

# UN-REDD 2023 Technical Assistance Inception report

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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 policy advice, technical assistance and knowledge management.

Looking to the 2030 horizon, the goal of UN-REDD is to help realise forest solutions to the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and fostering carbon sequestration for at least 5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

Within the scope of this ambition, the UN-REDD Results Framework for the period 2021-2025 turns around four inter-related outcomes: (1) Realising forest solutions; (2) Rewarding forest solutions; (3) Enhancing forest solutions; and (4) Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions.

This 2023 inception report builds on the UN-REDD 2022-2025 Technical Assistance (TA) Multiyear Plan, and the UN-REDD 2023 Technical Assistance Workplan and Budget, which were approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board on 26 October 2021 and 4 November 2022 respectively. The 2023 inception process was conducted in the last quarter of 2022/January 2023 with the aim to calibrate the optimal deployment of technical assistance to countries in 2023, so to consolidate ongoing processes and harness new avenues.

This inception report provides a snapshot of the UN-REDD country focus, global communications and knowledge management and core delivery in 2023.

Overall, the UN-REDD activities in 2023 will contribute to advance a number of strategic commitments of the forest and climate agenda:

- Implementing policies and investments for forest solutions, including cross-sectoral approaches and multi-stakeholder processes, particularly in the agricultural and rural-development sectors
- Supporting countries to continuously improve their forest monitoring and MRV systems, in order to ensure high-integrity of REDD+ action and financing, and be able to meet requirements of evolving jurisdictional standards for REDD+ results, such as notably ART/TREES
- Supporting countries to assess and access climate and carbon finance, both upfront for implementation of their forest solutions as well as for their forest results (REDD+).
- Promote social inclusion and gender equality in forest policies and associated climate finance, with a specific focus on indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Assist countries to build the necessary support regulations and institutional arrangements to ensure the environmental integrity of the mix of carbon finance options they choose to deploy, ensuring environmental integrity and social equity
- Assist forested countries in the Global South and relevant stakeholders to explore and enhance private sector investments, including through LEAF
- Support countries monitor and enhance the forest components of their NDCs

These were also discussed at UN-REDD Country Dialogue on Strategic Finance Pathways for Forest Solutions and the back-to-back sixth meeting UN-REDD Executive Board meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and will also contribute to making forest at COP28 an exemplar of progress being made on the Paris Agreement

The report is structured to provide the information by country and global communications and knowledge management areas. Each country section follows a similar format, presenting:

- i. strategic context: intended as an updated assessment from 2022 inception and earlier briefs;

- ii. planning process: describing the consultations held and their outcomes.
- iii. 2023 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.
- iv. The content for each country section varies depending on where the country stands, hence the varying level of detail provided.

## 2. Country Support

The following profiles provide details on the support anticipated to the current UN-REDD TA priority countries and regions during 2022, in 22 countries and 2 regions as follows:

Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos PDR, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia; and Lower Mekong and ASEAN regions.

### 2.1. Argentina

#### Strategic context

Argentina has been advancing in its efforts to reduce GHG emissions from a historic peak in 2007 of 424 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>, to 366 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> emitted in 2018, according to the 4th BUR. This progress has advanced the country significantly towards meeting its unconditional NDC target of 349 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2030. Over the last 10 years, emissions from land use change were reduced by two thirds, from 115 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> – with a total deforestation of 485,833 ha in 2007 to close to 39 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> – losing 183,368 ha – in 2018. Reducing deforestation was the single most significant source of mitigation results over the period.

On 9 January 2023, the Report on the technical analysis of the second REDD+ Technical Annex was published, confirming an additional 101 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> of avoided emissions between 2017-2018. Moving forward, one of the main challenges of the country is to consolidate the trend by consolidating efforts and mitigating the risk of additional demand for forest land conversion.

Implementation of the GCF REDD+ RBP project will contribute to such consolidation and increase in the economic value of forests. 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. This will also include strengthening of the safeguards information system, and reporting on safeguards.

UN-REDD will continue to 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. TA will complement, and also leverage the implementation of the GCF project to provide further targeted support on analysing new opportunities for forests and climate finance, and improving implementation and reporting on safeguards, among others.

The country is set to hold general elections in the last quarter of 2023, which will likely compress the effective time for implementation of this year's workplan.

#### Planning process

A number of meetings were held by UNEP and FAO with government officials from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development during the last quarter of 2022 to identify the priority areas for Technical Assistance.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023 through the provision of technical advice and knowledge, UN-REDD Technical Assistance 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) and strengthening safeguards implementation and reporting to address multiple requirements; ii) sharing and enhancing 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's 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, benefit distribution and carbon rights, sustainable livestock, integrated land-use and forest management, agroforestry and community-based forestry.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Tools to raise awareness and due diligence approaches to address deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains	FAO	Piloting of OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Due Diligence and Deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains with 1-2 companies (per country) in key supply chains impacting forests (complementary thematic and country TA) This activity will leverage on the activities related to the implementation of the RBP project. Tentative supply chains involve livestock and agricultural products.
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 advice 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	Needs assessment and recommendations for strengthening the	UNEP	This will include review of current operation of the safeguards information system (SIS), with assessment of needs and gaps for

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	monitoring and reporting of safeguards		addressing and respecting safeguards and reporting on this in line with different safeguards requirements for REDD+ climate finance (e.g., UNFCCC, GCF, ART-TREES etc.). It will also include recommendations for updating/adjusting the system and generating reports on safeguards, with a case study of one province (e.g., Chaco or Misiones). This will include consideration of the gender approach and inclusion of gender-disaggregated data, as available.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Opportunities for accessing REDD+ climate financing assessed and systematized, including links with Art. 6, GCF RBP program and other voluntary and compliance carbon markets.	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. This will include an analysis of potential implications from provincial initiatives (e.g., Chaco or Misiones) and nesting requirements. Opportunities for women, and women's access to REDD+ climate finance will be considered.
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	At least one regional / bilateral exchange supported, for example on selected priority topics selected by the KM working group (e.g. forest management with integrated livestock, community-based agroforestry, and climate financing opportunities, including benefit distribution and carbon rights aspects, jurisdictional approaches, including benefit distribution and carbon rights aspects, and exchanges between provinces and/or countries)	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. Dialogues on climate finance will build on the community of practice created in Dec 2022.

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## 2.2. Cambodia

### Strategic context

The Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) updated Nationally Determined Contribution 2020 (NDC 2020) sets an ambitious target to cut overall greenhouse gas emission by 42% by 2030. The main mitigation efforts by 2030 will be derived from the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector where it will achieve a 50% reduction of historical emissions (76.3 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e) from deforestation. In the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN) submitted in December 2021, the FOLU sector is expected to achieve carbon neutrality from 2031 onwards and net zero-deforestation by 2045. The LTS4CN also pointed to the FOLU sector to provide a net carbon sink of 50 megaton CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050. As such, it is expected to be the main sector to offset emissions from energy, agriculture, IPPU and waste sectors.

The ambition set out in the NDC 2020 and LTS4CN is built on the country's progress in REDD+, having fulfilled the Warsaw Framework for REDD+: National REDD+ Strategy (2017), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) (2017), Forest Reference Level (FRL) (2017, 2021) and a Summary of Information (SoI) (2019), including a REDD+ Technical Annex (2020). Additionally, a REDD+ Action and Investment Plan, endorsed in 2021, forecasted a total cost of US\$ 186 million needed by 2031 to implement the policies and measures identified in the National REDD+ Strategy.

### Planning process

The activities under the TA have been identified with a view to support the RGC to more strategically engage with their ambitions to finance and implement their ambitious NDC. This includes carefully managing their growing carbon markets portfolio for the FOLU sector to ensure high-integrity carbon credits that will enhance access to various initiatives, such as the international coalition "Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance" (LEAF), among others. In 2023, the UN-REDD TA for RGC is grouped around three key streams of support, namely:

- a. Pilot institutional operations for nested framework on the ground (contribution to Outcome 1)
- b. Strengthen monitoring and tracking of NDC and LTS4CN implementation (contribution to Outcome 1)
- c. Revenue management for REDD+ through the Environmental and Social Fund (contribution to Outcome 3)

For activities on the nested framework, Cambodia Environmental Management and Information System (CEMIS) and Information System and Decision Support (ISDS), Sustainable finance, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), Strengthening Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) such as capacities to integrate emissions from forest degradation, community and local-scale monitoring, the planning has been or will be done through integration and testing of the interfaces of the technical and operational components of the nested framework, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), which is tasked with REDD+ and NDC oversight function in RGC, as well as in close alignment with the TA through Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (CSLEP) (2019-2025) and UNDP Climate Promise 2.0 which is an international UN initiative to further strengthen the enabling conditions for NDC implementation and financing at country level. Alignment is also ensured with the UN-REDD Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region TA (UN REDD SFT-LMR) (2019-2023), the UN-REDD Climate Change Mitigation through Social Forestry in ASEAN countries TA (2022-2024), newly approved FAO project Restoration for resilience and Recovery (3Rs), FAO's work on the enhanced transparency framework in the AFOLU sectors under a Global Environment Facility - Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (GEF-CBIT) Cambodia project (2018-2023), and other supporting frameworks.

Through support from FCPF Phase II, a national regulatory framework or nesting framework has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders. The nested framework will be critical in transition of REDD+ mechanism from readiness to implementation phase through sustainable finance, enhancing transparency and consistency across different jurisdictional scales, avoiding double counting, and environmental integrity.

Activities related to MRV have been jointly identified with the MoE General Directorate of Environmental Knowledge and Information (GDEKI), and the Forestry Administration (FA). The activities will help to strengthen the existing national systems such as Cambodia's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and Forest Resource Management Information System (FRMIS) and the Cambodia Environment Management Information System (CEMIS) in areas of land use and land cover change monitoring, primarily in areas of community based MRV/monitoring, improvement of data on forest degradation, improvement of emission factors, and integration of new data/information layers, among others for transparency purposes. Moreover, the activities are consistent with recommendations made by the UNFCCC Technical Assessment team to improve country-specific Emission Factors (EFs) with National Forest Inventory (NFI) data, and to continue monitoring forest degradation in order to assess whether the reduction of deforestation is leading to the displacement of emissions and include emissions from forest degradation in future FRL submissions when new and adequate data and better information are available. The activities related to small-scale monitoring build on the UN-REDD Climate Change Mitigation through Social Forestry in ASEAN countries TA.

For activities related to the Environmental and Social Fund, the activities have been jointly identified with the MoE and Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) who are Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environmental and Social Fund Committee, respectively, as stated in the revised Sub-Decree No. 238 SD (2021). These activities are complementary to the CSLEP, jointly implemented by MoE and Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), which supported the analysis of existing revenue sources and gaps for protected area management that identified the ESF as the public fund model with the highest viability to mobilize various sustainable financing mechanisms.

#### Technical assistance services

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	<p><u>Piloting of the Nested Framework</u></p> <p>Operational Guidelines for REDD+ such as monitoring and reporting, operational procedures, safeguard management and revenue sharing for the nested framework are reviewed and updated based on lessons from piloting in selected districts and provinces.</p> <p>Institutional arrangements: 2.1 Assessment of existing institutional arrangement, with special reference to information and financial flow, overlap</p>	UNDP	UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs to operational guidelines for REDD+ and Guidelines on monitoring and reporting, and UN-REDD ASEAN Social Forestry project for the commune role in nested framework.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	<p>and gaps, inter-institutional interfaces at national and provincial levels for the early and full implementation of the nested system.</p> <p>2.2 A list of recommendations on institutional arrangement requirements at national and provincial levels for the early and full implementation of the Nested System (information and financial flow, overlap and gaps, inter-institutional interfaces) identified.</p> <p>2.3 Lessons learnt briefs and slide decks for the RGC to showcase its experiences with the nested framework.</p> <p>2.4 Communes' role in nested framework strengthened through:  - Capacity building and awareness raising at commune level  - Identify the scope of collaboration between project and commune levels for better integration in operationalization of nested framework.</p> <p>Registry and Safeguards Management</p> <p>National REDD+ database registry enhanced through developing registration processes/procedures and establishing templates according to eligibility conditions.</p> <p>Detailed methods and guidance documents on project-level safeguards management developed to provide information and enhance the information</p>		

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	collection process linked with Sol.		
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	<p><u>Monitoring and tracking of NDC and LTS4CN implementation</u></p> <p>Development of the infrastructure and operationalization of the MIS system within MAFF (FA and DPS) and GDNPA/MOE supported. SOP for gathering information necessary for GHG inventory for FOLU sector.</p> <p>QA/QC mechanism/procedure to ensure the quality of data reporting by national and sub-national government department developed. Capacity of the MIS administrators and agency focal points on reporting protocol and data standards MAFF (FA and DPS) and GDNPA/MOE built.</p> <p>Harmonized data collection process, sharing mechanism national to sub-national and across relevant sub-sectors/departments of MOE and MAFF and existing systems.</p>	FAO	
	<p><u>Degradation</u></p> <p>An official national definition of forest degradation through a participatory and multistakeholder consultive process. Operational methodology for detecting and monitoring forest degradation.</p> <p>In-house capacity to fully integrate emissions from forest degradation in future documents, proposals, and reporting as needed.</p> <p>Degradation maps.</p>	FAO	<p>Degradation work arrangement: FAO leads national taskforce (Forest Degradation work) while actively engage UNDP through the process as core partner. UNDP will coordinate with FAO on the definition of forest degradation and the proposed forest degradation methodology, work which is currently supported by MoE/DGIS and funded through Climate Promise, with a specific focus on protected areas. FAO and UNDP work together in testing different approaches/tools, capacity development, explore integration into NFMS, CEMIS, FRMIS (in synergy with 3R project and Climate Promise)</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			FAO support integration of forest degradation emissions in measurement and reporting as needed.
	<p>Emission Factors QC/QA on the new EF for Shorea siamensis species.</p> <p>Integrate new result from Shorea siamensis species and new species to improve the EF of the Deciduous Forest.</p> <p>Improved mixed-species allometric equations.</p> <p>QA of NFI measurement 70 clusters (210 plots) of upland forest in SrePok Wildlife Sanctuary conducted by GDEKI/MOE.</p> <p>Update national EF based on recent field inventories (from partial NFI and Projects) team.</p>	FAO	
	<p>Various-scale Monitoring Capacity developed on measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification at various scales.</p> <p>FRMIS for local-scale monitoring enhanced.</p> <p>NFMS for local-scale monitoring enhanced.</p> <p>FRMIS established and NFMS updated with the integration of recent developments and local-scale monitoring on CFs and CPAs' actions.</p>	FAO	<p>Local scale monitoring</p> <p>FAO supports activity data development from CFs and CPAs of targeted areas of CASFor.</p> <p>UNDP provide support in database development and management or others and integration with CEMIS.</p>
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	<p>Revenue Management through ESF</p> <p>1. A multi-level governance structure for the ESF to manage and disburse the proceeds with a specific REDD+ window developed.</p> <p>2. A cross-ministerial digital system for national-scale revenue management developed in</p>	UNDP	UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs on the draft guidance note on the use of proceeds.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	<p>consultation with broad stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>3. Detailed revenue management procedures and templates for all sources of funds received including REDD+ revenues developed.</p> <p>4. Draft guidance note on the use of proceeds.</p>		
	<p><u>Support to NDC implementation</u></p> <p>1. A report which contains a review and recommended enhancement of existing system(s) such as CEMIS with necessary modification to track indicators under REDD+.</p> <p>2. Assessment and operational options to strengthen MoE-led community-based management of Community Protected Areas (CPAs).</p>	UNDP	<p>For no. 1, UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs in line with existing FAO activities (UN-REDD TA under Results Framework 1.4 and other parallel projects).</p> <p>For no. 2, for taking the NDC and LTS as baseline document, a new REDD+ indicator list has been developed by the REDD+ secretariat in consultation with National Technical Working Group on MRV. The new tracking system will be designed to generate data/information on those indicators to help reporting and progresses made in line with NDC and LTS.</p> <p>On No.2, Government and UN-REDD agencies are still discussing the approach.</p> <p>This work will be closely coordinated with FAO who will manage the overall technical harmonization across Results Framework 1.4.</p>

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## 2.3. Chile

### Strategic context

Chile has made a significant increase of ambition throughout the update of its NDC. The mitigation goal, replacing the previous emission intensity indicator, conditional and unconditional, with unconditional absolute indicators, with a goal of 95 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030, an emissions maximum in 2025, and a GHG emissions budget of no more than 1,100 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in the period 2020-2030. Regarding the LULUCF sector, the NDC recognized the synergies between mitigation and adaptation actions 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 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq 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 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq 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 (ENCCRIV), 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 program that could provide roughly USD 90 million for results achieved from 2014 to 2024.

The ENCCRIV 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 ENCCRIV is USD 433 million, for a planning horizon of nine years.

In terms of legal framework, CONAF had expressed in the past the need to strengthen forest related legislation, so that incentives could reach a greater number of forest owners that have opted to either preserve or manage their native forests. In this respect, they are currently working in the development of a new law aimed to recovery forests affected by fires. In addition, under the offsetting or green tax law regulation scheme (*reglamentación de la ley de compensaciones o de impuesto verde*), the government plans to encourage to develop NBS forestry projects, including an associated NREF/NRF. The development of said FREL/FRL is responsibility of CONAF, and so aligning this process with the broader REDD+ nesting process will be essential.

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 legal instruments:

- Update of the Law N°20.283/2008 on Native Forest Recovery and Forest Promotion,
- Draft and enact the law of forest fires recovery and afforestation
- Operationalization of the domestic carbon market through the carbon tax offsetting mechanism established in the Law N° 21.210/2020 which should be operative at 2023.

There is not yet clarity concerning carbon or emission reduction rights, or who is entitled to the GHG certifications. The definition of technical, regulatory and/or institutional solutions will be fundamental to avoid risks of double payments/counting, and should complement the rules of procedures under consultation establishing CONAF's 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 ° 21.210. Article 14 of the Framework Law on Climate Change 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.

Noting the remaining legal challenges revolving around REDD+ results-based carbon financing, Chile has resorted to a combination of legal solutions associated with ownership of ERRs and access to the benefits associated with results-based financing. Through assignment contracts as part of the operation of their Benefit Distribution System, SDB beneficiaries assign the right to ERRs that are generated from the implementation of activities that contribute to the goals of the National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources. Likewise, in the context of REDD+ results-based payment schemes, Chile has committed to register in the REDD+ Info Hub of the UNFCCC the results of ERRs achieved between 2014 and 2016 for which payments were received under the pilot program. REDD+ of the Green Climate Fund, as well as its Emission Reduction Registry System, under development and piloting. This is intended to reduce the risk of double accounting and double use, and therefore the possibility of a claim by a third party. On the other hand, within the framework of the ERPA that has been negotiated with the World Bank Carbon Fund, Chile issued an official GABM resolution No. 152 that recognizes CONAF's ability to transfer ownership of carbon rights to the fund, with which provides a regulatory framework for transactions associated with this ERPA.

During the last semester of 2022 CONAF started implementing its Benefit Sharing System to provide non-monetary incentives for local landholders for the implementation of REDD+ actions under the ENCCRV, and in contribution to achieving Chile NDC targets. To date, the first public tender has received about 490 applications, across 6 regions, adding up to over 1000 ha to be potentially restored, forested or sustainably managed, with FAO's support and GCF's results-based financing through Chile's REDD+ results-based payments project [known as +Bosques].

In relation to the constitutional process led by President Boric, the draft text of the proposal for a new Constitution, submitted to a plebiscite on September 4, 2022, was characterized by a marked recognition of the social rights of all Chileans, highlighting the proposal to replace the Senate with a regional chamber, plurinationality and the creation of a justice system for indigenous peoples. Likewise, another novel aspect of the draft Constitution was its ecological nature, protection of nature and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as the provision that people and peoples "are interdependent with nature and form, with nature has rights". As mentioned, a new constitutional process has been announced, with the following timeline: i) constitution of an Expert Commission in January 2023; ii) elections in April 2023 of councilors, with mandatory voting; iii) installation of the Constitutional Council on May 21, 2023; iv) delivery of the draft Constitution on October 21, and; v) a new mandatory voting plebiscite, on November 26, 2023. Once a draft text is available for the public, additional legal analysis may be required.

### Planning process

During the last trimester of 2022, a series of technical discussions in relation to on-going 2022 activities allowed for the identification of activities that required continuation during 2023, or early discussions in relation to either new or complementary activities for 2023. Based on these preliminary discussions at the strategic and technical level, on 13<sup>th</sup> December, a coordination session with CONAF was held, with the main objective of discussing the proposed activities under UNREDD's TA for 2023 and receive strategic guidance from CONAF in terms of priorities and strategic direction.

As a result of this planning CONAF has confirmed their interest to work on an integrated nesting framework, that allow to reconcile multiple ERR accounting scales and regulate private forest carbon project, and so maximize Chile's funding opportunities under VCMs. Similarly, CONAF confirmed its interest to continue to improve its safeguards implementation, tracking and reporting through the SIS and SOI, including to integrate multiple levels of safeguards implementation, for instance in the context of the implementation of REDD+ actions in the territory through the operation of its SDB.

Moreover, the development of a finance strategy for the effectiveness and sustainability of the ENCCRV is a priority, recognizing the role of the private/productive sector involvement in the achievement of the NDC target. Fostering private sector engagement, specifically through the

implementation of forest carbon projects, requires CONAF to define its nesting framework in a way that facilitates and regulates the active participation of the private sector while ensuring the ambition and environmental integrity of Chile's NDC.

The combination of technical, regulatory and institutional tools and arrangements will be fundamental not only to avoid risks of double payments/counting but moreover to allow Chile to ensure the contribution of REDD+ measures to the achievement of its national targets and NDC contributions by nesting multiple scales of REDD+ implementation, monitoring, reporting and financing, to become operational in the coming years. With this, Chile aims to position itself as a pioneer in the development of financial and institutional mechanisms geared at attracting private investments in forest carbon initiatives, including at the national and international level. Yet, there are several remaining challenges that Chile still has to overcome in order to generate high quality ER/R at multiple scales that contribute to the full achievement of NDC targets, while ensuring social and environmental integrity:

- Update and revise the current ENCCRV based on the lessons learned during its first implementation phase.
- Develop technical, legal and institutional solutions to operationalize the PA, particularly in relation to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (Art 13) and carbon markets under Article 6.
- Update its FREL/FRL to a more recent reference period that enables direct access to forest carbon finance under REDD+ financing standards and initiatives, as the ART/TREES Standard or the LEAF Coalition.
- Development of a registry mechanism of its NDC mitigation actions consistent with provisions for Art 6 of the PA, as well as that informs Chile's first BTR, to be submitted in late 2024.

The challenges above are areas identified as for further discussion in 2023 in the context of this TA by 2025.

## Technical assistance services

### Rationale for overall support and strategic priorities

Chile's updated NDC incorporated a new integration component that holistically contributes to addressing both the causes and the impacts of climate change. This component encompasses ambitious targets for the LULUCF sector by 2030 that will be partially achieved in 2025. Looking to 2025, Chile will seek also to consolidate the implementation of the legal framework, enhance forest monitoring and planning, as well as enhancing the economic value of forests. More specifically, and following the update of the ENCCRV, the country will advance in the implementation of specific forestry programmes included as action measures of the strategy, as well as in the operationalization of the domestic carbon market anchored on the carbon tax offsetting mechanism. All these with the aim to ensure that the country is in trajectory to meet its NDC target by 2030. As mentioned in section 1, the proposed technical assistance is based on the consultation held with CONAF on dec 9<sup>th</sup>. UN-REDD technical assistance in detailing out and supporting the achievement of this national goal for 2022.

