguards requirements (including, but not limited to the strengthening of participation of women, community and ethnic groups in all relevant processes) and developing a plan to monitor REDD+ implementation in jurisdictions participating in the ART/TREES programme. Subject to more funding becoming available,¹¹ support may also be provided to develop Vietnam's next Summary of Information on Safeguards and submit it to the UNFCCC.

Another area of support through 2022 TA is NDC implementation in the forest and land-use sector with a specific focus on international cooperative approaches under Article 6. This will involve, among others, building knowledge of the opportunities and requirements presented under Articles 6.2 and 6.4 as a starting point through webinars and related materials.

The TA 2022 will also further the support from the TA 2021 on operationalizing the web-based application for monitoring progress on implementation of Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs) – a tool to facilitate better evidence-based decision making for REDD+ interventions. Similarly, UN-REDD will continue to support the SSCO to monitor the NRAP by testing the template to gather information for pre-agreed prioritized indicators, which will be used to populate the NRAP monitoring app for further analysis.

¹¹ From potential new donors to the UN-REDD Programme.

Outcome/Output as per RF	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Observations (e.g. issues, additional resources required, other agencies involved, collaborations sought, associated knowledge product/interventions)
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	PRAP implementation monitoring web-application tool operationalized	FAO	
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	NRAP monitoring app tested	UNDP	
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Fill technical gaps in ART/TREES registration – carbon accounting requirements: - track areas of conversion from natural to plantation forests; - stratified area estimation; - distinguishing plantation from natural forests	FAO	
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Fill technical gaps in ART/TREES registration- determine legal basis for ER title for planted forests: legal title to plantation ERs and links to benefit sharing: benefit sharing plan particularly for planted forests ; - consultation approaches for opt-in or opt-out	FAO	This will be done in close coordination with UNEP's technical assistance for safeguards.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Fill technical gaps in ART/TREES registration –safeguards: - Confirm and document key procedures & collect of additional PLRs/process information in order to benefit sharing: close gaps related to structure and process safeguards indicators - finalise and help to operationalise (via training) sub-national safeguards guidance reflecting key procedures - prepare conformance plan for outcome indicators	UNEP	This will be done in close coordination with FAO's technical assistance for carbon accounting and legal titling / benefit sharing

2.1	Develop a detailed monitoring plan for REDD+ implementation in jurisdictions participating in ART TREES programme, in line with ART TREES 2.0 requirements	UNEP	This will be done in close coordination with FAO and UNDP, which are supporting Vietnam with NRAP monitoring
2.1	Support to the drafting and submission of ART/TREES registration document	FAO and UNEP	
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Support to the drafting and submission of ART/TREES initial monitoring report	FAO and UNEP	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Knowledge of Article 6 opportunities and requirements disseminated through webinars and related materials	UNDP	

2.19 Zambia

Context and horizons

Zambia has already made much progress against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. A second FREL was submitted and technically assessed in 2021 (for the years 2019-2023). A first summary of information on safeguards has already been submitted to the UNFCCC.

In 2021, Zambia submitted a national-scale proposal to participate in LEAF. This proposal leveraged much of Zambia's readiness efforts undertaken during the last years. It was seen favorably by LEAF's contract agent. The identification of buyers is pending, and Zambia may have an opportunity to place (future) emission reductions. This would require stepping up mitigation efforts, because a preliminary analysis of most recently collected data for the years 2019-2020 did not yet showed conclusive evidence on emission reductions against Zambia's FREL. (More detailed analysis of such data forthcoming in early 2022 as part of carbon finance scoping.)

To reduce emissions, Zambia is working at a subnational level. A jurisdictional programme in the Eastern Province is being developed for support by the BioCarbon Fund. A GCF proposal is under development for Northwestern Province. The private sector has developed several carbon projects to work with communities towards reducing deforestation. The 2018 community forest management regulation and the statutory instrument on carbon management that was launched in 2021 were important milestones for the Forestry Department to manage a multi-level approach to REDD+.

Planning process

The activities proposed for 2022 were defined jointly between the team at Zambia's Forestry Department and the UN-REDD team. A key discussion about possible scope of work took place the 10th December 2021 when results of Zambia carbon finance scoping were discussed. During the meeting the importance of jurisdictional-scale action for Zambia's REDD+ efforts was highlighted. And a particular need of support to the jurisdictional REDD+ programme in Northwestern Province was identified. Further consultations will be undertaken in the weeks to come, including in early January 2022.