On 11 March 2022, Chile's new President Gabriel Boric took office, and so a transition process in CONAF continued during the first semester of 2022, while the TA 2022 workplan was being defined with the national counterpart, CONAF. A hybrid country mission by June 2022 provided the space to fine-tune the workplan and identify more in detail activities towards agreed deliverables and milestones at the output level. CONAF designated thematic counterparts for each deliverable and output, which has facilitated a smooth coordination at the technical level, including in preparation to this AT 2023 workplan. Moreover, during this hybrid country mission, Chile underscored the importance of having the necessary inputs to develop a financial strategy to access REDD+ and other

forest carbon financing, including the improvement and consolidation of their safeguard and MRV system.

Strategic priorities are detailed in the Annex, and the table below provides an overview of prioritized activities for 2023.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Finance Strategy for the ENCCRV developed, considering the role of private sector finance at the national and international levels and design of supporting institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms.	FAO UNEP	Includes: Situation analysis of the implementation of action measures under the ENCCRV, mapping and in-depth analysis of sources of finance and opportunities, and analysis of opportunities to maximize climate finance and opportunities. Matching financing needs with potential sources, Facilitating a participatory process with CONAF and an extended group to review the results of the analytical work conducted and define strategic actions and a roadmap and identify institutional and coordination arrangements to implement the FS roadmap.
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 – Technical Assessment of Updated FREL/FRL supported	FAO	Includes: Technical backstopping during the Technical Assessment (TA) of Chile's 2022 FREL under the UNFCCC to be submitted .by Jan 2023.
	Chile's MRV system is improved and able to monitor 4 REDD+ activities - Institutional capacities on the assessment of uncertainties and the Montecarlo method strengthened		Includes: Capacity building on the assessment of uncertainties and the Montecarlo method, Revision and/or development of a fit-for-purpose tool for Chile for conducting Montecarlo assessment.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Second summary of information developed, and safeguards approach strengthened.	UNEP	This will include support to the finalization of the second summary of safeguards information, with inputs from the implementation of REDD+ activities (in the framework of the ENCCRV) on the ground, helping to strengthen information on 'respect' and 'compliance'. Further support will be provided on continuous improvements of the safeguards information system, including with strengthened links to ENCCRV

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations
			implementation. Support and guidance will also be provided on the operationalization of the Benefits Sharing Mechanism, in line with the national safeguards approach and requirements under different financing opportunities for the ENCCRV.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Definition of a nesting approach that enables the integration of multiple scales of REDD+ implementation under the ENCCRV defined	FAO	Includes: Definition of a nesting approach for the ENCCRV Development of supporting operational procedures and regulations, as necessary
	An ART/ Trees Concept Note supported	FAO UNEP	Based on the preliminary assessment a CN for ART/Trees, technical backstopping for further understanding the technical and legal implications of the standard, and noting progress in the development of the finance strategy, further discussions in the first semester of 2023 will resume with CONAF in relation to the interest to prepare a Concept Note, with FAO supporting carbon and legal elements, and UNEP supporting safeguards elements).
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Methodological / conceptual framework to enable the nesting of multiples ERRs accounting approaches and scales developed, including associated tools and standard operating procedures.	FAO	Includes: Development of a methodological / conceptual framework to enable the nesting of multiples ERRs accounting approaches and scales Development of, including associated tools for data collection and aggregation, and allocation of FREL/FRL, and standard operating procedures. This activity should build on existing efforts in relation to nesting in order to ensure the consistency with the national reporting and accounting system. Similarly, this activity should consider CONAF's monitoring and reporting commitments under its NDC, and a reporting and accounting framework for mitigation actions in the LULUCF sector under its first BRT.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured	<p>Incorporation of Chile in South-South experience exchange events on selected topics.</p> <p>Advocacy supported to invest in forest-based solutions through knowledge and communication products</p>		<p>Priority topics for regional exchanges include:  Implementation, monitoring and reporting of high integrity REDD+ results-based actions,  Nesting frameworks and MRV tools for high integrity ERRs  Nesting frameworks and benefit sharing mechanisms  Financial strategies for the sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+ actions, including the role of the private sector</p>

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## 2.4. Colombia

### Strategic context

In December 2021, Colombia enacted a Climate Action Law, which establishes targets and minimum measures to achieve carbon neutrality in the country as well as climatic resilience. The Law reaffirms Colombia’s goal of reducing deforestation by 51% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. This includes reaching net zero deforestation by 2030. The Law includes key provisions impacting actions to halt deforestation, including the reaffirmation of REDD policies and incentives and directing 50% of the carbon tax funds towards efforts to halt deforestation and at least 15% of total funds invested in the Amazon region. In addition, the Law promotes involvement of the private sector in mitigation actions, including through zero deforestation agreements and public-private partnerships. The Law also establishes a number of provisions aimed at promoting carbon markets. This includes amendments to the Registry of GHG Emissions and Removals (RENARE), including registration requirements for projects and initiatives, including those aspiring to receive payments for results. As part of the efforts to maximize the potential of carbon markets, the Law established a Commission for the study of carbon markets in Colombia, which will emit recommendations for the regulation and administration of such markets.

The general election process led to a change in government in Colombia and thus, a process of elaboration of new government priorities. The foundations for the 2022-2026 National Development Plan (NDP) proposes a renewed emphasis on total peace and on key transformations that will have important implications on forests and climate change. These include land planning, community rights and the direction of development, directly affecting drivers of deforestation and degradation in the country. The government is proposing a plan to halt deforestation in the 9 active hotspots and promoting sustainable forest management. In addition, the fire prevention and management and forest restoration plans will be updated and implemented. In terms of climate change, the foundations for the NDP also proposes a review of the implementation plan to meet the countries NDC. The document also establishes forest protection as one of the pillars. Among the minimum measures, the Law includes provisions to transition to deforestation free agriculture, minimizing risks of livestock impacts on forests, the use of conservation agreements to stabilize the agricultural frontier.

### Planning process

Consultations on the 2023 workplan started July 2022, as part of a mission to advance various aspects of the workplan and where key issues were identified with the outgoing government. In October 2022,

a second mission was organized, this time meeting with the Vice Minister for Policy and Norms of the Ministry of the Environment. Meetings were also held with staff of the Norwegian Embassy.

### Technical assistance services

#### Policy and financing

- a. Improved implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (EICDGB "Bosques Territorios de Vida") and its contribution to the plans to halt deforestation
- b. Progress in community Forestry model assessed, reviewed and disseminated through the Community Forestry Roundtable and technical publications
- c. Tools to raise awareness and due diligence approaches to address deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains
- d. Agricultural financing with climate change considerations from public financial entity (ie. FINAGRO) enhanced through development of pilot programme of technical assistance for the structuring and follow up of sustainable productive projects
- e. *Social inclusion*
- f. Enhanced inclusion of key stakeholders in the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy

#### Measuring, reporting and verification

- Nesting approach to reconcile multiple scales of REDD+ implementation under the EICDGB, and in support of Colombia's NDC, defined and supporting operational procedures and regulations as necessary (including registry improvements)
- Improvement plan elaborated for the inclusion of restoration in the NFMS and MRV systems
- Enhanced reporting to the UNFCCC and ensuring environmental integrity in relation to existing commitments to RBP instruments
- Evidence on the relevance of emissions from wetlands in Colombia reviewed with recommendations

#### Safeguards

Improved procedures and institutional capacities to respect and address safeguards Policy and financing

- Improved implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (EICDGB "Bosques Territorios de Vida") and its contribution to the plans to halt deforestation
- Progress in community Forestry model assessed, reviewed and disseminated through the Community Forestry Roundtable and technical publications
- Tools to raise awareness and due diligence approaches to address deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains
- Agricultural financing with climate change considerations from public financial entity (ie. FINAGRO) enhanced through development of pilot programme of technical assistance for the structuring and follow up of sustainable productive projects

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Improved implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (EICDGB "Bosques Territorios de Vida") and its contribution to the plans to halt deforestation: a. EICDGB assessed and recommendations for enhanced implementation - including indicators b. Financing gaps assessed (needs, costs and sources) c. Proposal on procedures and institutional arrangements to enable periodic assessment of effectiveness of selected interventions, defining indicators of performance d. Recommendations on policies and measures to access and regulate carbon markets and finance	FAO with support to deliverable d) from UNEP; with support of UNDP on point 4	1. Assessment of progress on the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (including safeguards and cross sectoral elements) 2. Assessment of financing for the REDD+ Strategy 3. Assessment of the effectiveness of selected measures (conservation agreements and community forestry) 4. Analysis of carbon markets and carbon finance options to meet the countries NDC 5. Explore the feasibility to develop and set up a financial instrument/scheme to leverage resources from the private sector into REDD+ implementation activities
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Enhanced inclusion of key stakeholders in the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy through: a. Social inclusion strategy developed b. Recommendations to enhance participation of key stakeholders in the implementation of REDD+ Strategy at regional level identified c. Facilitated dialogues on forests, climate change and the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy beyond Amazon Biome	FAO(a-c) UNDP(d)	a. Develop a social inclusion strategy for the REDD+ Strategy implementation b. Assess methodological approaches to enhance participation during the implementation of REDD+ Strategy at regional level c. Facilitate dialogues around forests, climate change and the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy d. Provide technical assistance and support to strengthen IPs&LCs capacities and knowledge on climate finance and NDC support and strengthen IPS platform for interaction and dialogue (CNAI)

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Nesting approach to reconcile multiple scales of REDD+ implementation under the EICDGB, and in support of Colombia's NDC, defined and supporting operational procedures and regulations as necessary (including registry improvements)	FAO (a) UNDP (b)	(a) Provide technical support to address gaps and improvements and identify technical and institutional options to ensure environmental integrity while aggregating across scales and standards, including assisting the government in the articulation of different initiatives (ART Trees, DCI, REM, FCPF) within Indigenous and local communities. (b) Strengthen NDC knowledge capacities of IPS and LCS and promote on ground activities
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated.	Progress in community Forestry model assessed, reviewed and disseminated through the Community Forestry Roundtable and technical publications	FAO	1. Continue Serving as technical Secretariat of the Community Forestry Round Table 2. Prepare technical paper on the self-assessment survey of the community forestry model 3. Continue support to Cocomasur in the use of tools to support community landscape planning through the Community Monitoring Roundtable 4. Engage directly with Cocomasur and IDEAM to take stock of their experience in the use of Open Foris
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Tools to raise awareness and due diligence approaches to address deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains	FAO (a) UNDP (b)	(a) Piloting of OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Due Diligence and Deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains with 1-2 companies (per country) in key supply chains impacting forests (complementary thematic and country TA)  (b) Facilitate dialogues and exchanges with other countries on deforestation-free production and commercialization
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Agricultural financing with climate change considerations from public financial entity (ie. FINAGRO) enhanced through development of pilot programme of technical assistance for the structuring and follow up of sustainable productive projects	UNEP	Advice on the creation of a pilot program of technical assistance for the structuring and follow up of sustainable productive projects.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Improvement plan elaborated for the inclusion of restoration in the NFMS and MRV systems	FAO	The activities will seek to support inclusion of restoration as an additional REDD+ activity to be reported with high quality standards, considering ways to reduce the error associated with visual interpretation of results in order to enable the reduction of uncertainty and costs of the overall system. Steps include: i. Review the methodological proposal with IDEAM ii. Testing of different algorithms for detection of forest change for different biomes iii. Revision of decision trees for visual interpreters iv. Discussing results with IDEAM and key experts v. Preparation of the improvement plan for implementation of selected monitoring approach for restoration
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Enhanced reporting to the UNFCCC and ensuring environmental integrity in relation to existing commitments to RBP instruments	FAO	1. Accompany the National Government in the process of generating the new NREF. 2. Support IDEAM in the generation of the Technical Annex for REDD+ as of 2018, and in coordination with the compliance conditions of the REDD+ PBR GCF project. 3. Engage with IDEAM and Minister of Environmental. 4. Improved NFI and its geographical coverage by backstopping the ongoing work to expand NFI under UTD-143 to the Andean and Caribbean region. 5. Facilitate engagement of Colombia as part of the Latin-American Network of NFIs
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Evidence on the relevance of emissions from wetlands in Colombia reviewed with recommendations	FAO	Initial analysis of the evidence on the relevance of carbon emissions from tropical wetlands
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Improved procedures and institutional capacities to respect and address safeguards through: a. Operationalize the working group on	UNEP	

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	Respecting and Addressing Environmental and Social Safeguards b. Assess and document the institutional arrangements within the Ministry of Environment, SINA and Extended SINA, to support addressing and respecting safeguards		

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## 2.5. Costa Rica

### Strategic context

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 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 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 12MtCO<sub>2</sub> or USD 65M. A first monitoring report was submitted in June 2021 followed by a validation and verification concluded in September 2022, that led to the issuance and transfer of 3.28 million tons of carbon emissions during 2018 and 2019 worth \$16.4 million. 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 have been 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, these two programmes have undergone two independent technical audits to assess their effectiveness. These 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 2022:

- 156,464 ha under forest protection active contracts within the PES Program, of which:
  - 56,055 ha (35%) are in districts with a Very Low Social Development Index (SDI)
  - 29,972 ha (19%) are under contracts formalized with women owners or co-owners of properties
  - 2819 ha (1,8%) belong to young owners, and
  - 32,643 ha (20%) belong to smallholders in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares.
- 9,635.5 ha under natural regeneration active contracts within the PES Program benefiting 900 forest landowners. These contracts include:
  - 2,251 ha (23,3%) are in districts with a Very Low Social Development Index (SDI)
  - 699 ha (7,2%) are under contracts formalized with women owners or co-owners of properties
  - 145 ha (1,5%) belong to young owners, and
  - 1865 ha (19,3%) belong to smallholders in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares.
- 95% of the Indigenous Territories have interest letters confirming their participation in the free, prior, informed, and consent process to build a Forest and Territorial Environmental Plan to access climate finance resources benefiting 12,000 people in 16 indigenous territories. This is a prerequisite underpinned by an exclusion criteria indicator under the PBPA that ensures compliance with social safeguards and indigenous rights. The results on those territories are the following:
  - 42,289 ha in Indigenous Territories were under forest protection active contracts within the PES Program

- 880 ha in Indigenous Territories were under natural regeneration active contracts within the PES Program
- 485,202 trees in Indigenous Territories under active agroforestry systems contracts

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.

In July 2021, Costa Rica submitted a proposal to Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition, an ambitious new public-private initiative supported by the US, UK and Norway as well as major corporations such as Amazon, Airbnb, McKinsey, Boston Consulting Group, amongst others. This initiative aims to kick-off what is expected to become one of the largest ever public-private efforts to help protect tropical forests by purchasing high quality carbon credits from tropical country national or subnational governments. Those credits will be certified under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES) under the "Architecture for REDD+ Transactions" (ART) Program, which have been created with the support of the Norwegian Government's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Costa Rica signed a Letter of Intent at COP26 and a Memorandum of Understanding at COP27 becoming one of the first jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. During 2022, great progress was made in supporting Costa Rica in meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES). The TREES Registration document (2017-2021) and the first TREES Monitoring report (2017-2019) were developed and successfully submitted to the ART Secretariat, reviewed and cleared. Legal technical advice was provided to Costa Rica to activate a Registry account for TREES document submissions to the ART secretariat. Also, support was given to ensure the Validation and Verification Body (VVB), Aster Global, is hired and ready to initiate the validation and verification process early in 2023. In terms of the ERPA negotiations, technical assistance has been provided performing an assessment of the draft ERPA shared by Emergent with Costa Rica. This assessment included an analysis of the process, the structure of the document, issues identified and recommendations. 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. The country has designated FUNBAM as the Financial Intermediary for the proceeds coming from the sale of the 2017 TREES credits that are expected to be issued in 2023. Costa Rica is now seeking buyers for remaining REDD+ results certified under the TREES standard which are expected to be issued in 2023.

The development of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica included consultations with Indigenous Peoples (IP) in the country. Since 2008, FONAFIFO has held a dialogue with leaders of the 24 Indigenous Territories of Costa Rica. In 2011, the national consultation process began, which included three stages: information (2011-2014), pre-consultation (2014-2017), and consultation. Currently, there is a national process of preparation of the Forest and Territorial Environmental Plan (PAFT) as one of the requests from the IP coming out of the previous consultation process. The PAFTs are the vehicles to address the risks identified in the activities implemented in the National REDD+ Strategy, including the participation of Indigenous Territories under the PES Programme. The PAFTs will establish how indigenous peoples will implement the actions identified as priorities within the Indigenous Territory, the benefit sharing of the climate resources, and the transparency and accountability of these resources. Costa Rica is also using this national process of development of the PAFT to share information and consult with IP on potential sources of climate finance that the country is seeking to access, such as the voluntary carbon markets through the sale of TREES credits. The first workshop to raise awareness in the indigenous leadership of the negotiation with the LEAF Coalition for the sale of

TREES credits took place on February 2 and 3 in San Jose, with in-person attendance of indigenous people leaders from all the IP territories.

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.

### Planning process

The National REDD+ Secretariat has scoped the objectives and key milestones on REDD+ performance finance for 2023, building on the notable advancements in the GCF programme for RBPs/REDD+ and the registration under the TREES standard and the ERPA negotiations during 2021 and 2022. 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 in January 2023.

It is important to note that the country disposes of a detailed workplan to implement its diversified financial strategy to access and implement REDD+ result-based payments from both market and non-market sources, thus including GCF, FCPF, VERRA, 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 four 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 2023. 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 2023.
- Costa Rica faces also significant challenges negotiating a sale price of the REDD+ credits that could cover the real cost of protecting the forests. Experience shows that the costs of forest conservation in Costa Rica in the long run are higher than the income that can expect from the sale of credits at the current price levels under carbon markets.
- Finally, Costa Rica wants to provide evidence of the generation of the significant non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy. They are benefits

for local communities, biodiversity, and water resources, etc. The must be carefully monitored and reported.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023, the UN-REDD support to Costa Rica will aim at going successfully through the TREES validation and verification process to achieve certification under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES) and to conclude a first Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (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.

This technical assistance has been discussed with the REDD Secretariat through some bilateral meetings and agreed upon during a meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Inputs to the analysis and reporting of Non-Carbon Benefits (NCB) in REDD+ actions and finance	UNEP	This work will build on the first reporting of NCB to the FCPF Carbon Fund in 2021, and the second report in development for submission in early 2022. It will also include recommendations for how this can feed into reporting on safeguards, and for wider climate finance opportunities and commitments. There will be consideration about the use of new datasets, such as on forest fires.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Support the validation and verification process of the first crediting period (2017-2021) to issue the first set of TREES credits, and the development of the registration document of the second crediting period (2022-2026).	UNDP	Accompany the validation of the first registration document (2017-2021) and verification process of the monitoring document (2017-2020) undertaken by the VVB Aster Global ensuring technical comments are addressed and stakeholders (especially indigenous peoples and women) are engaged. Also, support will be provided for the development of the 2021 monitoring report, and the development of the second registration document (2022-2026) including data on carbon soil according to the TREES standard.
	Assessment of legal and technical options to enable the country to address the TREES requirements on carbon ownership	FAO	FAO is keen to provide direct support to the government of Costa Rica; the designation of a country focal point (from the Government) would facilitate the interactions with the country on this subject
	Support Government preparing an ERPA with Emergent	UNDP	

Regarding country-level knowledge management, Costa Rica has offered to convene and host Latin American countries implementing performance-based finance for REDD+ and channeling climate finance to forest stakeholders on the ground to exchange knowledge and lessons. This will be inscribed in the UN-REDD's knowledge stream on REDD+ Finance. FONAFIFO, together with UNDP, will coordinate the process, with support from UNEP, FAO and other partners. Also, in 2023, a regional workshop lead by FAO will be planned to focus on carbon rights and benefit-sharing to facilitate the exchange of experiences and the sharing of common concerns and possible solutions related to the issue in LAC. Finally, UNEP will provide Costa Rica with knowledge and information on innovative financing sources to better connect emission reductions with biodiversity, on the basis of a new concept on "financial vehicles" that is being devised (if then Costa Rica deems the initiative feasible for the country, a pilot could be considered).

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## 2.6. Côte d'Ivoire

### Strategic context

Côte d'Ivoire belongs to the West African forest biome, but has lost a large part of its natural forests. The country is politically committed to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, including through REDD+. Diverse governmental agencies are engaged in promoting a wide range of forest solutions, 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. Côte d'Ivoire has completed the REDD+ readiness phase, fulfilling each of the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (UNFCCC). Côte d'Ivoire has also advanced towards developing an Emission Reduction Programme under the FCPF Carbon Fund and first results are expected to be reported during 2023. The country has successfully launched two jurisdictional 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 is deploying forest ecosystem restoration solutions in the Bélier region. In addition, the REDD+ project (PROMIRE) in Eastern Cote d'Ivoire aiming to advance opportunities for ecosystem restoration in the context of the Cocoa & Forest Initiative has been launched and implemented and the SCOLUR-CI project (Scaling up Cocoa based food Systems, Land Use and Restoration / Transformative innovation in Cote d'Ivoire) aiming also the restoration of degraded landscape and promotion of deforestation-free cocoa value chains is in its inception phase.

Cote d'Ivoire submitted its updated NDC to UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2022, whereby mitigation ambition increased from 28.25% to 30.41% by 2030 from 2012 baseline with the forestry sector contributing the largest total national mitigation share (19.6%).

Cote d'Ivoire's objective is to move towards accessing climate finance and investments for reducing emissions.

### Planning process

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, and the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative policy dialogue process with the EU on deforestation-free cocoa trade in line with forthcoming EU trade legislation to remove deforestation from value chains.

## Technical Assistance Services

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Scoping visit aimed at introducing the Voluntary Guidelines and Open tenure in framework of PAMOFOR/PROMIRE partnership	FAO	
	Support the effective implementation of national climate policy at local and jurisdictional levels, including the scaling up of jurisdictional approaches on the cocoa-forest nexus to new regions based on previous experiences and lessons learned from Cavally and Belier regions, and development of Territorial Climate Plans.	UNDP	With the successful implementation of the jurisdictional approach in the context of REDD+ in the jurisdictions of Cavally de Bélier, several regions have requested technical support for the replication of the approach. TA will be provided other regions of Côte d'Ivoire to replicate the jurisdictional approach.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Provide technical support for the update of the REDD+ national investment framework, for a better access to public and private finance and scaling-up of REDD+ actions	FAO	
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Technical backstopping support provided to the dialogue process between relevant stakeholders (government, private sector, donors, communities, etc.) on deforestation-free cocoa production & trade, promoting field innovations and lessons, financing options and jurisdictional approaches.	UNDP	TA will continue to be provided to ongoing dialogue between key stakeholders (i.e., the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and EU) on deforestation-free cocoa production through policy advisory and TA focusing on jurisdictional approaches to deforestation-free commodity production.
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 support for the institutionalisation of the NFMS, by accompanying the development of a legal text that regulates the functioning of the NFMS in close collaboration with the national authorities.	FAO	
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Provide technical support on national level legal matters relating to carbon rights aspects and contribute to develop the framework document guiding the development of carbon rights legislation.	FAO	Legal framework issues related to REDD+ project registration, ER titles, their transfer, and benefit sharing need to be addressed and require additional resources.
	Support the development of regulatory and institutional capacity, as well as infrastructure framework for effective engagement in carbon markets.	UNDP	Several private companies are seeking government approval for the implementation of voluntary carbon market projects in the forestry sector. The government has requested technical support from the UNDP to build the national capacity for effective and holistic engagement approach in carbon markets.
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Provide technical support the integration of forestry solutions into Côte d'Ivoire's NDC implementation action plan	UNDP	
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and communicated to accelerate climate action.	Launch of the briefing note on the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples on forests (webinar)	FAO	A webinar will be organized for the launch of the brief note "A review of rights of indigenous peoples and local communities for better access to REDD+ related benefits and funding, Case of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire"

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## 2.7. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

### Strategic context

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 and poverty. 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 *swidden*<sup>1</sup>, 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

<sup>1</sup> This is the conversion of a forest into a cleared land for cultivation by cutting and burning the vegetation.