[Proposed country strategic priorities to 2025](#)

Zambia's jurisdictional REDD+ programmes in Northwestern Province and in Eastern Province will bear fruit during the coming years. In early 2022, these programmes are still under development, but climate finance is expected to flow within only a few years. This will enable stepping up mitigation actions on the ground. UN-REDD support will be orientated towards enabling these jurisdictional programmes.

Still uncertain, yet most promising is Zambia's engagement in the LEAF initiative. Should buyers step forward and take interest in working with Zambia, then this would provide a carbon finance outlook for Zambia's REDD+ programme. Zambia could then upscale experiences collected in the jurisdictional REDD+ programmes. Arguably, the UN-REDD programme could then provide some of the necessary technical support, both regarding this upscaling of mitigation actions and also regarding the compliance with TREES requirements.

Continued observation of the carbon finance landscape will be essential to flexibly react when opportunities present themselves. The technical teams at FAO, UNDP and UNEP aim to closely coordinate with Zambia's Forestry Department on REDD+ and carbon finance matters.

[Proposed UN-REDD technical assistance services for 2022](#)

Under UN-REDD outcome 2.1, Zambia will continue closely observing the international carbon finance landscape. Opportunities may present themselves, both from the LEAF programme and otherwise. The UN-REDD programme will continue closely coordinating with the Forestry Department on these matters.

Carbon finance scoping

Not least, the UN-REDD carbon finance scoping for Zambia will conclude in early 2022. UN-REDD will conclude an assessment of Zambia's emission trends during 2019-2020, compared against the current FREL (historical period 2009-2018). A preliminary analysis of data in late 2021 did not yet indicate significant emission reductions, but more detailed analysis is yet to be carried out and could provide important input for thinking in Zambia with regards to LEAF and the jurisdictional REDD+ programmes in Eastern and Northwestern Province.

Under UN-REDD outcome 3.1, Zambia's efforts to develop a jurisdictional REDD+ programme in Northwestern Province will receive technical support during 2022. While current forest use is often unsustainable and entails high level of emissions from both deforestation and forest degradation, the jurisdictional programme will work to uplift alternative livelihoods for the local communities. This will increase the value of forests versus other land uses – and also contribute to a resilient rural development in the province. Accessing alternative and improved livelihoods faces a range of barriers that differ among commodities and value chains. It is already clear that access to rural forest finance counts among the most important constraints for farmers' sustainable value chain development.

Forest value chain development

The 7th National Development Plan of Zambia highlights the untapped potential of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) to contribute value to standing forests. This potential is especially large in Northwestern Province where charcoal, mushrooms and beekeeping contribute up to 40% of household income. The limited available information indicates that the value chains and marketing of NWFPs are not yet satisfactorily developed. For example, fruits of many indigenous forest trees are traded widely but only as raw materials or semi-processed raw materials. There is also growing local and international demand for some forest products, not least regarding honey from natural forests, and this demand is yet to be fully accessed. A detailed market and value chain assessment will be undertaken to identify entry points for sustainable value chain development as part of Northwestern Province's jurisdictional REDD+ programme.

Assessment of rural forest finance

Limited access to finance is a key constraint to rural development in Zambia's Northwestern Province. The majority of the population are rural farmers (77.5%), who rely on forests as important sources of livelihoods, but there is a limited financial literacy, limited community capital and access to adapted financial products and credits by rural population. With more universal access to and usage of quality and affordable financial products and services, communities will be better positioned to invest into value chain development of forest

positive activities, such as honey, wild fruits, mushrooms, herbal products, gums/resins, edible caterpillars, as well as horticulture, short breeding cycles livestock, or aquaculture products as promising economic activities with the potential to reduce pressure on forests. To better harness forest finance as an engine of mitigation and development, the rural forest finance context will be assessed to set forth a coordinated and sequenced set of actions to be executed by the public and private sectors as part of Northwestern Province's jurisdictional REDD+ programme.

A tabular overview of proposed activities, deliverables and resource needs is presented below:

Outcome / Output as per RF	Activities	Deliverables	UN-REDD agency
2.1 RBPs accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Carbon finance scoping	Continued exchange with Forestry Department, including discussion sessions based on data about emission trends	FAO
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Forest value chain development Assessment of rural forest finance	Two brief reports and detailed discussion with national stakeholders – to be taken up in Northwestern Province jurisdictional programme	FAO

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3. Knowledge Management (Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions / Outcome 4)

Output 4.1. Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action

Rationale

The UN-REDD Programme is the UN's knowledge and advisory platform on forest solutions to the climate emergency.