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 capitalisation of the DRC's REDD+ National Fund (FONAREDD), this marked the beginning of the REDD+ investment phase.

Two years later in 2018, a DRC's proposal 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% for conditional and 2% for 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 CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O gases over the period 2021-2030.

DRC's priority is to move towards accessing climate finance and investments for reducing emissions and plans to submit a first ART TREES concept note for vintage emissions reductions before end of 2021 and a second concept note 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 LoI 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 LoI, **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),
- Buyers still do not want to invest in HFLD jurisdictions which is a major barrier for the country in terms of access to results-based payments,
- The national REDD+ registry is not yet operational and could be by the end of 2023 through additional financial resources,

- Capacities of stakeholders in terms of respecting and addressing REDD+ safeguards can be improved and will be improved also through additional financial resources,
- Data collected as part of the development of the national safeguards system is incomplete and will have to be further enriched,
- Some mandatory elements and technical aspects for accessing funds are not fully finalized,
- Arrangements and mechanisms linked to the benefit sharing plan and nesting should take into account and operationalize the lessons learned (eg Mai Ndombe) as well as the REDD+ tools including the registry, and move forward in order to allow local and vulnerable actors to concretely perceive benefits and payments in an equitable and fair manner,
- Legal and institutional framework for effective engagement in carbon markets remains inadequate,
- Stakeholders (political and opinion leaders, local communities and indigenous peoples) are not sufficiently informed about the benefits of REDD+ and the measures envisaged to address them,
- Level of current knowledge on peatlands remains low to be able to envisage a robust and transparent intervention strategy,
- The coordination of interventions and intersectoral collaboration do not promote the effectiveness of interventions in the field.

### Planning process

This workplan is based on ongoing REDD+ processes in the country as well as on discussions with government during the implementation of 2022 activities. Inputs provided from these interactions have informed the development of this inception brief. Consultations have also been held between UN-REDD agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) to define the foreseen activities. The proposed technical assistance was jointly reviewed with the FONAREDD in January 2023.

### Technical assistance services

In 2022, the country made great achievements such as the implementation of the UNDP-CAFI portfolio on land use planning policy, the transition to clean energy and integrated development in the former province of Orientale and the development of the revised NDC Implementation Roadmap. The first summary of information was also submitted to the UNFCCC and is now available on its website. DRC continued its efforts to operationalize the elements of its Warsaw Framework by finalizing its Safeguards Information System (SIS). The country now has a dedicated website (<http://rdc-snsf.org/sis>) that documents and report on progress related to safeguards and showcases significant achievements.

In 2023, the UN-REDD programme will continue to support the country through the implementation of activities to obtain the deliverables outlined in the table below. The implementation of the UNDP-CAFI portfolio will continue, the stakeholder engagement process linked to the LEAF procedure will begin, MRV will be strengthened at the jurisdictional level, work on the Cancun safeguards and conditions of eligibility for the TREES standard will also continue, access to carbon markets will be strengthened and the private sector attracted to invest in the country in order to support the implementation of REDD+.

The table below gives information about the UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2023 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Support to the implementation of the UNDP-FONAREDD portfolio: land policy reform; clean energy transition; REDD+ Integrated Development Program in the former Orientale Province; and capacity building of CSOs.	UNDP	Technical assistance will help accelerate the effective implementation of the UNDP-FONAREDD portfolio, linking it with the implementation of the LULUCF component of the NDCs.
	Stakeholder engagement plan/roadmap developed (highlighting engagement of local and indigenous people) linked to the LEAF procedures	UNEP	A stakeholder engagement process is needed to encourage timely sharing of information and to determine a process for engagement of key stakeholders during the different stages of TREES and LEAF that build on previous progress, learnings associated to the topic from the country's experience during the REDD+ readiness phase. Even though significant resources may be needed for a wider stakeholder engagement process, as a start point, a plan is needed to define the scope of the process, identify who, how and when key stakeholders should be engaged
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Strengthening of MRV at jurisdictional level	FAO	Additional support to DIAF on MRV is needed in the LEAF context for Tshuapa Province, not having this could be a barrier to assess future ART-TREES compliant emission reductions and removals.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Capacities strengthened of key national and subnational (Tshuapa province) information providers on safeguards data collection linked to SIS reporting.	UNEP	Capacities of REDD+ stakeholders strengthened, within the DRC projects and programmes, to respect and address the Cancun safeguards.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Technical support provided for the adjustment and review of the submission to ART-TREES / Province of Tshuapa (according to needs and requests)	FAO	No details shared.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	TREES monitoring plan developed to support LEAF procedures (FAO will take care of MRV sections while UNEP will deal with safeguards)	FAO- UNEP	The TREES monitoring report is one of the documents/requirements that needs to be submitted during the registration stage. It captures monitoring arrangements and activities to ensure TREES participants have determined procedures that allow period reporting of carbon and non-carbon elements.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	<p>Technical support on issues related to carbon rights in the ART-TREES submission.</p> <p>Analysis of the forest rights of indigenous peoples and local communities for better access to financing and benefits related to REDD+.</p>	FAO	The level of clarity in terms of ownership and tracking largely depends on the operationalization of the register and the agreements with the stakeholders necessary to allow transactions to be completed at the jurisdictional level.
	Support the development of the institutional and legal framework for the future National Carbon Markets Authority	UNDP	The Ministry of Finances, in collaboration with UNDP, has developed a Carbon Markets Roadmap, addressing some of the fundamental institutional and legal requirements to sustain the national engagement in carbon markets, building on the Paris Agreement (art. 6). Technical assistance will be provided for the operationalization of this roadmap on carbon markets, including the establishment of the institutional and legal framework, in close synergy with broader Africa-wide initiatives on carbon market readiness.
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilised	Mechanisms to attract private sector upfront finance for REDD+ implementation explored.	UNEP	The main topic here is finance with acceleration of REDD+ implementation and results at scale by planning and articulating of upfront investments, systematically assessing routes to access to carbon finance and driving stepwise improvements in environmental integrity, and social equity, of emissions reductions and enhanced removals (ERRs)
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated	Assessment and outline of innovative and strategic financing mechanisms for NDC implementation, with a focus on the forest	UNDP	The support – requested from the Ministry of Finances – will include a feasibility study around innovative and strategic financing mechanisms for NDC

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
and enhanced through time.	sector, and including financing pathways under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.		implementation (e.g., green bonds, carbon markets, debt-for-climate swaps), as well as cross-sectoral dialogues, policy briefings, expert appraisals, and multi-stakeholder consultations. This will help align policy reforms and field investments supported by FONAREDD with the implementation of the NDC, as well as foster linkages with international financing streams such as carbon markets and performance-based climate finance.

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## 2.8. Ecuador

### Strategic context

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 MtCO<sub>2</sub> 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, 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 in 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 significant focus on forests, developed through an inclusive process (ensuring full and active participation of IPS and LCS and gender balance) 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, dependent on the provision of international financial support. NDC is the first step toward 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 of NDC/LULUCF/REDD+ finance linkages and opportunities, 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 completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of independent technical experts from the LEAF Coalition.

On the road to the Glasgow climate conference, Ecuador pursued intensively the LEAF pathway, managing to sign a Letter of Intent with Emergent (LEAF's trader) during the conference, thus becoming part of the first wave of jurisdictions entering ERs purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. During 2022 Ecuador signed memorandums of agreement (MOA) with Emergent outlining the following steps and putting in place a clear roadmap and timetable for the signing of binding Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) by the end of April 2023. The country has also launched a participatory process (gender balance and social inclusion) to build a benefit sharing plan that will inform the distribution of benefits resulting from future ERs purchases.

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. The country has advanced with actions for addressing ART/TREES requirements and is planning to move into the registration stage under TREES in 2023.

In 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 a strengthens local producers' capacities and commercialize animal health to coordinate, regulate, and promote sustainable and deforestation-free production in Ecuador. In 2022 the deforestation-free certification was launched at the national level and presented at COP27. In addition, advice and technical assistance were provided for the consolidation of commercial agreements with international companies (Lavazza and Silva cacao) and local producers organizations (APEOSA, ACRIM, and APECAP2), which allows the strengthening of the capacities of local producers (including IPS organizations) and the commercialization in international markets of their deforestation-free products. In 2022 Ecuador exported to Europe the first 17 tons of Coffee and 7.8 tons of cocoa, certified as deforestation-free.

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.

In the coming four years, Ecuador must work both to implement and update its REDD + Action Plan and its NDC since both aims at 2025. Also, it will be a priority to support the country in fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement Transparency Framework and continue strengthening 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 the 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, ART/TREES, and LEAF. In 2025, the country would wish to have a regular flow of performance-based finance from the

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<sup>2</sup> Federation of small agro-exporters in South Ecuador, Association of local producers of South Ecuador, and regional federation of small producers south Ecuador.

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, a major commodity export country, aims to get the national sustainable deforestation-free 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 with local producers (including IPS organizations) and the international market. This requires establishing an integrated approach that connects domestic agricultural policies, national financial arrangements (both public and private sectors), foreign trade partnerships, and international finance for REDD+.

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

### Planning process

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE) leads REDD+ processes and programmes in Ecuador, including implementing the significant 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 and 2022 work plans. Looking towards 2023, Ecuador presents 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, including estimating the uncertainties linked to the deforestation analysis already developed for the REM programme including the estimation of the uncertainties related to the deforestation analysis already developed for REM programme and linked to the deforestation analysis already developed for REM programme. Therefore, the UN-REDD programme designated additional funds in 2022 to support the Government in accelerating the methodology development, which is part of the 2023 working plan.

In January 2023, internal meetings between national REDD+ professionals and the UN-REDD team took place to review the UN-REDD technical assistance in 2022. Also, a meeting was scheduled on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, where MAATE presented its planning for this year, and we discussed the need for support from UN-REDD.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023, the UN-REDD support to Ecuador will focus on meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under ART/TREES and access financial resources through LEAF for emission reductions for 2022-2026, including support to negotiations of an ERPA with Emergent. To fulfill TREES requirements and advance into the registration stage, UN-REDD will provide TA on critical aspects of MRV, safeguards, social inclusion, and legal compliance, including benefit sharing. On the other hand, a key challenge for Ecuador to access ART/TREES is the inclusion of carbon emissions from forest degradation, which will continue with the work and capacity-building initiated 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

essential commodities in the Amazon region is compliant with REDD+ objectives. Support will be provided to promote commercial agreements between local producers and national and international companies, as well as to generate the necessary capacities to comply with new international regulations and market tendencies (organic, sustainable, social equity, deforestation-free).

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated.	Lessons learned and experiences with National REDD+ Action Plan, and PROAmazonia considered in new forestry strategy.	FAO	The project supporting the forestry strategy will start in 2023, coordinated by FAO's Investment Center. Under UN-REDD, technical backstopping will be done, and a workshop will be coordinated to address the strategic lines on REDD+ to be included in the forestry strategy based on the analysis of the REDD+ action plan and the PROAmazonia experiences. Mapping the opportunities on REDD+ funds to be included in the investment plan of the forestry strategy.
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Support the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains through the implementation of the national deforestation-free distinctive, including the signature/follow-up and compliance arrangements of commercial agreements with national and international companies and the development and implementation of the traceability system for deforestation-free production.	UNDP	To continue the assistance provided in the past year, the 2023 TA will focus on the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains for Coffee, cocoa, and palm oil, by implementing the national strategy (local producers, including IPs organizations and capacities, will be strengthened, the national certification of def – free will be executed and commercial agreement will be signed)
	Scoping document on upfront finance opportunities	UNEP	This will entail a preliminary assessment of available financial instruments and their conditions (debt and non-debt), which support value chains in the agriculture and cattle sectors in the country. This scoping exercise could be complemented with interviews if deemed necessary.
1.4 Countries are enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions, and	Technical assistance for the updated forest reference level to the UNFCCC	FAO	The National Forest Monitoring Unit, under the Secretary of Natural Heritage, will update the reference level with the new methodology approach for deforestation used under the

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.			REM programme; this approach will be linked to the methodology of forest degradation monitoring, which will be included in the new Reference level.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored, and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Benefits sharing plan advanced determined for LEAF's ERs purchases	UNEP UNDP FAO	The process was initiated in 2022 and led by MAATE, following a roadmap built to develop the benefits-sharing plan. Inputs and feedback provided on safeguards, including gender considerations, stakeholder engagement, and links to existing arrangements of the country's REDD+ portfolio and legal assistance to strengthen the plan. This work will continue to engage key stakeholders' indigenous peoples and Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio Peoples.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
Output 2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Support the development of the registration document and the first monitoring report to be submitted to the ART Secretariat.	UNDP UNEP FAO	Overall technical assistance from UNDP provided technical assistance in developing the monitoring and registration report with inputs from FAO on carbon elements and UNEP on safeguards requirements (including relevant inputs aimed to reflect efforts for mainstreaming gender), the latter considering information based on new inputs available from the country's third summary of information that included the inputs and feedback from different stakeholders, including collective actors.
	Support the selection and hiring process of the VVB	UNDP	Technical assistance on ToRs and development of accurate roadmaps according to engaging the VVB on time.
	Improved carbon accounting frameworks, procedures, and tools on deforestation and forest degradation for the TREES Registration.	FAO	Technical backstopping to comply with the ART/TREES registry: i. Development of methodologies on forest degradation and deforestation for robust data collection and accounting, including assessment of uncertainties ii. Design Monitoring plan iii. Quality assurance / Quality control of methodology implementation

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			iv. Estimations for the reference period and crediting level The implementation of data collection on forest degradation will be developed through Euroclima funds; FAO will support the QA/QC.

Regarding country-level knowledge management, Ecuador will participate in bilateral or multilateral exchanges to explore opportunities for bilateral or multilateral discussions on key topics (e.g., series webinars on social safeguards, finance, RBP, ART/TREES /LEAF, and others). Also, support sustainable and deforestation-free supply chain exchanges led by UNDP (Vietnam, Mexico, Colombia, and Costa Rica) promoting bilateral or multilateral discussions on sustainable production and commercialization, focusing on new international regulations and market demands on deforestation-free production. Finally, FAO will lead the South-south exchange on NFMS issues: forest degradation monitoring, as an activity linked to the UN-REDD additional funds (top-up). As the UN-REDD lead agency in Costa Rica, UNDP will facilitate bringing all the lessons learned on REDD+ finance, TREES certification and LEAF engagement from Costa Rica to Ecuador.

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## 2.9. Ethiopia

### Strategic context

Ethiopia advanced in the four elements of REDD+ under the Warsaw Framework with a gradient of progress. The [REDD+ Strategy](#) was finalized and published in June 2018, such strategy also states that a framework for “providing information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities” was drafted and that a web-based platform for the flow of safeguard information by different actors and at different levels would have been soon developed. Progress were made on the National Forest Monitoring System as well as the [Forest Reference Level](#) which was prepared and submitted in 2017.

The NFMS made important progress but with important support needed for its completion. Emissions from forest degradation and Removals from A/R projects are the elements that are currently being strengthened within the NFMS. In its efforts to enhance capacities and technical standards, Ethiopia identified the need to strengthen and make NFM/MRV system fully functional and to enhance the MRV capacity to implement and monitor REDD+ activities. In 2022 the country is progressing in this direction and building on phase 1 through the Norwegian funded “National REDD+ MRV Capacity Consolidation and Strengthening”, the project aims at (i) strengthening institutional arrangements for the NFMS at national and regional levels to improve uptake of forest statistics with Ethiopia's GHG inventory and Statistics Bureau and (ii) improving their existing NFMS so that it includes updated activity data and emission factors on forest remaining forests and improved assessment and monitoring of forest gain. The project also aims to expand MRV labs in Gambella, Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray.

The financial envelop proposed herewith is aimed at supporting the country progressing with i) monitoring of degradation and to accelerate the process to meet TREES requirements and with ii) advancing elements towards the development of a LEAF proposal.

The delivery of the technical assistance would extend in a timeframe of approximately 12 months from disbursement of funding to the MTPF and the UN-REDD engaged agency (FAO).

### Planning process

An online meeting was held between NFM colleagues and the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) in November 2022. It was agreed by the head of the National MRV Unit, Heiru Sebrala, that the support from the UN-REDD Programme in 2023 would be welcomed and timely. Further discussions will be had with the Director General of EFD, Ato Kebede, in January at FAO HQ to further plan and finetune the envisioned support.

### Technical assistance services

The proposed support to start after March 2023 will come under the UN-REDD Outcome 1 Forest Solutions Realized and Outcome 2 Forest Solutions Rewarded. The support would assist government to position themselves strategically by providing valuable data on emissions from forest degradation and through development of LEAF concept note to help access and leverage forest carbon financing.

The support from the 2023 Technical Assistance will focus on strengthening ongoing NFM support and will include:

- In the implementation of above-mentioned efforts, the monitoring of degradation has been identified as significant by the country and efforts are underway to define and apply a methodology to monitor forest degradation. Time series analysis and visual assessment have determined the need for *establishing field plots in areas with likelihood of forest degradation*. The establishment and data collection of such plots would allow the country to obtain a more detailed understanding of the loss of biomass from intact to degraded forests and moving steps forward the generation of higher environmental integrity data. Specifically, leveraging on and partnering up with the ongoing country efforts, through this funding allocation UN-REDD would enable the generation of such data through the establishment of additional field plots. This would provide a significant and cost-effective operation, allowing the country to obtain a more precise estimate of biomass loss due to forest degradation in Ethiopia and to dispose of data needed to meet TREES requirements, particularly on the assessment of forest degradation.
- In addition, UN-REDD funding would enable the delivery of technical assistance for the *development of a potential LEAF proposal draft* in 2023 (including verifying results from 2021 and 2022; facilitation of participatory processes at regional and national level; development of inputs for LEAF proposal and continued engagement with Emergent /LEAF).

UN-REDD support will be coordinated and delivered by FAO teams based in the region and in the respective headquarters together with government counterparts skilled at data collection.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-	As part of the ongoing NFMS strengthening	FAO	To be executed by country counterparts through LoA

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	efforts on the ground, <i>field data</i> would be generated from measurements taken on “forest degradation” plots, identified through time series analysis and AI techniques. Field data from degradation plots would serve as essential input to understanding emissions lost due to forest degradation by comparing biomass found in these locations to biomass in intact forests.		arrangement. Current funds supporting NFI implementation are not sufficient to include degradation plots.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Verification of results from 2021 and 2022; facilitation of participatory processes at regional and national level; development of inputs for LEAF proposal and continued engagement with Emergent /LEAF	FAO	

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## 2.10. Ghana

### Strategic context

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 ecozone 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 channelled 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 Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (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 BSP has provided Ghana with very useful experience on what is required. Recently a governance mechanism with multi-stakeholder membership, to monitor the BSP has been set up at the national level. 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, the validation and verification was successfully concluded in August 2022. At COP 27 Ghana announced that the first payment from the Carbon Fund had been approved and would be received shortly.

Ghana has reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation against the 2005-2014 reference level. Preliminary calculations indicate that Ghana may have quite 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 covering 10 Southwestern regions on the Togo Plateau, the Transitional Zone and parts of the Coastal Zone, 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 (the standard required for the LEAF Coalition funding and one of the highest carbon-market standard for forests so far) 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 ecozones designated in the national REDD+ Strategy and a feasibility study is on-going with support from UNDP.

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](http://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.

Ghana place in the world stage with regards to climate and forests is well recognised; 27 countries and the European Union launched the Forest Climate Leaders' Platform (FCLP) to follow-up the package of announcements at COP26 in Glasgow, where over 140 world leaders, representing over 90% of the world's forests, committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation. Backed by the UK COP26 Presidency, the FCLP held its first ministerial meeting at COP27, co-chaired by the USA's Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry and Ghana's Minister of Land and Natural Resources, the Honourable Samuel Jinapor. Three partnerships with Sweden, Singapore and Switzerland on Article 6.2 were announced at COP 27 as well. On 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, a significant milestone achieved by the Government, has been the launch, following the Cabinet's approval of Ghana's International Carbon Market and Non-market approaches [Framework](#) by the Hon. Minister of Environment

The framework provides concrete regulatory and operational guidance to stakeholders for engaging in Article 6.2 Cooperative approaches, Article 6.4 mechanisms, and the voluntary carbon market in Ghana.

Ghana's NDC places 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.

### Planning process

For 2023, 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.

Ghana and the UN-REDD agencies have been working in 2022 to assess the country prospects to access carbon markets, including through the LEAF Coalition – a joint pathway was initiated successfully and continued 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 finalisation between UN-REDD and the Government of Ghana. In any case, UN-REDD has been already providing Ghana with technical assistance on TREES and LEAF, and this will continue during 2023.

### Technical assistance services

Building on the successful cooperation between Ghana and UN-REDD around Ghana's LEAF pathway during 2021 and 2022, and based on planning and strategic discussions held in late 2022, the UN-REDD technical assistance to Ghana in 2023 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:

**a. Align NDC implementation, REDD+ actions and carbon finance – led by UNDP**

Support Ghana's stakeholder consultations on benefit sharing and the implementation plan for TREES registration. Ghana wishes to house a technical expert at the Forestry Commission to lead these consultations to ensure continuity and follow-up. Further dialogues will be held to assess various potential financing streams with delivery of mitigation results and NDC implementation.

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

- Analyse the multiple interpretations of the existing plots for updated TREES-compliant deforestation and degradation area estimates, leveraging automated data processing along with visual interpretation
- Finalize the distinction of reforestation statistics into natural regeneration and production forest
- Finalize the data collection, where needed, for full TREES compliance
- Finalize the updating of the standard operation procedures for TREES compliant activity data
- Finalize the emissions calculations using updated activity data and reassessed emission factors and compute Ghana's TREES crediting level
- Estimate emission reductions for the full TREES accounting area
- Update the uncertainty analysis for the full TREES accounting area
- Implement a TREES-compliant carbon accounting model, including a leakage assessment, non-permanence assessment, uncertainty discounts

**c. Safeguards requirements on ART TREES and others – led by UNEP**

Safeguards is an important element which requires ownership by the country, engagement of key stakeholders, and better understanding of safeguards requirements of TREES and LEAF. The first summary of safeguards to the UNFCCC in May 2019, did not cover the whole TREES crediting period (2017-2021); a second summary will be elaborated (potentially covering second half of 2019 to 2021 or even until 2022 based on the government's guidance).