In 2022, UN-REDD will continue to support technical assistance to country level delivery in Outcomes 1- 3 through a number of cross-cutting knowledge management activities responding to needs of partner countries, communities of technical practice and wider forest solution constituencies. Knowledge on good practices of innovative and scalable REDD+ solutions, drawing on lessons learned from activities undertaken through Outcomes 1-3, will be facilitated, captured and disseminated to scale up delivery of REDD+ and forest solutions. Emerging knowledge areas, such as nested frameworks for REDD+, carbon rights, country reflections post COP26 etc. will be captured and managed in such a way to integrate continuous learning during the development of these focus areas. UNFCCC COP 26 outcomes and implications for REDD+ implementation and finance will provide the framing for the knowledge/communications events and products. The activities also achieve a wider reach by further elaborating global-level normative best practices, informed by real-world experiences in the countries. To that end the Programme will produce knowledge publications and events, including webinars and South-South exchanges, to capitalize on experience and scale up implementation.

The UN-REDD knowledge management and communications infrastructure consists of:

- User-friendly and up-to-date website, including repository of key REDD+ knowledge products (e.g. briefs and reports on good practices and lessons learned) and expert insights

- Technical knowledge products: knowledge briefs, reports, comparative analyses, and methodological approaches
- Communications products: newsletters, expert insight blogs, fact-sheets, multimedia stories, press releases, short videos, infographics and social media copy
- Knowledge events: global, regional and sub-national exchanges and workshops to share experiences and address information gaps
- Global events: to position forest-based solutions and influence the global and regional discourse
- Trainings, webinars and communities of practice

This knowledge management and communications infrastructure allows UN-REDD to

- disseminate lessons learned and good practice on REDD+
- support partner countries knowledge needs
- support a global movement for forest and climate action

Knowledge management also includes the integration of social inclusion and gender equality principles in the UN-REDD knowledge management and communication efforts to ensure they equitably involve and are reflective of all stakeholders involved in REDD+ action, including those from more marginalised groups, particularly indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth.

Deliverables

Facilitate knowledge exchanges/events on:

- access to results-based payments for REDD+, strategies for GCF and diversified REDD+ finance with a focus on Africa and Asia/Pacific, linking to experiences and lessons learned by frontrunner REDD+ countries in LAC
- high integrity climate finance and emerging standards for carbon markets (ART/TREES, LEAF)
- best practices on social inclusion in forest-climate solutions, such as:
- stakeholder engagement, FPIC, traditional knowledge, GRM
- social safeguards and benefit sharing
- community-based forestry/social forestry
- gender mainstreaming
- jurisdictional stakeholder engagement regarding LEAF and ART/TREES
- forest positive agriculture and food systems, including on deforestation free supply chains, integrated livestock production and community forest management systems
- NFMS: forest degradation, restoration monitoring, national forest inventory, and community forest monitoring
- NDC reporting (eg. Art 13 of the Paris Agreement)

Produce technical knowledge products to document and capture knowledge on key themes aligned to knowledge exchanges/events (such as briefs, case studies, lessons learned):

- accessing and implementing REDD+ performance-based finance from knowledge exchanges and trainings.
- the rights, knowledge and inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest solutions and access to forest-climate finance.
- mainstreaming gender in the design, implementation, and financing of forest solutions, including further dissemination of the UN-REDD methodological approach on gender and UN-REDD gender marker system.
- preliminary lessons learned from supporting countries to engage in leading fund and market standards, with focus on ART/TREES, documented and shared with countries and jurisdictions

- keynote issues that connect national REDD+ action with the Paris Agreement, particularly with regards to NDC land & forest enhancements, international cooperation arrangements (Art. 6), and the enhanced transparency framework for the forest sector (Art. 13)
- the cost and effectiveness of REDD+ actions to inform priority setting (systematizing, assessing and sharing evidence)
- comparative analysis of rights, title, and benefits of REDD+ results-based actions and options to reduce of potential conflicts associated with tenure/rights, to be implemented in collaboration with external partners (e.g. Tenure Facility, EU REDD Facility, CIFOR/ICRAF, RECOFTC, Forest Trends, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities and others), AMAN and others)