In 2023, the support will continue to strengthen capacities to report on safeguards following requirements under TREES and LEAF and to plan for a subsequent (third) summary that will cover the safeguards report of later years that will be part of the agreement with LEAF. Based on data gathering exercise conducted in 2022 to show conformance with TREES safeguards indicators, subsequent rounds of review and feedback from key stakeholders from clustered HIAs, plus targeted efforts to address gaps in information will allow the country to have complete safeguards information for the TREES registration document. Additional support will focus on the development of a TREES monitoring plan to support LEAF procedures on safeguards.

**d. Negotiation and signing of an ERPA with Emergent – led by UNDP**

In 2022, a few activities still were required to be completed in order to achieve TREES registration. In the same manner, Ghana is in the process of assessing the most opportune period for when an ERPA can signed with Emergent (the LEAF financial representative) after the submission of a TREES registration document to the ART Secretariat. In 2023, support will be provided to Ghana once there is a decision and this will require a coherent effort of strategic planning, data compilation & analysis, safeguards compliance, stakeholder consultations, and inclusive plans for the use of REDD+ proceeds.

**e. Legal aspects – led by FAO (and building on UNDP work in ENI context as well as in conjunction with the Activity No. 1)**

In 2021, FAO has developed an extended legal report analysing the challenges and opportunities related to the definition and transfer of carbon rights in the context of REDD+ for Ghana.

Key points of the analysis are highlighted below:

- The Government of Ghana has not passed any legislation that clarifies ER rights, therefore the current understanding of ER rights is based on the contractual arrangements to be signed with collective bodies representing the interests of relevant local stakeholders, reflected in the HIA Framework Agreements, in accordance with the designation of beneficiaries in the benefit-sharing plan in the context of the Ghana cocoa ER program.
- If the GoG doesn't intend to regulate ER rights, general clarification on timber and land tenure rights would improve the overall context.
- The current arrangements satisfy the Methodological Framework of the Carbon Fund, and presumably the ART-TREES standard too, if the framework agreements to be signed between the GoG and the collective bodies-local group of actors (Sub-HIA, CSC Consortium, Governance Board) clarifying the share of responsibilities and benefits while entitling ERs to the GoG, are effectively signed with a large number of stakeholders representing a consistent portion of the intervention area.
- While this might be sufficient to avoid different community members-individuals claims to title to ER, their ability to claim might also depend on their participation and share in the benefits.
- A stronger and direct involvement of farmers as beneficiaries receiving monetary compensations through the BSP, might incentivize their contribution in avoiding deforestation and sustainably manage agro-forestry resources.

Further analysis provided by a national lawyer in 2022 under the UNDP ENI project specifies that CREMAs have not yet a formally recognized legal status. The Wildlife Bill is expected to cover such gap.

In 2023, FAO commits to review the HIA Framework Agreements, in order to integrate or adapt their content in the context of ART-TREES, as needed.

**f. Finalizing TREES registration document and first monitoring report – led by all agencies together, compilation by FAO**

UN-REDD supports Ghana with the compilation of its TREES registration document targeting submission by July 2023.

- In close collaboration with all agencies together, further develop and keep regularly updated the gap analysis vis-à-vis TREES requirements, covering forest monitoring, legal & benefit sharing, and safeguard issues.
- Set up and coordinate bi-monthly technical meetings to track progress on the development of the TREES documentation.
- Provide guidance on forest monitoring, legal and benefit sharing, and safeguards with respect to the formal requirements that the TREES documentation needs to meet.
- Act as pen-holder of TREES documentation, compiling detailed inputs from sector experts at the UN-REDD agencies, as well as at the REDD+ Secretariat.
- Develop TREES draft registration document in coordination with Ghana FC and UN-REDD Focal points.
- Develop TREES initial draft monitoring report for review and discussion in coordination with Ghana FC and UN-REDD Focal points.
- Support Ghana FC on establishing contacts with potential validation and verification bodies.

**g. Design a National Forest Inventory – led by FAO**

In 2022, as part of the UN-REDD support, the emission factors (EFs) outside the GCFRP were calculated in a consistent manner with the EFs inside the GCFRP, meaning quality control was applied and land-use per plot was assigned from ground observations where available. Despite these improvements, Ghana’s current EFs are based on field measurements that do not follow good practice: the plot size is very small, the distribution is not balanced and the land-use classification is incomplete and in some instances inaccurate. Though the inventory data does meet the minimum requirements for TREES participation, this is an important area for future improvement. Therefore, technical assistance is envisioned under the UN-REDD programme, in close collaboration with the Forest Research Institute of Ghana and Ghana’s Forestry Commission, covering the following tasks:

- Perform a gap assessment, mapping the existing forest inventory work performed in the country (including permanent sample plots) to build on this in the design of Ghana’s NFI
- Build capacity of key Ghana staff on the NFI design and key international guidance, like the voluntary guidance and key scientific advice
- Organize meetings with key Ghanaian stakeholders to define key objectives of Ghana’s NFI
- Evaluate the possibility of assessing an emission factor for degradation, and ensure data collected can be used for ART-TREES compliant emission factor estimates.

**h. Support to attract private sector into upfront finance for REDD+ implementation – led by UNEP**

Building on UNEP finance expertise, the programme suggests support to Ghana to explore financing options to attract the private sector and 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.

Depending on country’s interest and needs, other services lines are available—such as advocacy on adequate conditions for carbon finance. Global advocacy is led by UNEP regarding proper incentives for carbon finance translated in higher carbon prices and predictable demand for high integrity carbon credits and emissions reductions.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	TREES registration document submitted to ART/TREES	All	FAO to lead the compilation of the TREES registration document, with inputs as required from all agencies
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Create NFI design document MRV for TREES	FAO	Ghana’s EF require future improvement to make sure they are robust and statistically representative.  Finalize data collection and analysis for TREES crediting level and ERs for pre-LEAF period

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Capacities are strengthened on safeguards to progress on TREES and LEAF requirements.	UNEP	Second summary will be submitted; (potentially covering second half of 2019 to 2021 or even until 2022 based on government guidance).
	The second summary of safeguards information is elaborated to cover the whole TREES crediting period.	UNEP	Strengthen capacities to report on safeguards following requirements under TREES and LEAF and plan for a subsequent (third) summary that will cover the safeguards report of later years that will be part of the agreement with LEAF.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Development of a TREES monitoring plan to support LEAF procedures (safeguards, MRV and non MRV components)	All	The TREES monitoring report is one of the documents/requirements that needs to be submitted during the registration stage. It captures monitoring arrangements and activities to ensure TREES participants have determined procedures that allow period reporting of carbon and non-carbon elements.  FAO facilitates the final drafting building on inputs from all agencies
	Combine all inputs into TREES first monitoring report	FAO	
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Provide legal support in order to improve the existing HIA framework agreements.	FAO	Revise and improve the existing HIA framework agreements in order to meet ART-TREES requirements, as it concerns clarity on carbon rights, benefit allocation and transfer of those rights to the Forestry Commission
	Non MRV and safeguards work for TREES registration; and support towards LEAF ERPA signature	UNDP	Consultations on benefit sharing, implementation plan and use of proceeds
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilised	Support to attract private sector into upfront finance for REDD+ implementation.	UNEP	Building on UNEP finance expertise, the programme suggests support to Ghana to explore financing options to attract the private sector

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## 2.11. Indonesia

### Strategic context

Indonesia is the third largest tropical forest country in the world, the first in terms of tropical peat lands, and globally the largest mangrove country. As an archipelagic country, Indonesia is vulnerable

to climate change. Analysis of Indonesia's future climate change projection has indicated that some areas in Indonesia are among the most vulnerable regions in Southeast Asia caused by sea level rise, drought, extreme weather and other climate-related events.

Indonesia has carried out several measures and actions at the national level, consistent with commitments under UNFCCC. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, Indonesia has ratified the Paris Agreement through Act No.16/2016 and submitted the First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2021, which was further enhanced in 2022. Indonesia has put REDD+ as an important part of NDC and has completed the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, namely a i) REDD+ National Strategy finalized in 2012 and updated for 2021 to 2030 which complements the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's (MoEF) FOLU Net Sink 2030 strategy (per Ministerial decision No.168/Tahun 2022); ii) a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) (first FREL in 2015, technically assessed in 2016; a second FREL in 2022 under revision after technical assessment in 2023); iii) a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) complemented by a national MRV system on climate change mitigation specific for land-based sector, and iv) a Safeguards Information System (SIS) developed in 2013 operated through an interactive web-based system.

UN-REDD TA will support the Government of Indonesia to implement its ambitious Forestry and Other Land-Use (FoLU) Net Sink Plan to 2030, which represents a solid framework and basis for UN-REDD support to the country from 2023 onwards. This newly launched strategy in 2022 aims to make the FOLU sector a source of net greenhouse gas removals by 2030. This is embedded in a Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050 (LTS), called the Low-Carbon Compatible with Paris (LCCP) scenario, submitted to the UNFCCC, to develop a climate-resilient, low-carbon development pathway in line with the Paris target. In this scenario, greenhouse gas emissions will peak in 2030, at 1,240 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e and then decline to reach 540 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050. It is expected that net zero emissions, across all sectors, will be achieved by 2060 or earlier based on international support. This entails a significant increase of commitment under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, in which the FOLU sector is forecast to emit 216 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030. Under the FOLU Net Sink Plan, by 2030, the sector will be a net sink of 140 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, i.e., an increase in FOLU ambition of 356 million Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. Indonesia plans to achieve this in just eight years, consequently massive technical and financial support will be needed.

### Planning process

The UN-REDD country team in Jakarta is facilitating discussions with government counterparts and engagement of key stakeholders, as well as alignment of UN-REDD technical assistance with existing UN agencies' portfolios related to REDD+ implementation. As part of the on-going follow-up efforts to finalize the administrative renewal of engagement between the UN-REDD Programme with MoEF, the latter has requested that 2023 planning be aligned with the FOLU Net Sink 2030 strategy. The UN-REDD work plan 2023 was consulted with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and a follow-up process of preparing a more detailed work plan for the ministry is under preparation.

### Technical assistance services

#### **Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Realized**

The Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF) continues to mature and advance towards achieving recognition as an entity on par with internationally reputable environmental fund agencies. UN-REDD will continue to strengthen this ambition by supporting the development and revisions of IEF's policy, legal and operation documents to continue to reflect best international practices and standards. This support may include IEF commencing towards accreditation as a GCF National Accredited Entity, as well as other relevant accreditation. UN-REDD technical assistance to IEF will also focus on mobilizing finance to accelerate REDD+ implementation by mobilizing capital market finance through a Climate

and Resilience Fund (CRF). In addition, UN-REDD will provide technical assistance to two demonstration provinces (North Kalimantan and Riau) to build institutional capacity to implement the national REDD+ safeguards approach and integrate information into national the SIS-REDD+ from the provincial level.

**Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Rewarded**

Following the adoption of MoEF’s Regulations on Economic Value of Carbon (Permen no. 21/2022), UN-REDD, in synergy with the UNDP-led Climate Promise Program, will further support the Ministry through the development of a carbon pricing roadmap for the forestry sector. Complementing this technical assistance is country analyses of issues, options, opportunities/prospects and recommendations to prepare and engage in UNFCCC Art. 6, shared with MoEF as implementing agency and IEF as REDD+ fund management agency. These analyses are derived from results of assessment using the PLANT (Paris Agreement, LULUCF and NDC Tool), which will include, but not limited to domestic and existing or upcoming international market-based standards for the forestry sector. Linked to the upfront financing enabled by the CRF, UN-REDD will also provide complementary support to the development of a results-based payment mechanism to attract donors/corporate payments for high-integrity ERRs retired in country as a contribution to the revised NDC. UN-REDD support in 2023 will focus on the design of a finance mechanism for a future ERR programme envisioned for Central Kalimantan.

**Outcome 3: Forest Solutions Enhanced**

Further complementing the NDC implementation roadmap under MoEF, UN-REDD will collaborate with the Ministry to assess progress towards achieving the NDC targets based on on-going implementation of selected programs in the FOLU sector. UN-REDD, building on Climate Promise Program recommendation for an updated robust and attractive investment plan, will support the Directorate of Investment Management in IEF to produce a REDD+ or Climate Investment Plan with the objectives of identifying clear programs or thematic areas where additional funds need to be mobilized, as well as facilitate discussions with potential investors. This will ensure the ambitious targets set in its NDC 2021 and the LTS-LCCR are achievable and further incentivize an ambition ratchet in future NDC iterations. The exact scope: either REDD+ or Climate or FOLU Net Sink 2030, and the levels of interventions: national and/or subnational will be identified in subsequent close discussion with IEF. The national REDD+/Climate Investment Plan support will be closely coordinated with the support on jurisdictional RBP funding mechanisms with the private sector, as well as key targeted investors and the Climate and Resilience Fund as a potential upfront financial instrument.

**Outcome 4: Connecting Actors and Knowledge for Forest Solutions**

UN-REDD will collaborate with MoEF to showcase its global leadership on climate actions under the NDC and share its national priority of mobilizing national and international finance and actions to implement the NDC and FOLU Net Sink Operational Plan. This collaboration involves identification of opportunities to influence international discussions, and production and dissemination of related materials in different formats at one or more high-level joint events at UNFCCC COP 28 and UN Climate Week in New York. Other global platforms may also be used, such as the G20, Global Peatlands Initiative, World Forest Week and FAO Committee on Forests.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Policy, legal and operational documents for IEF reflect best international practices and standards, including among others, a review of IEF's readiness as GCF National Accredited Entity, which may involve support for: (i) design of the funding instrument for REDD+; (ii) review of REDD+ funding proposal submitted to BPDH – UNDP.	UNDP	UNDP and UNEP will coordinate to ensure synergies in the design of funding instrument for REDD+, e.g., CRF and RBPs for Central Kalimantan.
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	<p>Support through TA to MOEF and BRGM to implement mangrove rehabilitation by working with MoEF using FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment team to improve data and systems for Indonesia's mangrove areas and change through time and improve accuracy statistics using FAO SEPAL, Collect-Earth and hi-res imagery in sample-based approaches over time.</p> <p>Develop and apply new tools to help identify and prioritise areas for forest restoration planning based on the new SE.PLAN system that includes satellite imagery and economic costs and benefits of restoration.</p> <p>Best practice approaches for land cover change statistics over time using sample based approaches documented and staff trained in their use.</p> <p>Draft maps and reports on forest restoration options and scenarios documented and Indonesian staff capacity developed through training courses in-person where possible and online to expand the numbers and</p>	FAO	<p>Monitoring of mitigation actions in the FOLU sector will be enhanced to better cover peatlands, improved accuracy including statistical confidence for national mangrove area changes over past 20 to 30 years.</p> <p>Tools and training to help Indonesia reach its high ambitions for land restoration, especially for degraded forests, peatlands and mangroves. Three MoEF staff were given initial training on SE.PLAN in 2022 in the initial regional course in Bangkok and could be expanded and customized for Indonesia in 2023.</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	provide an ongoing training system.		
1.4 Countries are enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions, and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Improved tools and methodologies documented, and capacity developed in MoEF, BRGM and other Indonesian agencies to process satellite data.	FAO	<p>Improved quality and accuracy of emission reductions and enhancements using high resolution satellite data to rapidly collect national or subnational statistics on deforestation and degradation, including:</p> <p>(1) TA, tools and systems to support capacity development using innovative data processing including SEPAL and new imagery (incl. 3m hi-res funded by Norway);</p> <p>(2) TA to improve institutionalized forest monitoring capacity for more accurate forest degradation, deforestation and fire monitoring</p> <p>Activities, building on other FAO ongoing projects in Indonesia and other countries</p>
	Support the design of improved monitoring and activities on the implementation of FOLU sector mitigation actions towards the 2030 net sink plan, in accordance with PP23/2021 on Forestry Implementation. Activities: (1) strengthening the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) with corresponding TA from other FAO ongoing projects.	FAO	Specific deliverables will be developed in consultation with MoEF to address urgent needs and fill gaps in data (for example, improved emission factors for land cover classes including peatlands and/or mangroves).
	<p>Strengthening the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) with new methods of land cover classification using faster and more consistent semi-automated land cover data processing from a wider range of higher resolution satellite data.</p> <p>New methods for land cover maps documented and Indonesian staff trained through workshops</p>	FAO	

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	<p>Technical improvements to Indonesia's NDC on emission factors and activity data for fires, peatlands and mangroves; and capacity development in NDC requirements for UNFCCC reporting by:</p> <p>(1) Working with NASA fire project (+IPB, BOSF et al) and CIFOR to improve emission factors for mangroves, peatland, and peat fires to deliver improvements in accuracy and completeness of FREL and Results-Based Payment reporting</p> <p>(2) Monitoring of mitigation actions in the FOLU sector will be enhanced to better cover peatlands, improved accuracy including statistical confidence for national mangrove area changes over past 20 to 30 years.</p> <p>Tools and training to help Indonesia reach its high ambitions for land restoration, especially for degraded forests, peatlands and mangroves. Three MoEF staff were given initial training on SE.PLAN in 2022 in the initial regional course in Bangkok and could be expanded and customized for Indonesia in 2023.</p>	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Guidance/protocol document developed for implementing and reporting safeguards at the provincial- district level, including link to national safeguards approach and national SIS.	UNEP	Capacities strengthened for safeguards implementation and reporting at the provincial level. TA focused on initially 1 province (Riau or West Papua) to build institutional capacity, at provincial and district level, to implement the national REDD+ safeguards approach and integrate information into the Safeguards Information System (SIS REDD+), at the provincial level. Existing national SIS will be reviewed and opportunities for improvement will be assessed.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	A report defining a mechanism for accessing RBPs at jurisdictional level developed and finalized	UNEP	Development of a results-based payment mechanism to attract donors/corporate buyers. UN-REDD support includes drafting of the finance mechanism to explore the best financing options under integrity considerations. The RBP will be focus in Central Kalimantan.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Support implementation of Permen No. 21/2022 through a carbon pricing roadmap for the forestry sector incorporating key considerations from Article 6 and beyond.	UNDP	Activities building on other UNDP ongoing projects: 1) Country analyses of issues, options, opportunities/prospects and recommendations to prepare and engage in UNFCCC Art. 6, shared with MOEF and BPDH, are derived from results of assessment using the PLANT, which will include, but not limited to domestic and existing or upcoming international market-based standards for the forestry sector
2.3 Private sector forest carbon investments mobilised	A report defining a Climate and Resilient Fund leveraging private capital developed and finalized  A Climate and Resilient Fund is established	UNEP	Development of a finance mechanism and/or financial vehicle to attract private sector into upfront finance for REDD+ implementation. UN-REDD support includes drafting of the finance mechanism to explore the best financing options to attract the private sector and organizing dialogues between corporate buyers, investors and government to achieve a common understanding of expectations and conditions regarding both public and private investments on sustainable land use and forest carbon.  Activity to be supported by the UNEP's Climate Finance Unit
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Raising Ambition and NDC Acceleration Activities: (1) TA to develop faster and more accurate methods and systems for monitoring and ensuring national and jurisdictional results-based payments. (2) Support to technical improvements on emission factors and activity data for	FAO	

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	peatlands, mangroves and other lands outside forests (large opportunities for improvement) as well as capacity development in NDC requirements for UNFCCC reporting.		
	Review of progress on NDC implementation for selected programs in FOLU sector.	UNDP	
	Support IEF to develop a REDD+ or Climate Investment Plan	UNDP	UNDP will coordinate with UNEP who will support jurisdictional funding mechanisms with the private sector – the CRF - as a potential financial instrument and will share relevant recommendations/ findings, to be added in this investment plan.

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## 2.12. Kenya

### Strategic context

Kenya's economy is vulnerable and already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change. It is estimated that climate-related disasters, such as droughts and floods create an economic liability of 3-5% of its gross domestic product every year<sup>3</sup>. This is largely due to the climate-sensitive nature of the economy with the agriculture, water, forests, energy, tourism, and wildlife sectors being of upmost importance. Kenya's contribution to global GHG emissions is insignificant, estimated at less 0.1%. Nonetheless, Kenya has shown strong commitment to contribute global action to combat climate change.

Kenya has embarked on REDD+ actions to drive transformational changes in its forest sector as a contribution to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation. With funding from the FCPF and technical and management support from UNDP, as FCPF delivery partner, the main REDD+ elements have been put together, including a national REDD+ strategy, a comprehensive framework for safeguards, including the design of a safeguards information system, a functional multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building for REDD+ and a submission of National Forest Reference Level (FRL). In addition, Kenya has embarked on a program to improve the integrity of its national forest monitoring system (NFMS). Funded by UKPact and with technical support from the FAO, the Improving Measurement for Payments to Reduce Emissions and Strengthen Sinks (IMPRESS) project has helped Kenya to align its NFMS with the needs of novel climate standards such as ART/TREES and the VCS JNR. Results from IMPRESS will help Kenya to better understand its eligibility for forest related climate finance and will drive measurement, reporting and verification activities for the foreseeable future. Kenya is also embarking on developing a nesting framework for REDD+ with support from Conservation International.

<sup>3</sup> NDC, 2020

Kenya submitted its updated NDC to UNFCCC Secretariat in December 2020, which commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario of 143 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. Total cost of implementing adaptation and mitigation actions is estimated at 62 billion USD. Compared to first NDC that was fully conditional to support, Kenya has committed to mobilize resources to meet 13% of the total cost of the updated NDC, with the remaining 87% requiring international support. Specific to mitigation, Kenya intends to bear 21% of the mitigation cost from domestic sources, while 79% is subject to international support in the form of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

The evolving policy framework on forests and land use, including *inter alia* the Forest Conservation and Management, Devolution, Community Land and Climate Change Acts and the Lands and Draft Forest Policy, ongoing work on Benefit Sharing and others, provide the overall vision, policies, measures, and actions to address deforestation, forest degradation and barriers to sustainable forest management in Kenya.

### Planning process

This workplan is based on ongoing REDD+ processes in the country, as well as on consultations with officials from relevant government agencies, and development partners. COP 27 and regional meetings provided the opportunity to meet and discuss with government officials. Inputs provided from these interactions have informed the development of this inception brief. Consultations have also been held between UN-REDD agencies (UNDP, FAO and UNEP) to define the foreseen activities. The proposed technical assistance was jointly reviewed with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) team in December 2022.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023, UN-REDD will seek to direct targeted support to policy and action in the REDD+ sphere. This will involve working with the government to follow through with a coherent approach to catalyse the implementation of the forest component of the NDC in the forest and land use sector. This will build on the gains made by the REDD+ Readiness Project as well as the IMPRESS program. Kenya is poised to actualise its commitments under the Paris Agreement but requires technical support to develop the readiness framework for Article 6 of the Agreement and recent developments under the Glasgow Climate Pact. A taskforce to enable Article 6 readiness was set up by the government in December 2022. Support will be provided to this Taskforce. Given 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. UN-REDD support will also help Kenya to prepare the necessary documentation required for accessing available carbon finance.

The table below gives information about the proposed UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2023 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Support to finalize the development of the REDD+ Investment Plan (REDD+ IP) and initiate its operationalization	UNDP	A REDD+ Investment Plan (REDD+ IP) draft zero was elaborated as part of the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project. TA will support the finalization of the REDD+ IP and initiate its operationalization.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	Support to mature a jurisdictional REDD+ concept and mobilize resources to accelerate forest landscape restoration	UNDP	J-REDD Programme area to be identified
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Support to develop a concept on deforestation free tea production	UNDP	To reduce the impact of tea production on deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya, the Government of Kenya will build on this TA to initiate the development of a concept around deforestation-free tea production in partnership with Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA).
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Prepare documentation for a TREES registration document	FAO	Under the IMPRESS project a novel methodology has been developed. This activity will build on that work and use it to draft section 10 and 11 of the TREES registration document, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Annex material
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Support the operationalization of the Safeguards Information System, along with the submission of the Kenya's first Summary of Information to UNFCCC Secretariat	UNDP	A SIS was developed under the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project, but yet to be operationalized. TA will support the operationalization of the SIS and submission of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Summary of Information to the UNFCCC
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Assess potential emission reductions and removals (ERRs) against a TREES crediting level and initiate drafting of first Monitoring Report	FAO	Under the IMPRESS project a TREES crediting level has been calculated. This activity assesses ERRs against this crediting level. In case no ERRs have been achieved the activity will explore whether the crediting period (and crediting level) requires updating.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Support to institutional and regulatory capacity building for engagement in Art. 6 and VCM	UNDP	TA will complement ongoing support around Article 6 readiness and voluntary carbon markets including the finalization of the Carbon Markets Access Strategy, further engagement into the LEAF, and support for ART TREES registration., stakeholder engagement, benefit sharing mechanism, etc.).
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Support on legal aspects and title transfer in the context of ART/TREES	FAO	Under the IMPRESS project progress has been made to create a TREES crediting level but in order for Kenya to be able to participate in a carbon

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			accounting standard at jurisdictional level, legal aspects on the title and possibility to transfer title on carbon credits need to be clarified.
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Support to the development of the NDC implementation plan/roadmap for the LULUCF sector linked to the REDD+ National Strategy	UNDP	Kenya seeks to undertake ambitious mitigation contribution with an abatement target of 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU of 143 MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq. Priority mitigation activities have been identified in the revised NDC under the forest and other land sectors. TA is requested to elaborate a comprehensive implementation plan/roadmap in the LULUCF sector to achieve this goal.
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and communicated to accelerate climate action.			

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## 2.13. Laos PDR

### Strategic context

Lao PDR is a mountainous, land-locked, least developing country with a population whose livelihoods significantly depend on forests and forest ecosystems. Forests and other natural resources also play an important role in the architecture of country's socio-economic development, and therefore commitments to conserving and restoring the resource base are clearly echoed in national strategies.

The government's plans and commitment for reducing deforestation and enhancing forest cover is a core strategy that has been present in past and present forestry strategies. It is also reaffirmed in Lao PDR's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of March 2021, and in the REDD+ Strategy (April 2021).

In 2018, Lao PDR submitted its national Forest Reference Level (FRL) to the UNFCCC and in 2020 it submitted its first results report through its biennial update report technical annex. Technical assessment of these submissions has been duly completed. In 2021, the National REDD+ Strategy was approved by the government, indicating 5 main programmes for its implementation. A Summary of Information on REDD+ safeguards covering 2015-2018 has been submitted to the UNFCCC, along with a description of the SIS in 2021.

Lao PDR is a participant in the FCPF Carbon Fund for a jurisdictional project, for which a GCF project was formulated and is being implemented with GIZ as Accredited Entity. In addition, Lao PDR has

submitted a concept note to the GCF for REDD+ results-based payments for the national scale, with JICA as the identified Accredited Entity, should the GCF move forward with this further.

The UN-REDD Programme has been active in Lao PDR, and currently has on-going support through the Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region initiative, as well as the Climate Change Mitigation through Social Forestry Actions in ASEAN Countries initiative – both delivered jointly by FAO and UNEP with the Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as the government counterpart.

### Planning process

A meeting was held between UN-REDD and the Department of Forestry (DOF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of Lao PDR in December 2022. It was agreed by the Deputy Director General of DOF and in the presence of the Director of the REDD+ Division of DOF as well as focal points from the International Cooperation Division of DOF that the support from the UN-REDD Programme in 2023 would be welcomed and timely.

It is noted that the workplans under the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative and the ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative are discussed and implemented on a regular basis with the respective government focal points -- respectively, the Planning and Cooperation Division of DOF and the Village Forestry Division of DOF.

The UN-REDD Programme is also in discussion with the broader REDD+ stakeholders active in the country, including with the JICA funded F-REDD project also technically supporting the government in accessing Results based payments (RBPs) from GCF, the Governance, Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods project (GFL) financed by the RBPs from the Lao Carbon Fund jurisdictional project as well as the GIZ-implemented Implementation-Governance Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods project (I-GFL) funded by the GCF which is the main implementer of the Lao Carbon Fund jurisdictional project.

The outline of the 2023 workplan has also been shared with the Resident Coordinator's Office and UN agencies operating in the forestry and climate change arena.

### Technical assistance services

The proposed support to start after March 2023 will come under the UN-REDD Outcome 2 Forest Solutions Rewarded and would focus on assisting the government to position themselves strategically to access and leverage forest carbon financing. The support to Lao PDR through the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative falls under UN-REDD Outcome 1 Forest Solutions Realized; and the support through the ASEAN Social Forestry initiative falls under Outcome 3 Forest Solutions Enhanced.

The support from the 2023 Technical Assistance (outside of the UN-REDD Lower Mekong and ASEAN Social Forestry) will focus on:

- Roadmap for accessing RBPs (Output 2.2)
- Exploration of deforestation-free commodity supply chains in the context of the Lower Mekong (Output 1.3)
- Strengthening safeguards processes and monitoring, with a focus on ART-TREES requirements (Output 1.5)
- Gap assessment for ART/TREES (Output 2.1);
- Nesting solutions for projects within jurisdictional REDD+ (Output 2.2);
- Exploration and guidance on the role of private sector companies in carbon projects and benefit sharing options that incentivize responsible private sector investments in forests (Output 2.3);

- Village forestry contributions to the NDC assessed (Output 3.1)

UN-REDD support will be coordinated and delivered by FAO and UNEP UN-REDD teams based in the region and in the respective headquarters, as well as through a team of national and international consultants and through engagement of organizations resident in Lao PDR.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Consultations with stakeholders in Mekong regional countries on results of assessment and analysis for decoupling the impacts of agricultural commodities on forests	FAO	To be done collaboration with UNEP.  For deliverables under the Lower Mekong Initiative see section for Lower Mekong Initiative).
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	TREES safeguards assessment developed  National safeguards information system (SIS) assessed and strengthened	UNEP	Assessing national safeguards approach and information (including in SIS) with ART/TREES standards, identifying gaps and opportunities to strengthen safeguards processes and information, including gender considerations
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported, and verified REDD+ results	Gap assessment for ART/TREES	FAO	To be done in collaboration with UNEP (see 1.5)
2.2 Market Transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Roadmap to engage with forest carbon markets and access results-based finance prepared in consultation with government counterparts, including drafting the outline/objective, prepare option paper, dialogue on nesting solutions, the role of private sector companies in carbon projects and benefit sharing options that incentivize responsible private sector investments in forests	UNEP	To be done in collaboration with FAO and KFS KM
	Legal options for benefit sharing and ER title transfer to accommodate the role of private sector companies and communities in forest carbon projects within jurisdictional REDD+	FAO	
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors	Contribution of village forestry towards climate change mitigation assessed	FAO	To be delivered together with UNEP.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	to inform action and climate finance.		Lao PDR is among the countries under the ASEAN Social Forestry initiative ( <a href="#">ASEAN Social Forestry   UNREDD Programme (un-redd.org)</a> )  For deliverables under the ASEAN Social Forestry see dedicated section).

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## 2.14. Mexico

### Strategic context

Mexico has submitted its revised NDC in late 2020<sup>1</sup>, 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. Mexico continues to work 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 was issued in 2022, enabling, among others, subnational entities to access financing mechanisms for reduced emissions from deforestation.<sup>1</sup> Aspects relating to the clarification of emissions reductions titling, to the regulation and operationalization are still to be published by the Environmental Ministry (SEMARNAT) in the corresponding by-laws and regulations. REDD+ initiatives at the subnational level are under way with two Mexican states (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) that have submitted proposals under the LEAF Coalition and with Quintana Roo submitting a concept note to the ART Secretariat in 2022.

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 2023, key activities include further 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

After changes in CONAFOR’s management in the first semester of 2022, the technical team at CONAFOR’s Unit for International Affairs and Financial Promotion remained stable and showed leadership in the process of planning and implementing the cooperation with UN-REDD. The UN-REDD agencies held joint planning sessions with CONAFOR during November and December 2022. The meetings had the double objectives of reviewing progress and, with a prioritized outlook, plan for the technical assistance in 2023. Under the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change (CICC), the REDD+ Working Group (GT-REDD+) was revitalized in 2022 as part of the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. Specifically, the two operational groups of deforestation-free agricultural production mechanisms (led by the Ministry of Agriculture and CONAFOR) as well as of REDD+ financing mechanisms (led by the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Environment as well as CONAFOR) have developed objectives and work plans for the period 2023-2024 and could become a reference points for the technical assistance of the UN-REDD Programme in Mexico.

### Technical assistance services

As overall context for the UN-REDD support to Mexico in 2023, CONAFOR has identified a series of strategic and operational priorities within the ENAREDD governance mechanism, the REDD+ Working Group. Intersectoral work on deforestation-free supply chains in agricultural commodities as well as access to international and domestic climate and forests finance are key for CONAFOR, as are progress on further refining systems and operations on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of forest-based emissions as well as on social and environmental safeguards.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	1.2.1 Document with recommendations and proposals to strengthen access to and performance of CONAFOR's forest guarantee funds.	<b>UNEP</b>	Based on the preliminary recommendations of the forestry guarantee funds operated by CONAFOR, virtual consultation workshops (organized and facilitated by CONAFOR) will be conducted with beneficiaries and financial intermediaries to identify gaps and opportunities. The results obtained will be used to complement the diagnosis made in the TA 2022, and recommendations and proposals will be made to strengthen the access and performance of the forestry guarantee funds analyzed.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and	1.4.1 Scope, quality and sustainability of the improved forest monitoring system	<b>FAO</b>	Technical assistance in the design and implementation of community forest monitoring in the context of the National

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems			<p>Forest and Soil Inventory, including the exchange of experiences with countries that have implemented community forest monitoring schemes.</p> <p>Improvement of algorithms for satellite monitoring of land cover under the wall-to-wall approach, including the use of SEPAL. This activity is considered relevant to strengthen CONAFOR's capacity to reach a consensus on the agricultural-forestry frontier in priority states, as part of the work of Task Force 2 "Deforestation-free agricultural production schemes " of the REDD+ Working Group.</p>
	1.4.2 Plans to integrate aligned national and state MRV methodologies for GHG emissions in the forestry sector (in support of payment by results initiatives) formulated and implemented.	<b>FAO</b>	<p>Support for updating deforestation rates and migration from Collect Earth to Collect Earth Online. The priority level of this activity is the highest.</p> <p>Support to explore the application of tools to integrate and systematize EFs, DAs and emissions estimation, within the framework of transparency and replicability.</p> <p>Support for the generation of training materials on the application of MRV methodologies (particularly on accounting and reporting of GHG emissions) in the forestry sector for state governments.</p>
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	1.5.1 Inputs and recommendations for second information summary; analysis of up to 4 safeguards frameworks and recommendations for developing an integrated approach	<b>UNEP</b>	Support for continuous improvement in safeguards monitoring and reporting, including:

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, input and recommendations (in writing) for the second Safeguards Information Summary (RIS) to the UNFCCC.</li> <li>• Support for the analysis of up to 4 identified REDD+ safeguards frameworks, in order to develop an integrated approach and facilitate access to climate finance.</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			

<p>2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results</p>	<p>2.1.1 Assessment of options for accessing international climate and forest finance through financial incentives or payments for mitigation outcomes</p>	<p><b>UNDP with support from UNEP and FAO</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze international initiatives for positive incentives and/or payment for REDD+ results, to support CONAFOR in gaining a better understanding of these initiatives and provide technical input to SEMARNAT (UNDP).</li> <li>• Promote the exchange of information, knowledge, experiences and/or lessons learned with other countries that have implemented payment by results programs (UNDP, FAO).</li> <li>• Support the process for the continuation phase of the REDD+ Payment for Results Program of the Green Climate Fund (if approved by the Board of Directors). In addition to the continuation of the PPR-REDD+, technical assistance is considered for the development of the Concept Note in accordance with the criteria of the pilot phase (UNDP).</li> <li>• Participation of CONAFOR in strategic knowledge management activities of ONUREDD+ (webinars, book launches, face-to-face exchanges) on legal frameworks, carbon rights, benefit sharing and other climate finance issues. Eventual support on legal issues previously defined by SEMARNAT is also considered. [FAO]</li> <li>• Support to CONAFOR to generate relevant inputs and information on public policy and regulation of carbon markets (voluntary and regulated) in the forestry sector, to be submitted to SEMARNAT for consideration, in accordance</li> </ul>
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Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			<p>with the institutional attributions and the work program of Task Force 3 "Financing Mechanisms for REDD+" of the WG-REDD+ of the IPCC. (UNEP).</p> <p>Development of training on priority aspects of climate finance in alignment with the NDC, the national legal and programmatic framework, and the national and international financing context (e.g. Art. 6, CORSIA, COP-UNFCCC negotiations, etc.) (UNDP).</p>
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	4.1.1 Organization of an international exchange on deforestation-free commodity approaches ()	<p><b>UNDP with the collaboration of FAO</b></p> <p><b>UNEP</b></p> <p><b>FAO</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In alignment with the Work Program of Task Force 2 "Deforestation-free agricultural production schemes" of the REDD+ WG, an exchange on deforestation-free supply chains (potentially linked to livestock) will be organized with the participation of relevant stakeholders (ideally with international, national and subnational experts, among others).</li> <li>Support to CONAFOR by providing inputs, information and virtual exchange(s) with other countries in the region on financing schemes aimed at deforestation-free production, in line with the work program of Task Force 3 "Financing Mechanisms for REDD+" of the REDD+ WG.</li> </ul> <p>In collaboration with the OECD, several training sessions will be organized on the basis of the FAO/OECD Guide. These will include representatives from the private sector and agricultural producers in LAC.</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	4.1.2 Organization of an international exchange on climate finance through positive incentive programs and/or payment for REDD+ results (related to 2.1)	UNDP FAO	Organize an international exchange with countries and/or jurisdictions that are involved in positive incentive programs, payment for results and/or carbon market initiatives in relation to REDD+, taking into account the issue of carbon rights and benefit sharing (UNDP, FAO).
	4.1.3 Organization of a bilateral or regional exchange on safeguards information systems and integrated approaches (related to 1.5)	UNEP	Support for at least one exchange of experiences with another country (or countries) on safeguards information systems (SIS) and integrated safeguards reporting approaches.

## 2.15. Myanmar

### Strategic context

The UN-REDD Initiative for Integrating Mangroves Sustainable Management, Restoration, and Conservation into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar has been active since August 2020. The initiative progressed despite the challenging environment posed by Covid-19 pandemic. After February 2021 and the related domestic political instability, a revised Results Framework was proposed and approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board (EB) with key activities in the areas of mangroves biome mapping and support to Community Forests User groups (CFUGs) including on safeguards for REDD+. An initial No cost extension (NCE) was tested during the period August – December 2022. The success of the activities in the field as well as the strong feedback received from local communities who appreciated and valued the support, led to the decision of requesting a further NCE in order to continue planned activities and support at local level. A new NCE was approved by the EB for the period January-December 2023.

### Planning process

The planning of the UN-REDD Myanmar Mangroves Initiative is handled independently since, due to the political situation in the country, no dedicated technical assistance is feasible in Myanmar for the time being. Activities continue to be implemented as per the revised and approved Results Framework as a joint effort among the three UN-REDD Agencies. Some synergies have been established with the other UN-REDD initiative in the region, which includes Myanmar, namely the Lower Mekong regional initiative. The core of the work at the community level is being rolled out in collaboration with a local NGO with significant expertise on the management and conservation on mangroves, the Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN).

### Technical assistance services

The initiative is committed to continue and complete the planned activities, which focus on three main thematic areas: (i) Support to safeguards coordination and implementation; (ii) Mangroves biome

mapping (extent, change and biomass) as well as development of emission/ removal estimates; (iii) Community Forests, Community Forest Enterprises and Community Protected Areas. In addition, in 2023 there will be enhanced focus on Communication and Knowledge Management, with the objective of capturing the key achievement obtained by the initiative, and to serve as the basis for possible further work in the area of Mangroves in the region.

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## 2.16.Nepal

### Strategic context

Nepal is a least developed country with fragile topography, a population based largely on climate-sensitive livelihoods and limited adaptive capacity, making it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It is considered among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, globally. During COP26, Nepal announced several new commitments that confirm and further its second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which committed to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050. These include commitments to remain cumulatively ‘net zero carbon’ from 2022-2045 and become carbon negative thereafter; halt deforestation and increase forest cover to 45% by 2030; and ensure all vulnerable people are protected from climate change by 2030.

In the framework of its REDD+ national process, with support of the UN-REDD Programme, in 2017 Nepal developed and submitted to the UNFCCC its Forest Reference Level (FRL). In 2018, the National REDD+ Strategy was approved by the government, indicating 12 strategies and 70 activities to pave the way. Since then, the country continued to explore potential markets that allow higher mitigation ambition while promoting sustainable development and environmental integrity through jurisdictional projects.

Under the FCPF Carbon Fund, Nepal signed an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) in February 2021 and aims to reduce 13.4 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> over the six years (2018 – 2024) of the program. The government of Nepal also signed a Letter of Intent with Emergent for a jurisdictional project submitted to the LEAF Coalition. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two parties in late 2022 extended the validity date of the Letter of Intent to April 2023, by which time the parties aspire to sign an ERPA for the jurisdictional project (2022 – 2026).

The jurisdiction of the Carbon Fund ERPA forms part of the jurisdiction of the proposal to the LEAF Coalition. Both these projects cover parts of the country known as the Terai region. The Terai region of Nepal is the lower plains at the south of the world’s highest mountain ranges, where population and agricultural activities are concentrated, resulting in forest loss and significant threats to the natural resource base. FAO also is engaged in a GCF project covering the Terai region (only marginally overlapping with the jurisdiction of the LEAF proposal) as accredited entity and co-implementing agency since 2020.

### Planning process

The Government of Nepal requested support to the UN-REDD Programme in February 2022 through the Ministry of Forests and Environment – REDD+ Implementation Centre (REDD+ IC) for technical assistance for the preparation of the TREES registration document and the initial monitoring report. Responding to this request, the UN-REDD Programme has responded with a proposed scope of support and is in dialogue with the REDD+ IC. As of December 2022, the proposed technical assistance from the UN-REDD Programme is under review for approval by the Ministry of Finance and other

relevant ministries. The UN-REDD Programme will be able to kick-off activities once the approval is obtained.

The UN-REDD Programme is in dialogue also with the British High Commission's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) namely through a meeting in August 2022. The FCDO is supporting the government of Nepal through ICIMOD, an international NGO, through the provision of national consultants to support the formulation of a project document for the LEAF jurisdictional project. Through the meeting, it was agreed that the two processes of support would work in coordinated manner in the implementation of deliverables.

The UN-REDD Programme has also been in dialogue with IUCN, which has supported the government in the formulation of the initial proposal to the LEAF Coalition and has been identified as the financial intermediary. IUCN also plays an important role as the accredited entity of a GCF Gandaki project which falls within the jurisdiction of the LEAF proposal.

In addition, the UN-REDD Programme has reached out to other donors and partners including the Team Europe Initiative, the German Embassy, and the World Bank.

Internally within the UN system, in addition to the in-country support already being received from the FAO Representation in Nepal, in December 2022 the plans for the UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2023 have been shared with the UN Resident Coordinator (a.i) in Nepal requesting for further dissemination to UN agencies for comments and for identifying potential synergies with other projects and on-going work.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023, UN-REDD will support REDD IC's in registering and monitoring under ART/TREES for its jurisdictional proposal to LEAF. While Nepal is well-positioned to engage in this space as the elements of the Warsaw framework are in place through previous investments in the readiness process, the ART-TREES standard demands countries to demonstrate a number of different and additional aspects.

The focus of UN-REDD TA 2023 for Nepal remains constant with the scope identified in late 2022 – noting that in 2022 the actual support could not be kicked off due to requirements in government approval processes outside of MOFE REDD IC. Importantly, REDD IC have confirmed that the general scope proposed remains relevant to date.

Main remaining gaps include the following which will be supported by the UN-REDD Programme in terms of the analysis as well as the documentation of the ART/TREES registration document and first year monitoring report:

- Carbon accounting: support is requested in the generation of Tier 3 emission factors;
- ER title and benefit sharing: consultations with jurisdictional stakeholders on the proposed benefit sharing arrangements and for rights holders of planted forests, their willingness to opt in through benefit sharing arrangements - 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 operational;
- Safeguards: the ART/TREES safeguard requirements are largely consistent with those of the Cancun safeguards, though several topics are emphasized or interpreted differently (such as traditional knowledge, mapping/inventory of tenure and IPLC participation, among others). As part of this work, safeguards processes and monitoring will be strengthened to conform with ART/TREES 2.0. A plan for conformance with outcome indicators, i.e. safeguards outcomes achieved, will also be needed upon registration. In addition, Nepal will need to

demonstrate its Safeguards Information System (SIS) is in place, and to finalise and submit its Summary of Information on safeguards to the UNFCCC.

- 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 Nepal needs to prepare for not only 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.
- To support Nepal in advancing to results-based payment, UN-REDD will provide concrete country specific guidance through a strategic RBF roadmap to comply with forest carbon market standards, access results-based finance, identify potential demand/buyers, and how to strategically engage in forest carbon markets in the context of delivering their NDC AFOLU sector targets. The RBF roadmap will have a strong country ownership.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	- Generation of Tier 3 Emission Factors - Compliance with ART/TREES requirements for plantation forests ensured	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Safeguards inputs for TREES registration document drafted Support provided to the preparation of safeguards aspects of the registration document for ART TREES: - Support provided to document key procedures & PLRs related to structure and process safeguards indicators, including gender-disaggregated information where available, as inputs for the safeguards section of the Registration document - Support provided to prepare conformance plan for outcome indicators	UNEP	In collaboration with FAO (see output 2.1)
	Benefit sharing plan/arrangements defined, compliance with LEAF and ART/TREES 2.0	UNEP	Gender-sensitive process and consideration of needs and engagement of key local stakeholders
	Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) established compliant with LEAF and ART/TREES 2.0	UNEP	Gender-sensitive process and consideration of needs and engagement of key local stakeholders

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	Summary of Information (Sol) on safeguards elaborated and consulted on with stakeholders at national and provincial levels	UNEP	
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Consultations (i) to ensure overall technical integrity of the registration document, as well as buy-in from key national and sub-national level stakeholders and, (ii) with rights holders for ensuring opt-in/opt-out - focused particularly on planted forest rights holders, but not limited to them.	FAO	
	Detailed monitoring plan preparation for REDD+ implementation in jurisdictions participating in ART TREES programme, in line with ART TREES 2.0 requirements	UNEP	
	Support to the drafting and submission of ART/TREES registration document	FAO	To be implemented together with UNEP (see output 1.5 above)
	ART/TREES initial monitoring report drafted	UNEP	To be implemented together with FAO
2.1. Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results 2.2 Market Transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Roadmap to engage with forest carbon markets and access results-based finance prepared for government counterparts with strong country ownership	UNEP	This will be done in coordination with FAO

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## 2.17. Papua New Guinea

### Strategic context

Papua New Guinea (PNG), as Small Island Developing State (SIDS), with a large area of remaining intact forest, and one of the richest levels of biodiversity, has been at the forefront of REDD+ since its inception. PNG is a high-forest/low-deforestation (HFLD) country with 78% forest cover. The mean annual deforestation rate was 0.04% for the reference period 2001-2013, going up to 0.08% and 0.09% for 2014 and 2015 respectively. PNG has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world this century, with average growth rates above 6%, and the current population growth rate is 3.1% per annum. Annual rates of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation have steadily increased from 2000. With such high economic and population growth, it is very

challenging for the country to slow down or reverse this trend, but since 2013 substantial efforts have been made to do so. As one of the first countries to initiate discussions on REDD+ within the context of international negotiations under the UNFCCC, at COP11 in 2005, the Government of PNG has been actively exploring approaches to incorporate climate change mitigation goals into forest and land use policy and practice for more than 15 years.