Develop and deliver trainings for government and civil society organizations on REDD+ and VCM and associated standards (eg. ART/TREES)

Output 4.2. Collective political and societal support to NbS increased

Rationale

Forests are recognized as the most mature, scientifically proven, and concrete nature-based solution (NbS) with a potential to deliver 5.3 GtCO₂e annually and various pro-poor co-benefits, from improved health to job creation and augmented livelihoods and food security. The Glasgow Leaders's Declaration on Forests and Land Use has reemphasized the outstanding relevance of forests. The UN-REDD Programme will therefore reinforce Outcomes 1 - 3 by increasing the political and societal support for forest solutions towards G7, G20, UNGA and COP27 among others through convening of leaders and by leveraging the momentum of the NbS movement.

Deliverables

- ≠ Pilot REDD+ Assembly to respond to a need by the REDD+ community to meet and engage around strategic topics (similar to EB 2021). The Assembly would also strengthen UN-REDD's positioning in the rapidly evolving REDD+ landscape.
- ≠ Communication products to support countries and UN-system initiatives on Turning the Tide of Deforestation (case studies, evidence and data products, input to events and campaigns).
- ≠ Communications campaign to bolster support for investments into jurisdictional REDD as a key mitigation solution, incl. Green Gigaton Challenge communications to catalyse an unmistakable demand signal to transact one gigaton of high-quality emission reductions from forest-based solutions by 2025 as well as collaborations with partner organizations/efforts such as Nature 4 Climate and Natural Climate Solutions Alliance/WEF.
- ≠ Leveraging events as per below list and other strategic moments, through UN-REDD-organized side events, participation by UN-REDD and its agencies in main and side events, contribution to messaging as well as placement of articles, to advance the political support and financial commitment for the potential of forests to mitigate climate change and position forest solutions squarely at the heart of the Paris Agreement and in support of the SDG Agenda:
 - [UNEA](#) - February (Nairobi)
 - World Forestry Congress, May (Korea)
 - Oslo Tropical Forest Forum, 21-22 June (Oslo)
 - G7 26-28 June (Germany)
 - UNGA, Climate Week 13-27 September (New York)
 - G20 30-31 October (Indonesia)
 - COP27 7-18 November (Sharm al-Sheikh)
- ≠ Collaboration with, and support to, the UNFCCC Local Communities & Indigenous Peoples Platform, especially with regards to disseminating indigenous forest knowledge and practices, and support the capacity of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities and similar coalitions of forest dependent communities to have impact and promote their solutions in this setting.

- ⊄ Support to international and regional networks of indigenous peoples and local communities on issues related to the climate-forest-territory nexus (e.g. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, International Indigenous Women's Forum, UNFCCC LCIP Platform, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, New York Declaration on Forests, AIPP, COICA)
- ⊄ Global dialogues with companies and governments to facilitate understanding of carbon markets, REDD+ and opportunities for private sector investments in forests.
- ⊄ Scoping partnerships and innovations to stimulate indigenous and local community access to finance for forest solutions to climate change.

Output 4.3. Digital cooperation and frontier technologies deployed to accelerate and enhance NbS

Rationale

The use of digital technology has become a necessity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UN-REDD Programme, profiting from its already existing digital cooperation expertise, responded quickly to the new need by moving its KM activities online while ensuring digital inclusion. In 2022 depending on the status of limitations on travel and social interactions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, consultations, webinars and knowledge exchanges will continue to be held online. Continuing UN-REDD's programmatic commitment to social inclusion, accessibility for marginalized groups will remain a priority consideration.

In addition, UN-REDD will continue to invest in innovative technical solutions for satellite data and remote sensing towards the creation of digital public goods. Finally, UN-REDD in line with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation will explore the transformative potential of frontier technology for forest solutions, from big data to artificial intelligence, in support of Outcomes 1-3.

Deliverables

- Strengthening digital cooperation and advancing technical and legal solutions for making country data open, accessible and transparent (e.g. web portals, data sharing agreements, communication strategies for forest monitoring data)
- Pilot initiatives and information briefs on making digital cooperation and virtual engagement socially inclusive, particularly among indigenous peoples, local communities, women and the rural youth engaged in forest and climate action
- Enhancing country access to tools that support planning and implementation of integrated landscape approaches to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, through the co-development and implementation of a decision flow support framework and the creation of a related navigator.