PNG has made proactive steps in contributing to the mitigation of climate change and has submitted an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in 2020. PNG has the elements of the Warsaw Framework in place. PNG submitted its Forest Reference Level (FRL) and National REDD+ Strategy to the UNFCCC in 2017, and its first Summary of Information on Safeguards in 2020<sup>4</sup>. The country has developed its Safeguards Information System (SIS), and to support the implementation of REDD+, PNG has also developed a set of key guidelines, covering REDD+ project development and implementation, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), benefit sharing and grievance redress. The first Biennial Update Report (BUR), including REDD+ Technical Annex was submitted in 2019 with reported REDD+ results - 9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e - to the UNFCCC for the period 2014 to 2015. The 2nd BUR was submitted in May 2022 with additional reported REDD+ results 61 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e for the period 2016 to 2018. 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. Recently the country has also submitted its second national FRL<sup>5</sup> to UNFCCC with proposed reference period 2009 – 2018 and results period 2019 – 2027. Considering PNG's HFLD (High Forest, Low Deforestation) status over the reference period, PNG includes a HFLD adjustment following the latest ART TREES 2.0 guidance. After submission of concept note to GCF in 2019, PNG is currently preparing a financial proposal for the GCF Results Based Payment (RBP) Pilot Programme. In an effort to access RBP through engagement with voluntary carbon markets, the country has also submitted an expression of interest in 2021 to LEAF. In terms of ART-TREES and LEAF, PNG has received indication that its LEAF proposal passed initial screening. A MoU between PNG and Emergent was signed December 2021 indicating interest to pursue emission reductions and removals validated and verified under the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART TREES).

### Planning process

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. The PNG UN-REDD National Programme (2011-2017) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Project (2015 – 2020) supported the development of a National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), enhanced public awareness and support, built national capacity to implement the Strategy and to Measure, Report and Verify (MRV) its results, and supported the development of PNG's country approach to the safeguards. 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. 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).

From January to June 2022, PNG focused on the development of overarching National REDD+ guidelines, as well as Benefit Sharing Distribution System (BSDS) Guidelines, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Guidelines, and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidelines. These documents will help guide the development and implementation of REDD+ activities, and accommodate REDD+ Voluntary Market Projects and relevant initiatives under REDD+ for the country.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/4838\\_2\\_png\\_soi.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/4838_2_png_soi.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [png\\_2nd\\_frl\\_final.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)

Lastly, PNG has begun the assessment of updated activity data and the full operationalization of its SIS. While a specific plan for the second half of the year was prepared with a focus on development of a draft ART TREES registration document and underlying compliance aspects, completion of the registration document is planned in 2023. The assessment of PNG's eligibility against ART TREES 2.0 requirements is under progress and expected to be finalized by the end of 2022. It has become evident that continued work will be required to meet the requirements for participation under LEAF.

Currently, UN-REDD is assisting PNG to complete TREES Registration under the ART-TREES standards, begin ART-TREES monitoring processes, and build on REDD+ readiness. This includes addressing remaining gaps in relation to the ART-TREES safeguards, supporting preparation of the country's next summary of information on safeguards, and further operationalizing the SIS.

### **Strategic priorities to 2025**

The Government of PNG has stated its commitment to achieve responsible and sustainable development in key national strategies and policies including NDC (2020), National REDD+ Strategy (2017), Climate Change Management Act<sup>6</sup> (2015), the National Climate Compatible Development Policy<sup>7</sup> (2014), the Climate Compatible Development Action Plan (2010) and Vision 2050<sup>8</sup> (2009).

REDD+ efforts are guided by its second, enhanced NDC (2020) and 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 GgCO<sub>2</sub>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 (equivalent to a reduction in annual deforestation of 8,300 ha or annual degradation of 43,300ha). The target is significant 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. 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.

The PNG NRS also provides a cross-sector strategic national direction over a 10 year time frame (2017 – 2027) mostly focused at the need for economic growth, environmental integrity as well as supporting livelihoods. It is structured around two components: Component 1 of the NRS includes policies and measures to address the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through 1) strengthening of land use development planning, environmental management, protection and enforcement, enhanced economic production and sustainable livelihoods; Component 2 ensures that the key elements of the Warsaw framework for REDD+ (WFR) are in place, as well as elements required to ensure effective financial management and prevention of double accounting, by establishing systems for coordinating and reporting on actions related to REDD+; such as the coordination of MRV, the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and REDD+ financing.

PNG has identified several REDD+ target interventions to ensure further development of its REDD+ architecture and monitoring capacity. These target intervention areas are mostly related to effective system for governance, MRV, safeguards implementation, and financial management to ensure the success of REDD+ in the country. Specific intervention areas include:

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<sup>6</sup> [\*Climate Change \(Management\) Act 2015 \(No. 19 of 2015\). | UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform\*](#)

<sup>7</sup> [\*Papua New Guinea National Climate Compatible Development Management Policy. | UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform\*](#)

<sup>8</sup> [\*Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 | Papua New Guinea Environment Data Portal \(sprep.org\)\*](#)

- Strengthening of REDD+ governance framework, focused on capacity building of key actors
- Support to the establishment of central decision-making structures linked to REDD+
- Review and revision of NRS and REDD+ investment plan.
- 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 the PNG SIS.
- Strengthening of REDD+ implementation approaches and PNG’s REDD+ registry to address needs of PNG.
- Strengthening of management and reporting of emissions from land use sector – further investment in NFI as well as update of emissions data.

Considering these priorities and need for additional resources to invest in achieving its commitments, PNG in 2020 submitted a concept note<sup>9</sup> to GCF under the GCG Results based payment pilot programme and is currently awaiting the decision on a 2nd phase of the programme. PNG is implementing a GCF readiness project (2021-2022) to help to build an AFOLU Registry and Nesting System that will facilitate private sector engagement, including for investment of resources generated.

Under the UN-REDD TA, the identified indicative areas of technical support for 2023 – 2025 include:

- I. National REDD+ Implementation Approach:
  - o Further developing legal frameworks and implementation of recently developed guidelines/regulations (e.g. on REDD+ project development/implementation, FPIC and benefits sharing)
  - o Roadmap to guide the country to engage with the international forest carbon markets and access RBF
- II. Investment and finance
  - o Assisting the government to fulfill registration, monitoring, verification and validation and reporting requirements under ART-TREES
  - o Support to establish a framework to engage with the international carbon markets (see also National REDD+ Implementation Approach above)
- III. Ensuring quality and enabling environment for REDD+ implementation, monitoring and reporting:
  - o Monitoring and reporting on carbon accounting/MRV, including the preparation of SOPs, drafting of sections 10 and 11 of the Registration Document, Sections 10-15 of the Monitoring Report
  - o Testing implementation of selected REDD+ actions taking guidance from roadmap (see REDD+ Implementation approach above)
  - o Capacity building, institutional strengthening, and piloting to apply, monitor and report on safeguards, together with further operationalization and updates of the national SIS.

### Technical assistance services

The focus of the UN-REDD TA support will be on assisting the government to fulfill monitoring and reporting requirements under ART-TREES, as well strengthen the framework to engage with the international carbon markets. In 2023, PNG aims complete assessment of eligibility under ART TREES

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<sup>9</sup> *Papua New Guinea REDD+ RBP for results period 2014-2015 | Green Climate Fund*

with a view to identify areas where the country needs to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks and procedures, including the benefit sharing system, operationalize the national REDD+ guidelines, to register under ART/TREES, as well as to develop a draft ART TREES Registration Document and TREES Initial Monitoring Report.

Another area of support through 2023 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 Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Support to update Land use and land use change assessment (Data collection on deforestation, forest degradation and restoration areas for 2020-2021) and develop ART TREES compliant Emission Factors using existing data	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Safeguards processes, monitoring and reporting strengthened  This includes: Technical support to clarify monitoring and implementation plans for key guidelines (e.g. benefit sharing, GRM and FPIC, and relevant aspects of National REDD+ Guidelines) in line with ART/ TREES standard requirements Support for development of safeguards sections of draft ART TREES Registration Document and closing any gaps on safeguards, with focus on conformance with structure & process indicators, and plan for conformance for outcome indicators Support for drafting of next Summary of Information, and technical backstopping to updating of SIS database	UNEP	The activities will be conducted in collaboration with FAO.  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.
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Finalise detailed assessment of PNG eligibility under ART TREES 2.0 requirements, looking at carbon, safeguards and legal aspect.	FAO	The assessment of PNG eligibility against ART TREES 2.0 requirements was included in the 2021-2023 TA and significant progress made; however focus shifted to the LEAF submission and the finalization of guidelines. This assessment is being finalised and will be available in early 2023.  The activities will be conducted in collaboration with UNEP
2.2 Market Transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Roadmap to engage with forest carbon markets and access RBF prepared for government counterparts with strong country ownership	UNEP	The activities will be conducted in collaboration with FAO
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Development of draft ART TREES Registration Document, including (1) a Monitoring Plan, (2) safeguards sections and plan for conformance with outcome indicators (see 1,5) (3) a Plan for securing ownership rights of the ERs from local stakeholders and (4) a detailed description of the crediting level calculations. (5) initial monitoring report (for crediting period 2017-2021)	FAO	The activities will be conducted in collaboration with UNEP
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Assessment of NDC's mitigation actions in the forest and land use sectors conducted  Support to operationalization of National REDD+ development and implementation guidelines provided	FAO	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated	Knowledge of Article 6 opportunities and requirements disseminated through	UNDP	Potential synergies with ongoing work under FAO-led GCF Readiness project in particular the development of an authorization process to allow

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
and enhanced through time	webinars and related materials		government to screen and monitor climate-related initiatives and investments in REDD+ and AFOLU.

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## 2.18. Peru

### Strategic context

Peru has strong national commitments and policies in place on climate and forests. Peru submitted its first [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 40% against the BAU scenario in 2030.<sup>10</sup>

Peru's climate and forest policy is structured around its [Framework Law on Climate Change](#) (Law Nº 30754) and its [regulation](#) (Supreme Decree Nº 013-2019-MINAM), its [National Forests Conservation Programme for Climate Change Mitigation](#) (Forests Programme) (Decree Supreme Nº 008-2010-MINAM), as well as its [National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change](#) (ENBCC) (Supreme Decree Nº 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 regulation also establishes the National Registry for Mitigation Measures (RENAMI), which aims to avoid double counting and serves as a tool to keep track of all mitigation measures, whether destined for Peru's NDC or for international trade. The provisions for the functioning of RENAMI were published for public consultation between August-September 2022, the results of which are being analyzed.

In addition to the aforementioned 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, analyzing, 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 recently completed the Technical Assessment of its proposed [FREL](#) 2010-2019 under the UNFCCC, which includes the Amazon biome, covering 93.9% of forests in the country and emissions reductions from deforestation.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> The unconditioned mitigation goal represents 30%, equivalent to an absolute maximum of 208,8 MCO<sub>2</sub>eq net emissions, and the conditional goal, 10%, which means not exceeding 179 MCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030. Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú (2021). URL: NDC Perú. Reporte de actualización periodo 2021-2030.

<sup>11</sup> The modified FREL corresponds to 78,927,827.50 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, and has been developed with an enhanced methodology and increased transparency which will allow the country to

In 2021 Peru published the [Guidelines for identification and classification of REDD+ actions](#), which includes the mitigation potential and implementation activities for eight REDD+ actions. In 2022, MINAM approved the “Guidelines for the implementation of REDD+ and the management of its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Removal Units (URE)”, establishing the responsibilities of MINAM as national REDD+ authority, including:

- Manage the UREs linked to the implementation of REDD+ actions, with the objective of ensuring compliance with the NDCs, within the framework of Peru's climate obligations.
- Lead, evaluate and monitor the design and implementation of nesting.
- Recognize the validated and verified UREs resulting from the implementation of REDD+ actions, and authorize their transfer as appropriate, through the RENAMI.

As part of the same guidelines, MINAM specifies that results-based payments should contribute to the fulfilment of its NDC goals, and that initiatives related to carbon markets allocate a percentage or the total of the UREs generated for the NDC. The guidelines also establish that MINAM, as the REDD+ national authority, leads the design and implementation of nesting. This includes establishing an overarching technical and legal framework for nesting with provisions to avoid double counting, helping to ensure the environmental integrity of the UREs. In line with this framework, all state and non-state actors that implement REDD+ actions must align efforts to achieve, issue and register UREs, consistent with the RENAMI. For REDD+ actions that opt for results-based payments or carbon markets, MINAM will allocate NREF quotas, applying methodologies and tools under development by MINAM.

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 The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) . In 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 circumstances. Peru is also committed to establishing an appropriate financial mechanism for REDD+ results-based payments. During COP27 Peru and Norway signed an agreement in which Norway committed to disburse USD 10 million through PROFONANPE (the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas)<sup>12</sup>, to continue supporting Peru with its efforts to halt deforestation and implement the RENAMI.

With support from UNEP and FAO, MINAM developed and submitted a [TREES concept note](#) in February 2022, 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.

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demonstrate REDD+ results in order to access RBPs.

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tar2021\\_PER\\_0.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tar2021_PER_0.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Peru's Supreme Decree from 25 January 2022 declared the climate emergency of national interest (Supreme Decree No. 003-2022-MINAM), and established in its Article 3 “Priority actions for the climate emergency”, which include MINAM designing “the process for the reception, administration, and distribution of benefits from various sources, national and/or international, that allows the implementation of the phases for Reduction of Emissions derived from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and entrusts PROFONANPE (the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas) with the administration of the funds derived from this process.”

## Planning process

Over the second half of 2022, the UN-REDD Programme and MINAM have had a number of meetings and working sessions related to follow-up on the implementation of UN-REDD Technical Assistance (TA) for 2022, with discussion of planning for activities and priorities for 2023.

Advances in the ART-TREES process, particularly related to developing the registration document, have enabled further assessment of technical assistance requirements and identification of potential gaps. Over the last quarter of 2022, a detailed assessment of forest monitoring and carbon accounting needs against ART-TREES registration and reporting requirements was conducted by FAO together with MINAM, including consultations with the ART-TREES Secretariat in early October 2022, which informed the development of Terms of Reference for the technical team that will support MINAM in 2023 in conducting the estimation of emissions reductions and removals from deforestation and degradation for 2020 and 2021. Assessment of needs related to participatory planning processes, including through dialogues with indigenous peoples' organizations, and piloting of the MIS and MAC, has also been carried out and informed work planning and priorities.

Planning calls related to TA have been held with MINAM on 2 November 2022 and 12 January 2023. In addition, there has been continued coordination on UN-REDD support with the Norway Embassy in Peru, as well as with Nicfi, NORAD, GIZ, USAID and CIFOR. A coordination call to align support to MINAM on forest, carbon and legal aspects was held between FAO and CIFOR on 27 October 2022. Coordination calls were held with the Norway Embassy in Peru on 12 December 2022, as well as the Norway Embassy, GIZ and USAID on 17 January 2023; and follow-up is continuing. Peru is currently experiencing a complex situation, as then Vice President, now President Boluarte replaced former President Castillo on 7 December 2022, with social unrest particularly in rural areas of the country following. The situation in Lima has been relatively stable, and the operations of MINAM continue, with a post-pandemic return to the office for MINAM.

## Technical assistance services

### Rationale for overall support

In the 2025 horizon, Peru has identified a number of strategic priorities to consolidate the national agenda on climate and forests. UN-REDD TA will be focused on supporting these priorities, with an overall focus on helping to access finance for verified emissions reductions results, with safeguards and participatory processes in place. This support will also focus on assistance to MINAM to help meet ART-TREES requirements, in line with the commitments under the JDI, and to potentially prepare a submission under LEAF or other results-based financing mechanisms.

A number of resource and capacity needs were identified together with MINAM, including:

- Review and updating of methodologies and data, and undertake estimations of emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) from deforestation and forest degradation for the period 2012-2021, and including nesting scenarios and Monte Carlo analysis, and preparation of ART-TREES registration document and first monitoring report;
- Development of a nesting framework that allows reconciling multiples ERRs accounting approaches and scales under the ENBCC, supported by tools to regulate and register multiple REDD+ implementation scales under RENAMI;
- Piloting of national safeguards systems the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC) at the regional levels to ensure they are operative in practice and able to report information on the scale and with the detail needed to respond to ART-TREES requirements (and other requirements, as appropriate);
- Development and facilitation of participatory processes and dissemination events with regional governments as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, to ensure there

is broad participation and understanding for a national-level ART-TREES process, and potentially for other financing opportunities.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Technical document that establishes the methodological and conceptual framework for nesting multiples emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) accounting approaches and scales in Peru	FAO	<p>Technical assistance includes:            Development of a methodological / conceptual framework to enable nesting multiples ERRs accounting approaches and scales of REDD+ implementation, consistent with Peru's RENAMI, its most recent FREL/FRL, additional social and environmental criteria, and its recently launched Ukukui tool            Development of a questionnaire and application for the collection and aggregation of data at project level, and its integration under the Ukukui tool            Development of a fit-for-purpose ERRs allocation tool, supported by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and application integrated under the Ukukui tool            Expected timeline: June - October</p>
	Strategic policy document that establishes the policy, legal and institutional framework to facilitate and regulate the nesting of multiple REDD+ implementation scales in Peru	FAO	<p>Technical assistance includes:            Legal and policy analysis to define a framework that facilitate and regulate the nesting of multiple REDD+ implementation scales under the ENBCC, including to facilitate the mobilization of REDD+ resources and the distribution of REDD+ benefits.            Technical backstopping for the revision and/or development of complementary regulations and development of associated instruments as relevant (i.e. best practice guidance for the use of ERs under the voluntary carbon markets)            Development of associated Standing Operative Procedures (SOPs) to support the operationalization of RENAMI            Contracting a junior national consultant to support the activities above            Expected timeline: February - October</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Technical document with analysis of opportunities for deforestation-free commodities to access and leverage finance for REDD+	UNEP	This will include supporting MINAM to carry out multi-stakeholder discussions on readiness for tracking deforestation in relevant commodities production areas, including, e.g.: understanding and addressing new EU and imported deforestation regulations analysis of opportunities for deforestation-free value chains to claim REDD+ credits under Peru's new reference levels and quota for REDD+ activities assessment of needs for strengthening monitoring systems identifying learnings and opportunities to scale-up experiences of deforestation-free cacao associations that have sold REDD+ credits, including investing in greener production practices and attracting private investors IPLCs and women's organizations and/or women's representatives will be involved in the discussions, to include their perspectives and promote a gender-sensitive dialogue process.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	LULUCF MRV Roadmap by 2025 document	FAO	Technical assistance includes: Development of a LULUCF MRV roadmap document, that provides an overview of the state of art of Peru's MRV system, gaps and areas of improvement, as well as sets out a roadmap for the operation and improvements in the systems by 2025, including the preparation and submission of monitoring reports and communications to the UNFCCC (i.e. the BUR, REDD+ Technical Annex, and Peru's First BTR) Expected timeline: February – March
	Peru's First REDD+ Technical Annex (TBC)	FAO	This includes technical backstopping in the preparation of Peru's First REDD+ Technical Annex REDD+ (TBC) Expected timeline: July – October
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected,	Inputs to updated summary of safeguards information	UNEP	This includes:

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	and design document for piloting the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC)		<p>Hiring a consultant and providing written inputs, review and recommendations for updating the summary of safeguards information (for 2020-2022), including consideration of gender-disaggregated data (particularly for safeguards B, C, D and E)</p> <p>design of an approach for pilot implementation of the MIS and MAC in up to 3 regions (e.g., San Martín, Ucayali, Madre de Dios), with a focus on building capacities to use and improving the operation of both systems as well as responding to requirements to access relevant climate finance; this will include considerations of gender and recommendations on how to collect/analyze/use gender-disaggregated data and ensure the systems are accessible for use by different stakeholder groups, including IPLCs</p> <p>analysis of potential to link MIS and MAC to the RENAMI to enable opportunities to access and scale up results-based payments for REDD+ suggested adjustments and improvements in MIS and MAC following on from pilot testing and analysis for how to link to RENAMI</p> <p>development of capacity-building plan and materials for MIS and MAC</p>
	Information workshops related to ART-TREES and other financing opportunities for REDD+, with attention to indigenous peoples and local communities	UNEP	<p>This includes supporting MINAM with the development and facilitation of stakeholder engagement processes and dissemination events with regional governments as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, to ensure there is broad participation and consensus for a national-level ART-TREES process and discussion on potential to access other forests and climate financing opportunities. This stakeholder engagement approach will be gender-sensitive, with considerations, recommendations and tools to</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			<p>promote the involvement of women and men, as well as representatives of key groups, including IPLCs. This includes workshops in up to 3 regions (e.g., San Martin, Ucayali, Madre de Dios) as well as at the national level. This could also include a high-level dialogue event focused on strategic opportunities and priorities, including as related to the current JDI and potential for other financing opportunities. This would involve participation of regional governments as well as representation from indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	ART-TREES registration document and monitoring report 2017-2021	FAO / UNEP	<p>This activity builds on advances and progress in Technical Assistance from 2022 and includes support to strengthen Peru's institutional capacities to engage with ART-TREES. FAO's technical assistance includes: technical backstopping and development of carbon, legal, policy and institutional related sections of ART-TREES registration document and monitoring report, and backstopping during the Validation the Verification process</p> <p>capacity building on the analysis of uncertainty with Montecarlo method, and technical backstopping for the development of a fit-for-purpose tool</p> <p>Contracting of a team to: review / update methodologies and data; undertake estimations of ER emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation for the period 2012-2021, including nesting scenarios; undertake uncertainty analysis applying the Montecarlo method, development of the SNFM/MRV standard operating procedures; and preparation of ART/TREES registration document and monitoring report. Expected timeline: February – August</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			<p>UNEP's support will focus on analysis of conformance with ART-TREES safeguards, and development of conformance plans as needed, to feed into the ART-TREES registration document and monitoring report. This will include analysis and inclusion of information related to gender equality, and gender-disaggregated data, where available. UNEP will also help develop the safeguards-related text for the monitoring report and registration document.</p>
	<p>Capacity building and inputs to the assessment of uncertainties and the Montecarlo method, with accompanying tools</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>This activity includes support to strengthen Peru's institutional capacities, and will focus on:  Capacity building on analysis of uncertainty and the Monte Carlo tool, including tailored capacity building materials (supporting power point presentations, others) for theoretical and practical sessions and application of the tool;  Review -and adjust a Monte Carlo tool tailored for Peru and technical backstopping for the operation of the tool;  Technical backstopping during ART-TREES validation and verification process, as necessary.</p>
	<p>REDD+ finance strategy</p>	<p>UNDP /  UNEP /  FAO</p>	<p>This will include contracting of a consultant (UNDP) to coordinate the development of the strategy, with a focus on supporting processes related to NDC financing strategies, with a focus on market mechanisms; this work will take place under the leadership of MINAM, with the expertise of technical specialists from the three UN-REDD agencies, focused on the following:  Methodological framework for the design of a country-tailored finance strategy for the sustainable implementation of the ENBCC and its contribution to the achievement of Peru's NDC (FAO)  Assessment of national / jurisdictional / project</p>

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			<p>opportunities and trade-offs in terms of finance for REDD+ (UNEP)</p> <p>Analysis and guidance to strengthen Peru's position in voluntary and compliance carbon markets, such as through supporting the implementation of the RENAMI. This could contribute to solidifying the presence of Peruvian REDD+ credits in international markets. Further analysis of the development of regional registries for J-REDD could also help to understand subnational priorities. This analysis will consider specific opportunities for women and women's organizations. (UNEP)</p> <p>Voluntary Carbon Market Access Strategy (VCM-AS) and associated capacity building to assist MINAM and other key stakeholders to better understand and position themselves at the intersection of NDC, Article 6, VCM and jurisdictional REDD+ programmes (UNDP)</p>
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			
<p>4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action</p>	<p>At least one information and knowledge management exchange, with participation from representatives from Peru</p>	<p>FAO / UNEP / UNDP</p>	<p>This could include topics related to nesting, REDD+ registries, high-forest low-deforestation (HFLD) methodologies, benefits sharing or access to results-based payments, among others. Regional areas of interest include an exchange on financial sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+ strategies to contribute to the achievement of NDCs, and the role of private sector, private investments and voluntary carbon markets, including the development of a regional info brief.</p>

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## 2.19. Republic of Congo

### Strategic context

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. Congo has not yet submitted a safeguards summary of information to the UNFCCC but has made progress on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA).

Congo has signed in 2019 a Letter of Intent (LoI) with CAFI, focusing on the 2020-2025 period, to work towards sustainable development by the promotion of a green economy and the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. Congo is also developing jurisdictional level through the FCPF, with an Emission Reduction Programme in the Sangha and Likouala departments, in the Northern part of the country.

In addition, the PREFOREST project funded by GCF has been approved in March 2021. This full REDD+ implementation project, focusing on agroforestry for wood-energy supply in the Southern part of the country, is supported by another wood energy project (PROREP project) funded by CAFI, and approved in late 2021. Both projects have been launched in 2022.

The country has also submitted a concept-note to the LEAF initiative in September 2022, aiming the mobilization of funds from potential emission reductions under the HFLD modality.

Continued work towards improving the national forest monitoring system is, in parallel, covered through the project SYNA-MNV project, funded by CAFI and launched in 2022. This project aims the first update of the FREL and its submission by 2023. The country have also finished its first full AFOLU sector GHG inventory and the data has been included in the Third National Communication.

The UN-REDD Programme will provide complementary support in 2023 with the focus on the development of different elements necessary for accessing carbon finance, and on fulfilling the safeguards pillar of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ through the submission of the Safeguards Summary of Information to UNFCCC.

### 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. The UN-REDD programme technical assistance will support country's effort for accessing carbon finance. The specific set of proposed activities for 2023 has been discussed with the REDD+ National coordination team in December 2022.

### Technical assistance services

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Evaluation of the REDD+ National Strategy implementation status, through technical, institutional, socio-economic evaluation. Assessment of the remaining needs for its implementation, considering the different	FAO	Several REDD+ related activities have been implemented in RoC, thanks to the commitment of funders, such as GCF, CAFI, AFD, etc.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	investments already attracted by the country.		
	Provide an update of introductory and pilot training on the Voluntary Guidelines and on Open Tenure, and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on next steps	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Elaboration of the first Safeguards Summary of Information and technical advice until submission of the document to UNFCCC	UNEP	Safeguards is a key process which requires good ownership by the country and the stakeholders involved in the REDD+ mechanism. The country did not submit yet its first SOI to UNFCCC which is a requirement for REDD+ and also a requirement under ART/TREES and LEAF
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Follow-up of the country submission to LEAF initiative and technical support provided for the update of the country submission	FAO/ UNEP	FAO and UNEP have been supporting the country to submit the first LEAF concept note in September 2022. Support will continue to be provided to strengthen country capacity, including better understanding of the requirements and steps needed to advance with the LEAF process.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	<p>In line with country priorities, provide technical legal backstopping to facilitate the operationalization of the existing legal framework related to carbon rights and benefit-sharing aspects in the context of ART-TREES</p> <p>Legal review and legal analysis of forest related legislation and support drafting processes as needed.</p>	FAO	Issues of legal framework related to carbon rights and transfer of titles need to be addressed and require additional resources.
<b>OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS</b>			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and communicated to accelerate climate action.	Launch of the policy brief on the IPLC'rights (webinar)	FAO	A webinar will be organised for the launch of the recently published policy brief “ <i>Un examen des droits forestiers des populations autochtones et des communautés locales pour un meilleur accès aux financements liés à la REDD+, Cas de la République du Congo</i> »

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## 2.20. Uganda

### Strategic Context

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 essential 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. Local forest users consume a wide variety of forest products. 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 – forests and woodlands were the source of 88% of primary energy demand in 2019 (World Bank) and expected to increase with 4.2% annually due to population growth and migration from rural to urban areas (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2019). 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 m<sup>3</sup>) 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).

As a result, the country is facing deforestation and forest degradation. Uganda is among the countries having the highest deforestation rates globally. The natural forest cover has experienced a strong decline the past decades. 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 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), a National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) including a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) component, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Safeguards Information System (SIS). These grants were also used to analyze a National Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+, propose Benefits Sharing Arrangements (BSA), enhance stakeholder engagement and feedback in the readiness process and support the coordination and monitoring of the process. Uganda was also able to mobilize support for preparing its Forest Investment Plan as a roadmap for priority activities for implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

Thanks to this, Uganda has now all elements of the Warsaw Framework in place. It is the first country in Africa to report on REDD+ results with 8,071 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> to the UNFCCC for the two-year period 2015-2017. In March 2022, FAO, as accredited entity for Uganda, has submitted a Concept Note to the GCF results-based payment pilot programme. The RBP pilot programme lasted until October 2022 but its envelope was depleted in 2020. If a subsequent phase is going to be launched, this may create an important opportunity for Uganda. Furthermore, in July 2021, Uganda submitted a LEAF proposal that successfully passed an initial technical screening. Subsequently, at COP27, Uganda signed a Letter of Intent with Emergent, providing a new important context for a possible future climate finance opportunity.

Uganda's climate action, as outlined in its updated Nationally Determined Contribution ([NDC](#)), has raised its ambition for emissions reduction from 22% to 24.7% and included other sectors, with most of the cost (over 70%) for the implementation of the ambitions to come from the private sector. Uganda has thus identified carbon markets as one of the essential channels for mobilizing private sector financing to implement its ambitions in the NDCs. Uganda has initiated actions to build its regulatory, institutional and technical capacities to participate in voluntary carbon markets. Consistent with the 2015 NDC, which highlighted the 22% reduction below BAU largely from agriculture, forest and land-use (AFOLU), the updated NDC notes that AFOLU accounts for 20.43% reduction and the energy sector 1.57% reduction. AFOLU sector is the greatest contributor to Uganda's GHG emissions, especially due to deforestation for energy use, agriculture and logging. The country has committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 and increase forest cover from an estimated 12.5% in 2020 to 15% in 2025 and 21% in 2030. It also made a commitment to restore 2.5 million hectares of deforested and degraded land, as a pledge towards the Bonn Challenge.

The [REDD+ Strategy](#) describes actions intended to address policy approaches which promote sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Implementation of the 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+ will thus be fully incorporated into the management structures, agencies and budgets of these ministries (MWE, 2021).

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

- Lack of financial and technical options available to match REDD+ ambition, current investments are a fraction of the expected needs for implementing the country's policies and measures (PAMs),

- Lack of a framework to roll out opportunities in the carbon markets and Art 6 of the Paris Agreement in a strategic manner,
- Low awareness at the Ministers and Cabinet level to provide political support in order to protect the environment and combat climate change,
- Low capacities of stakeholders' to respect and address REDD+ safeguards,
- Elements such as a nesting strategy, benefit sharing mechanisms and other requirements for results-based payments are not yet in place,
- Low engagement of the private sector for upfront finance and to accelerate REDD+ implementation,
- Deforestation was assessed through stratified area estimation for the period 2000-2015 for the reference level and emission reductions for the year 2016 and 2017 were assessed against this reference level but more recent years still need to be assessed,
- Emissions from forest degradation and removals from afforestation/reforestation still need to be assessed,
- To enable Uganda to participate in emerging carbon accounting standards, MRV of the above-mentioned REDD+ activities needs to be high integrity (e.g. TREES-compliant), requiring detailed standard operating procedures and requiring some additional efforts to meet standard requirements.

### **Achievements in 2022**

In 2022, the country made good progress by designing an approach for high integrity MRV compliance with emerging carbon accounting standard requirements. Uganda has also finalized Warsaw Framework elements by working to complete its Safeguards Information System (SIS) by having a SIS and submitting its first summary of information (SoI). Finally, the country's accredited entity submitted to GCF Secretariat a GCF RBP concept note finalized and it designed a diversified strategy to access REDD+ Results-Based payments from both market and non-market sources. The MRV progress made in 2022 comprises the development of an interpretation key, the assessment of a target sampling intensity, the testing of an ensemble approach combining multiple time-series analysis algorithms, the creation of a forest mask (a spatial layer identifying where the likelihood of the occurrence of forest is highest) and the updating of a spatial layer with forest plantations.

The Uganda Climate Change Act has defined climate change mechanism as tools to deliver the NDC commitments and boost climate ambition. Specifically, section 9 of the Climate change Act identifies a) compliance emissions trading mechanisms; b) voluntary emissions trading mechanisms; c) non-market approaches referred to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; d) cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; and any other climate change mechanism as may be prescribed by regulations.

To further target the objective of section 9 of the National Climate Change Act (2021), and in accordance with the mandate of the Ministry of Water and Environment, national Task Force on Climate Change Mechanism on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 was inaugurated. The Task Force is composed of representatives' relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society. The overall objective of the Task Force is to provide technical support expertise to support the design and operationalization of the climate change mechanisms defined in Section 9 of the National Climate Change Act.

The Taskforce also met in September 2022 to learn more about carbon markets, the key areas to be considered including integrity, standards, accounting, Article 6 architecture and the possible options for Uganda; a roadmap was developed and will include framework and guiding manual for article 6

and other carbon market mechanisms. In addition, through partnership with the different agencies such as the UNFCCC RCC, UN-REDD, GIZ and others, UNDP plans to support further capacity building for the Taskforce.

### Planning process

This workplan is based on ongoing REDD+ processes in the country as well as on discussions with government during the implementation of 2022 activities. Inputs provided from these interactions have informed the development of this inception brief. Consultations have also been held between UN-REDD agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) to define the foreseen activities. The proposed technical assistance was jointly reviewed with the Ministry of Water and Environment in January 2023.

### Technical Assistance Services

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. To do so, a TREES monitoring plan/report will be developed, additional support on social and environmental safeguards will be provided, a stakeholder engagement process will be conducted and activity data collection initiated.

In parallel of these achievements, UN-REDD funds coming from Norway will also be used to identify opportunities to build on REDD+ work to develop a pipeline of projects, requirements to build capacity of the Taskforce to identify its approach for forest carbon to tap into the opportunities under cooperative approaches and voluntary carbon markets and support non-MRV aspects of ART/TREES registration.

Concerning MRV, the current design needs to be implemented, meaning sample plots need to be collected, quality controlled and converted into area estimates of deforestation and forest degradation. Area estimates of afforestation/reforestation based on remote sensing need to be produced and compared against planting statistics to evaluate what source of data is better suited for reporting/accounting. A TREES gap analysis will be performed, which will further inform on missing details in the 2023 MRV data collection. A TREES crediting level will be calculated and the data will be explored for possibly emission reductions for the pre-LEAF period. Finally, a start will be made in the preparation of TREES documentation, such as the TREES registration document, if applicable, the first monitoring report and standard operating procedures for the MRV.

In addition to Norway funding, new resources coming from UK allow further development for the country being (i) support towards NDC's Forest Solutions/Pillar or forest component through planned forest programmes, (ii) support to carbon market taskforce on carbon market strategy and readiness, (iii) carbon accounting, in specific the calculation of an ART-TREES crediting level with associated documentation and standard operating procedures and (iv) strengthening of REDD+ safeguards application and reporting by guidance for reporting and management of information. The table below gives information about the proposed UN-REDD technical assistance activities funded by Norway and UK in 2023 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally	Development of a pipeline of forest programmes and engagement with partners and potential financiers to contribute to the	UNDP	

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, including a project on afforestation, reducing pressure on forests through alternatives to wood fuel and efficient biomass energy production.		
	Support towards NDC's Forest Solutions/Pillar or forest component through planned forest programmes.	UNDP	This includes consultations to assess feasibility for REDD+ component to these investments and ensuring links and reporting for NDC implementation
	Stakeholder engagement plan/roadmap developed (highlighting engagement of local and indigenous people) linked to the LEAF procedures.	UNEP	A stakeholder engagement process is needed to encourage timely sharing of information and to determine a process for engagement of key stakeholders during the different stages of TREES and LEAF that build on previous progress, learnings associated to the topic from the country's experience during the REDD+ readiness phase. Even though significant resources may be needed for a wider stakeholder engagement process, as a start point, a plan is needed to define the scope of the process, identify who, how and when key stakeholders should be engaged
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Activity data collection is initiated.	FAO	A new TREES-compliant approach for activity data collection is being designed and tested, including the creation of a forest mask.
	TREES MRV gap assessment	FAO	ART-TREES MRV gap assessment will be performed and its outcomes will further inform the MRV activities.
	TREES documentation	FAO	TREES documentation will be drafted and, if appropriate, UNFCCC reference level document will be updated for re-submission.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	REDD+ safeguards application and reporting strengthened by development of guidance document for reporting and management of information.	UNEP	This activity aims to determine how safeguards have been addressed and respected at the subnational and project level, and by development further guidance on the application of safeguards. This information will guide the updates in the SIS for improving safeguards reporting

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	<p>Capacities of key information providers of the SIS are strengthened on TREES and LEAF requirements.</p> <p>Finalization of TREES safeguards assessment and development of safeguards section of TREES registration document.</p>	UNEP	<p>and information sharing in the country.</p> <p>Safeguards is a process which requires good ownership by the country and the stakeholders involved in the REDD+ mechanism. There is need to continue strengthening the capacities of country counterparts on safeguards, with a focus on TREES and LEAF safeguards requirements. This will complement some recent milestones, as the country submitted to the UNFCCC its first summary of safeguards information in 2022 and Uganda's SIS webpage has been completed I the same year. The workshops proposed for capacity strengthening will complement the ongoing UN-REDD TA activities that focus in updating and completing the TREES safeguards assessment, and developing inputs/filling safeguards section of the TREES Registration document.</p>
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Development of safeguards inputs for the TREES monitoring plan to support LEAF procedures.	UNEP	The TREES monitoring report is one of the documents/requirements that needs to be submitted during the registration stage. It captures monitoring arrangements and activities to ensure TREES participants have determined procedures that allow period reporting of carbon and non-carbon elements.
	Support to carbon accounting, in specific the calculation of an ART-TREES crediting level with associated documentation and standard operating procedures.	FAO	The following sub-activities are expected: (i) perform an ART-TREES gap assessment, (ii) finalize AD and EF data collection and convert into emission estimates, (iii) calculate an ART-TREES compliant crediting level, (iv) prepare documentation for a TREES registration document (section 10 and 11) including SOPs and annex material.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Following the development of the guidelines, manual and protocols for Article 6, UNDP will work with Task Force on Climate Change Mechanisms. Leveraging UN-REDD support, UNDP will continue to provide targeted capacity building actions to enable government and non-state actors to be able to use the guidelines, protocols and templates for developing forest carbon programmes with integrity, and accounting including social and environmental safeguards. As a concept note has been submitted to ART/TREES, this support will include requirements for the next steps for registration including stakeholder engagement related to implementation plans and benefit sharing arrangement to engender equitable and fair sharing arrangements especially for local and indigenous communities.	UNDP	
	Support to carbon market taskforce on carbon market strategy and readiness.	UNDP	The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Water and Environment, is setting up its carbon market mechanism framework to enable Uganda to benefit from the compliance and voluntary cooperation arrangements under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and to leverage international climate financing to deliver commitments in the Country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilised	Mechanism to attract private sector upfront finance for REDD+ implementation explored.	UNEP	UN-REDD support includes drafting of the finance mechanism to explore the best financing options to attract the private sector and organizing dialogues between corporate buyers, investors and government to achieve a common understanding of

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
			expectations and conditions regarding both public and private investments on forest carbon. This will be carried out in conjunction with the work to develop a pipeline for NDC implementation in the forest sector.
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	Support towards aligning the national MRV system with the forest monitoring system. The NDC MRV tool has been developed by the Ministry of Water and Environment. It is designed to enhance data collection, reporting, and tracking on NDC adaptation and mitigation targets, greenhouse gas emissions, climate finance flows and alignment to the SDG impacts.	UNDP	

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## 2.21. Viet Nam

### Strategic context

Viet Nam played an important role as a global pioneer in REDD+ Readiness and has been steadily making advances since. For the years 2011-2018, Viet Nam reported significant emissions reductions of 18Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq/year and increase in removals of 38MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year against its reference levels – as reported through the technical report to the technical analysis of Viet Nam’s Third REDD+ Technical Annex of the Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC. With this, Viet Nam will be in the position to apply for results-based payments at the national scale, including from future potential opportunities through the GCF and other initiatives.

In November 2022, Viet Nam submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) following through on their statement made during UNFCCC COP 26 in 2021 to review, update and adjust their contribution to GHG emission reduction. Among other elements, compared to the NDC 2020, the updated NDC 2022 increased its unconditional contribution from 9% to 15.8% and conditional contribution from 27% to 43.5% which includes emission reduction targets from across sectors, including LULUCF.

Viet Nam signed an Emission Reduction Purchasing Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank for the FCPF Carbon Fund in October 2020, and a first monitoring report was submitted in May 2021 (reporting a total of 19MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq of ERs for the 23 months until end of 2019 for the six provinces of the North Central Coast).

Under the LEAF Coalition, in 2021 Viet Nam signed a Letter of Intent with Emergent for its proposed results-based payment sub-national level programme (2022-2026), which has subsequently been

extended until the end of October 2023. Viet Nam submitted a TREES concept for the same programme which was approved by the ART Secretariat in August 2021. To enter ERPA negotiations with Emergent, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) established an inter-ministerial Working Group led by the Director General of the Viet Nam Forestry Administration (VNForest) with members from its line departments and other related ministries (MONRE, MoFA, MoF, MoJ). While VNForest is undergoing restructuring, slowing down processes including those under REDD+, it is anticipated that the REDD+ institutions and mandates will be carried over to a new Department under the Ministry responsible for the developmental mandates for the country's forestry sector. It is also expected that a separate arm for forest protection mandates will be established at the same level as – ie., at Department level. Ongoing efforts of the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative side of the Technical Assistance is expected to be carried over to this second institution. Until there is more clarity and appointment of personnel to these Departments, delays are expected as decision-making roles remain ambiguous. The restructuring is said to be completed in January 2023.

### Planning process

The UN-REDD TA 2023 for Viet Nam fall largely under three clusters of work. These are namely: i) efforts to support Viet Nam for its registration and monitoring of its jurisdictional project under ART/TREES (contribution to Outcome 2); ii) efforts to support the implementation of the updated NDC, with regards to increased ambition in the forest and land sector (contribution to Outcome 3); and iii) the efforts under the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative (contribution to Outcome 1). There are also synergies being made with the EU-funded Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management through Deforestation-Free Jurisdiction Project in Lam Dong and Dak Nong project, a project formulated through the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme (also contributing to Outcome 1).

For activities under the cluster to support the government in registration and monitoring of its jurisdictional project under ART/TREES, interventions have been identified through assessments carried out in 2021 and consultation with VNForest and other government stakeholders involved in the ART/TREES process (including the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute: FIPI). Specific consultations on the TA 2023 draft workplan include email-based correspondence, as well as physical meetings held on 24 and 25 October 2022 with the deputy head of the Department of Science Technology and International Cooperation (DOSTIC) of VNForest, on behalf of the head of the REDD+ under the Viet Nam State Steering Committee on Sustainable Forest Development and REDD+ as well as the focal point for FAO under the Department of International Cooperation (ICD) of MARD, and numerous follow up meetings with technical focal points from the government. The final approval of the Technical Assistance is expected to be received from VNForest on behalf of MARD, aiming for within January 2023.

For this cluster of activities, the UN-REDD TA 2023 plans have been shared with the Embassy of Norway and with the wider REDD+ stakeholder community in Viet Nam, and closely consulted in particular with the REDD+ project under JICA (SNRM2), SilvaCarbon and their associated projects.

For activities under the ongoing UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative (2020-2023), the Viet Nam workplan is being vetted through the project management unit under the Forest Protection Department (FPD) of VNForest, for approval by MARD. Through other project stakeholders including DOSTIC and other divisions within VNFOREST, WWF Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Forest Certification Office, Center for Education and Development, etc., are also closely consulted in the planning where they are concerned. 2023 marks the last year of implementation of this Initiative, and therefore all activities will be expected to complete well within 2023.

For activities on the NDC implementation, the planning has been done in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MoNRE), which is tasked with NDC oversight function in Viet Nam, as well as in close alignment with UNDP Climate Promise, which is an international UN

initiative to further strengthen the enabling conditions for NDC implementation and financing at country level.

### Technical assistance services

In 2023, UN-REDD will continue to support VNForest's plan for registering and monitoring under ART/TREES, Viet Nam's jurisdictional project proposal submitted to the LEAF Coalition. 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. The focus of UN-REDD TA reflects the main gaps that were identified through the drafting process of the ART/TREES concept note 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 main remaining gaps include the drafting of nationally applicable legal framework on the ER title and benefit-sharing arrangements including with privately planted forests, requirements for generating activity data using stratified area estimation in the carbon accounting process, and updating aspects of the national safeguards approach and information.

On the legal foundation of ER title – while this is largely established for natural forests, provisions for planted forests (if they are to be incorporated into the LEAF project) are not yet clear, and will require careful review. 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. It is noted that the government has experience in this subject matter through the FCPF Carbon Fund, which was implemented through a pilot decree as its governing legal framework. For the case of the LEAF project, the government plans to issue a national legislation under its 2019 Forestry Law that learns from the pilot experience of the Carbon Fund and further elaborates on provisions including on planted forests.

On safeguards, 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 has assessed its safeguards approach and information against the standard, concluding that it is largely conformant with the structure and process indicators, but will need to ensure that procedures are finalised and rolled out for key safeguards instruments such as grievance redress and benefit sharing. A plan for conformance with outcome indicators, i.e., safeguards outcomes achieved, will also be needed upon registration, while the country already has a SIS in place. Viet Nam submitted its first Summary of Information on safeguards to the UNFCCC in late 2018, and a second Summary will be needed to meet ART/TREES requirements.

Furthermore, a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan will need to be developed and rolled out in the jurisdictions participating in ART/TREES. Noting that Viet Nam needs to prepare for not only registration into the ART/TREES, but also 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.

Under the NDC implementation stream and complementary to the on-going Climate Promise initiative under UNDP, technical assistance from the Programme will support MONRE as the NDC lead agency, as well as technical ministries such as MARD, on several NDC enhancement and financing aspects. These comprise the inclusion of mangrove forests in subsequent NDC reviews, as well as to determine how the country will engage in NDC financing avenues related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the emerging international market mechanisms. This technical assistance will help the country

prepare for a national carbon market mechanism, to be in place by 2027, as stated in the Law on Environmental Protection (2020) which would address the “mitigation contribution emissions reductions” for Viet Nam’s targets. Under the same efforts, technical assistance will also be extended to support MONRE showcase the country’s commitments to net zero by 2050.

Under the cluster of activities under the Lower Mekong Initiative, Viet Nam will work on bilateral cooperation with other Lower Mekong countries including review of MOUs between Viet Nam and Cambodia and Viet Nam and Lao PDR respectively; development of a communication plan to raise public awareness and behavioral and social change impact on violations in the forestry sector; near real time forest monitoring; priority updates of the SIS, among others. Importantly, a regional assessment and analysis on the next phase of interventions aimed to decouple the impacts of agricultural commodities on forests – i.e., ‘deforestation-free agriculture’ – and for which consultations will be hosted with Lower Mekong countries aiming to develop a next phase project and theory of change.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Consultations with stakeholders in Mekong regional countries on results of assessment and analysis for decoupling the impacts of agricultural commodities on forests	FAO	To be done collaboration with UNEP. For deliverables under the <a href="#">Lower Mekong Initiative</a> see dedicated section of the report).
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Safeguards related technical gaps in ART/TREES registration addressed: Confirm and document key procedures & compile updated legal/procedure information, helping to close gaps related to structure and process safeguards indicators, including sex-disaggregated information where available Finalise and help to operationalise (via training) sub-national safeguards guidance reflecting key procedures Prepare conformance plan for outcome indicators Support to drafting & review of registration document	UNEP	This will be done in close coordination with FAO’s technical assistance for carbon accounting and legal titling / benefit sharing
<b>OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED</b>			
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported,	A detailed monitoring plan developed for REDD+ implementation in jurisdictions participating in	UNEP	This will be done in close coordination with FAO and UNDP

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
and verified REDD+ results	ART TREES programme, in line with ART TREES 2.0 requirements		
	Carbon accounting for the ART/TREES registration: Generation of the Crediting level (period 2016-2020) Establishment of a monitoring plan for MRV Estimation of the buffer for reversals and leakages Carbon accounting for ART/TREES Year 1 Monitoring report: Calculation of activity data and emission factors for the period 2021-2022. Description of monitoring plan implementation and emission reduction achieved.	FAO	
	The drafting and submission of ART/TREES initial monitoring report supported  Consultations on monitoring results carried out at national and provincial level	FAO	This will be done with UNEP.
	Stakeholder consultation processes at national and sub-national levels carried out and full and effective participation in both ART/TREES registration and monitoring ensured	FAO	
2.2 Market Transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Technical legal gaps in ART/TREES registration addressed: 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 determined Consultation approaches for opt-in or opt-out finalised	FAO	This will be done in close coordination with UNEP's technical assistance for safeguards.
	The benefit sharing plan and grievance redress mechanism, in line with ART/TREES and LEAF requirements, refined and finalized. Gender-sensitive process and consideration	UNEP	Linked to FAO support on legal title/benefit sharing and other UNEP support on safeguards.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	of needs and engagement of key local stakeholders		
	Inventory of land/resource holders of planted forest (land)s carried out as a basis for conducting consultations and obtaining agreement to opt in (or out) of the jurisdictional project including on the provisions of benefit sharing	FAO	To be implemented if removals are to be included in the scope of the jurisdictional project (under consideration)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Summary of Information (SOI) prepared, with multi-stakeholder consultation process at national and subnational levels	UNEP	
	Discussions between government and potential buyers facilitated and country-specific forest carbon market background documents/materials, briefs prepared	UNEP	
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Coordinated consultations with MoNRE and between MoNRE and MARD on Article 6, emerging international market mechanisms and “mitigation contribution emissions reductions” for Viet Nam’s targets, and inclusion of mangrove forests in subsequent NDC reviews. Relevant background materials developed through the Climate Promise initiative may be reviewed.	UNDP	

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## 2.22. Zambia

### Strategic context

Zambia has already made much progress against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (i.e., a well-developed NFMS, FREL submitted in 2021, a Summary of information on safeguards (Sol) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019).

However, an analysis of the most recently collected data for the years 2019-2020 does not show yet conclusive evidence on emission reductions against Zambia’s FREL, which would enable access to

climate finance. For this reason, a two-pronged approach is proposed for Zambia. On the one hand, efforts need to be directed towards supporting Zambia's efforts to reduce emissions. There is much momentum in Zambia on mitigation efforts through subnational programmes and at the project level, which should be supported and strengthened. On the other hand, input is also required to update the necessary components of the Warsaw Framework in light of requirements in new carbon standards, especially on safeguards.

Two strategic objectives are therefore prioritized in Zambia:

- i. Catalyse finance for REDD+ implementation at jurisdictional level and for community climate action

To reduce emissions, Zambia is working at a subnational/jurisdictional level, engaging communities as key climate actors on the ground. The approach is aligned with Zambia's commitment to engage local communities in forest governance and the roll out of community-based forestry as an approach to preserve its forests and related climate and environmental services, whilst unlocking the full potential of forest for economic development and enhanced resilience. The policy, legal and institutional basis for greater community involvement in forest management and forest-based climate action have been established, including: Zambia's 2014 National Forestry Policy; 2015 Forests Act; 2018 Regulations on Community Forest Management, 2018 National Guidelines on Community Forestry, Government policy of promoting decentralisation and 2021 Forest (carbon stocks management) regulation.

Since 2018, multiple subnational emission reductions initiatives are being developed, including a BioCarbon Fund project in the Eastern Province, a GCF proposal in North Western Province, and several projects supported by the private sector. These initiatives combine emission reduction objectives, as well as sustainable development objectives, including enhancement of local livelihoods and job creation.

- ii. Operationalise safeguards

On the safeguards front, the following elements have been achieved so far:

- First summary of information (Sol) submitted to the UNFCCC,
- SIS design document,
- SIS webpage and database developed, but the system is not yet available online on the official government website and its launch is pending. The country is aware of it and the Forestry Department and Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) are working to solve this issue (personal communication),
- Template for data gathering drafted, reviewed, updated, and used to collect detailed safeguards information. Work of data gathering finalized in April 2021
- Detailed data gathering process and data compiled though this has not been reported in a summary of information, need to elaborate a second summary of information.

For now, as part of the UN-REDD TA in 2022, activities do not include safeguards or stakeholder engagement processes which are requested to have the country ready for selling carbon credits. As such, new resources are a good opportunity to strengthen the SIS and other safeguards processes.

### Planning process

The activities proposed for 2023 have been defined following consultations between Zambia's Forestry Department (including the National REDD+ coordinator) and the UN-REDD team, specifically during a mission in November 2022. The discussions focused on the studies and assessments required to enable REDD+ jurisdictional programmes and community climate action, and on the specific

products that could be useful both, from a climate perspective, as well as for Zambia's priorities in the forestry sector.

The Forestry Department specifically highlighted the need that UNREDD TA continues developing the capacities of forestry officers, engaging them actively in the planning and implementation of activities, so as to ensure country ownership and facilitate future replication in other jurisdictions.

As per indicative 2023 funding, activities in Zambia have been structured under:

- UNREDD TA 2023- Norway funding
- UNREDD TA 2023- UK funding
- Possible additional funding from UK, who has expressed potential interest in scaling up activities in Zambia

UNREDD TA 2023 in Zambia (Norway) will focus on technical advice and capacity development of Zambia's Forestry department, on-the-job training and transfer of knowledge on methodologies and approaches so as to facilitate future replication by the Forestry Department.

The UNREDD funding from UK will be oriented toward (i) studies and assessments that enable REDD+ jurisdictional programmes and facilitate community climate action, while producing stand-alone sound technical products that support the work of the Forestry department towards enhancing Zambia's forest ecosystems and the lives of forest-dependent communities, and (ii) the operationalisation of safeguards.

If UK funding is increased, the activities to enable REDD+ jurisdictional programmes can be further enlarged and strengthened as follows:

- Assessment of the forest-water-climate nexus<sup>13</sup> in the headwaters of the Zambezi river (North Western province) as a key element of the GCF project being developed.
- In-depth assessment and/or design of targeted financial products to support development of selected forest value chains and related livelihoods.
- Assessment of the timber value chain in the North Western province, and whether CFMGs could engage in sustainable timber production and marketing.
- Support to the digital and geospatial registration of CFMGs by the Forestry Department, so as to facilitate support and monitoring of CFMGs and their role as key climate actors.
- Support forest monitoring at local and district level to enable the unfolding of community forestry, in alignment with National Forest Monitoring system (NFMS).

### Technical assistance services

#### i. Catalyse finance for REDD+ implementation at jurisdictional level and community climate action

Under UN-REDD output 3.1, UNREDD technical assistance will continue supporting Zambia's efforts to develop jurisdictional REDD+ programmes, specifically in North Western Province, and generate technical products that enable community climate action.

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<sup>13</sup> *The forest-water-climate nexus refers to the strong interrelation between forests and water and how they are essential from the climate change mitigation and adaptation perspectives. It includes global cooling effects through evapotranspiration, albedo and canopy roughness (i.e. extra mitigation, adding to carbon sequestration by forests); the ability of forests to stabilize local climate (reducing extreme temperatures and regulating rainfall); as well as the protective functions of forests against run-off (increasing soil infiltration and groundwater recharge), soil erosion and extreme weather events (e.g. flooding, droughts, landslides). These multiple forest-water interactions represent powerful mitigation and adaptation opportunities. [adapted from Lawrence et al., 2022]*

- a. Assessment of existing and potential community forest management groups (CFMGs), which can be supported to catalyse local climate action

Local communities in Zambia are key actors both, in the current forest-emission scenario, and as part of the solution to reduce GHG, particularly considering that most land/forest in Zambia are under customary ownership (62% at national level, reaching 94.1% in the North Western province) and that forest harvesting is predominantly informal. The recently established policy and regulation for registering and supporting community forest management groups (CFMGs) has the potential to enable local climate action, providing that the necessary socio-economic, technical and financial conditions are in place.

Since the policy and legal basis was recently finalised in 2018, several hectares of forests have been recognised under community forest management agreements-(see table 1). It is still early to measure impact, but it is showing promising results in terms of forest conservation and reduction of unsustainable practices.

#### Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) at the project site by 2022<sup>14</sup>

District	# CFMG	CFMG name	ha	Status
Ikelenge	1	Kelonde	394	Step 6. Implementation
Kalumbila	2	Kamikolo Lunga	40 000 70 000	Step 3. CFMG formation
Kapombo	0	-	-	Three communities interested in starting the process
Manyinga	3	Kanshinakazhi Luasongwa Chitweve	106 485 66 301 34 921	Step 4. Application for Recognition
Mwinilunga	12	Chulu Mukoya Kimba Kanjungu Machanganyi Makuya Ndongo Muyange Mulanu Mushipi Kappokosu Kayonge	Size to be agreed	Step 4. Application for Recognition
	2	Kamanengu Kapundu	577 137	Step 6. Implementation
	8	Chisasa Lumwana Sailunga Samutemba Kanyikomboizhi Kanshinakazhi Luasongwa Chitweve	119 279 51 922 50 624 6 372 14 855 106 485 66 301 34 921	Step 4. Application for Recognition

The UNREDD TA 2023 (Norway funding) will support an assessment of the existing CFMGs, aiming to better understand needs for technical assistance to fulfil the Forestry Agreements signed between the CFMGs and the Forestry Department. It will as well identify which new community forests and CFMGs

<sup>14</sup> Communication from provincial forestry officer (November 2022).

could be registered in the Northwestern province. The assessment will include both, field surveys and consultations, and geospatial assessment.

If additional UK-funding is allocated to Zambia, UNREDD may support:

- the digital and geospatial registration of CFMGs by the Forestry Department, so as to facilitate support and monitoring of CFMGs and their role as key climate actors.
- forest monitoring at local and district level to enable the unfolding of community forestry, in alignment with National Forest Monitoring system (NFMS).

#### **b. Forest value chain assessment**

The 7th National Development Plan of Zambia highlights the untapped potential of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) to add value to standing forests, particularly in Northwestern province that is the one with highest forest cover of the country. Forest products and services in the province could be sustainably used and traded, significantly adding value to standing forests *versus* other land-uses, diversifying livelihoods (beyond the predominant agriculture and charcoal production, which are main drivers of forest loss) and contributing to a resilient development path in the province.

The development of forest-based livelihoods, as a progressive alternative to agriculture and charcoal production, requires updated information to respond to:

- What are the NWFP collected in Northwestern Province?
- What are the NWFP with more potential to support/diversify local livelihoods considering socioeconomic and environmental criteria (particularly climate resilience and carbon emissions)?
- How are the value chains of the selected NWFP? And what interventions would enhance these value chains, while supporting/diversifying local livelihoods?
- How is the charcoal value chain affecting forests in the Northwestern Province? How can targeted invention help reduce GHG emissions from unsustainable charcoal production?
- How is the timber value chain, and could communities sustainably engage into timber use and marketing?

The questions a) and b) are being addressed through UNREDD TA 2022, while if UK-funding to UNREDD (2023-2025) will address questions c) and d). Detailed market and value chain assessments will be undertaken for selected NWFP, aiming to identify entry points to strengthen them and inform the development of community livelihoods and small-scale enterprises, in the framework of REDD+ jurisdictional programmes and other forestry/climate projects.

The assessment of timber value chain (e) may be done if additional funding from UK is allocated.

#### **c. Assessment of finance options to enable selected value chains**

Limited access to finance is a key constraint to rural development in Zambia, which limits farmers' capacity to explore and develop new livelihoods and business. The majority of the rural population has limited financial literacy, capital base or access to adapted financial products and credits. 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, or other 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 is being assessed through UNREDD TA 2022.

The potential additional UK-funding to UNREDD may support:

- In collaboration with community forest management groups (CFMG), saving groups, financial institutions, forestry departments, community development departments, councils, etc., in-depth assessment and/or design of targeted financial products to support development of selected forest value chains and related livelihoods; including blended finance mechanisms.
- Development of a technical brief on “Finance options to support CFMGs in Northwestern Zambia and related local climate action”.

**d. Analysis of the relation between forest cover and water-related ecosystems**

The REDD+ national strategy of Zambia takes a watershed-based landscape approach, highlighting the strong interrelation between forest, water and climate. Accordingly, the GCF project pipeline in the Northwestern province seeks to strengthen and demonstrate the forest-water-climate nexus.

The UNREDD technical assistance (UK potential additional funding) may assess the forest-water-climate nexus in the headwaters of the Zambezi river and its potential to enhance climate mitigation and adaptation synergies from a multi-sectorial and landscape perspective. The study is planned to be undertaken at different tier levels, and will analyse the relation between forest cover and the provision of water-related ecosystem services, with particular attention to downstream hydroenergy production (renewable energy promoted by the Government to gradually reduce charcoal demand, and related pressure on forest).

**e. Technical assistance to the formulation of a GCF project document**

The UNREDD technical assistance 2023 will support the formulation of a GCF project document, including a REDD+ jurisdictional programme, in the Headwaters of the Zambezi river, North Western province.

*1. Operationalise safeguards*

**Under UN-REDD output 1.5** (“Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions), UNREDD TA (UK funding 2023-2025) will strengthen the SIS and safeguards processes as follows:

• **Second summary of information**

This activity includes data gathering, drafting the national report and validation meetings. Inputs already available for the period until March 2021, but latest updates need to be included for the report to encompass the 2019-2022. This report will also include additional inputs to report on TREES safeguards indicators,

• **SIS update and capacity strengthening**

This activity considers a) SIS website updates including report of subnational information, b) reconvening of the National Safeguards Technical Working Group (NSTWG) to follow up on safeguards application and identify actions for reinforcing safeguards, and c) capacity strengthening to conduct TREES safeguards monitoring.

• **Stakeholder engagement plan**

A plan for stakeholder engagement process related to LEAF stages and resources for initial activities will be developed and implemented.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Second Summary Information	UNEP	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Updated SIS	UNEP	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	Stakeholder engagement plan	UNEP	
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b>			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Geospatial analysis of the North Western province to identify the forests with more potential to be sustainably managed and restored by CFMGs. Report on the assessment of existing and potential community forest management groups (CFMGs), which can be supported and/or enlarged to catalyse local climate action.	FAO	
	Support to the digital and geospatial registration of CFMGs. Forest monitoring at local and district level in support of community forestry.	FAO	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Methodology for “NWFP VC assessments” validated through national consultation. Value chain assessments validated. Catalogue of selected forest products, describing their value chains and how they can be developed/strengthened and contribute to community livelihoods and businesses. Knowledge dissemination	FAO	
	Assessment of timber value chain in the North Western province	FAO	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Report on targeted financial products to support selected value chains Technical brief on “Finance options to support CFMGs	FAO	

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	in North Western Zambia and related local climate action”		
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Analysis of the relations between forest cover and water-related ecosystems in the framework of developing the forest-water-climate nexus.	FAO	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Technical assistance to the formulation of a GCF project document	FAO	

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## 2.23. Lower Mekong regional initiative

### Strategic context

The Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region Programme (“UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative”) works with key institutions across the five LMR countries and in China to strengthen forest governance and the systems designed to ensure legal and sustainable trade in timber. The Initiative supports countries to create standards and systems that can effectively and sustainably regulate forest products’ trade in the LMR and reduce the share of illegal, unsustainable products in regional and international value chains.

The UN-REDD Initiative was approved in March 2020 and officially commenced its activities in September 2020. A No-Cost Extension was granted by the UN-REDD Executive Board in January 2023, extending the closure date to 31 December 2023.

### Planning process

The planning for the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative takes place separately from the other activities in the target countries (namely, the UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2023 in Viet Nam, Nepal and Cambodia, as well as the ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative, and the Myanmar Mangroves Initiative).

Since the start-up of the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative in 2020, technical assistance has been planned and provisioned based on consultations with government and related stakeholders starting with country and regional inception meetings. The Initiative is rolled out in close collaboration with the focal points from the four regional country forestry line agencies, and with non-government stakeholders in the case of Myanmar. Importantly, the Initiative engages with partner organizations at the regional (at times global) level, to enhance advancement in cross-border cohesion in addressing forest governance issues. Partners include the CITES Secretariat, FSC, GGSC of China, ITTO, PEFC, RECOFTC, WWF, among others.

### Technical assistance services

2023 marks the last year of implementation of this Initiative. Focused areas of work in 2023 will include an assessment of options for decoupling deforestation from key agriculture supply chain commodities to effectively and ambitiously reduce emissions in the Lower Mekong region. This is expected to fill a

critical gap of the Initiative’s Theory of Change where the current phase of activities strengthen commitment, institutions and capacity in sustainable and legal forest trade, and in the next phase of the programming, efforts will focus on changing the way of business for key agricultural supply chains and commodities that have driven forest loss – while working with local jurisdictions to monitor and enforce sustainability and legality requirements. While all activities at country level are anticipated to be completed by June 2023, the second half of 2023 will mainly be spent on finalization and further enhancement of outstanding activities at the regional level and knowledge management interventions for archiving and disseminating knowledge generated through the Initiative. Strategically, the extension will allow capitalization on the outcomes of the assessment of options for decoupling deforestation from key agriculture commodity supply chains, leverage the structure/presence of the Initiative, and formulate proposals for resource mobilization including reaching out to new donors to the UN-REDD Programme.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
<b>OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED</b>			
1.3 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	MOU impact analysis study Lao-VietNam bilateral exchange Bilateral/regional exchange	FAO	LMR Output 1.1
	InfoHub established to connect FSC certified material sources from LMR and Chinese buyers. Formulation of reports, communication materials and dissemination events	FAO	LMR Output 1.2
	A regional financial collaboration forum to raise awareness of illegal logging and forest conversion among capital providers operating in the Lower Mekong region. Further dissemination of the regional finance forum to financial institutions and awareness raising on ESG	UNEP	LMR Output 1.3
	Trainings for certified Chinese companies on timber procurement trends and challenges. Networking events between FSC certified material sources from LMR (TH and VN) and Chinese buyers.	FAO	LMR Output 1.4
	Communication campaigns designed in the all LMR countries	UNEP	LMR Output 1.6
	Formulation of training reports, finalization of tailored training materials in national languages, finalization of English language training	FAO	LMR Output 2.4

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Observations/ notes
	At least 100 forest-based enterprises engaged in or seeking to enter legal and sustainable value chains have developed their capacity to execute and scale up sustainable business models and attract private finance	UNEP	LMR Output 2.5
	Formulation of proposal for resource mobilization and consultations on decoupling deforestation from agriculture	FAO	LMR Output 2.7
	Country capacity building. Piloting of near real time monitoring system in selected LMR countries	FAO	LMR Output 3.1
	All 5 LMR countries will be supported to implement selected actions to pilot or strengthen their chosen information system/dataset.	UNEP	LMR Output 3.3

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## 2.24. ASEAN Social Forestry regional initiative

### Strategic context

Most of the ASEAN member states (AMS) are committed to advancing social forestry and have established ambitious targets for expanding social forestry over the next decade. To help achieve their targets, each country has put in place a range of policies and measures designed to support the expansion of social forestry and climate change. At the same time there is growing momentum to include social forestry climate change mitigation actions in the National Determined Contributions. In the 2020 NDCs, five (5) ASEAN member states mention the importance of social forestry in Mitigation efforts. Four (4) member states mention specific social forestry strategies to reducing emission/increasing removals, and two (2) member states have specified mitigation targets.

The overall impact of the UN-REDD Initiative Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in ASEAN countries (referred to as “initiative” hereon) will be to strengthen the evidence base for social forestry towards climate change mitigation, while facilitating integration into countries National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and enhancing climate finance opportunities for social forestry. This will ultimately lead to progress towards assessing, accelerating and enhancing NDCs climate change mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors.

### Planning process

The activities under the TA have been identified during the development of the Workplan and Budget of the initiative. These activities have been further refined following the June 2022 regional launch event. During the launch event Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR each shared an update of the status

of social forestry and areas of potential contribution of the initiative in their respective countries. The regional launch event was followed by work planning in collaboration with partners identified under the initiative, and national consultation meetings including the ASEAN secretariat, RECOFTC, Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP – EP) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). NTU will focus specifically on implementing activities related to NbS under Output 5 of the initiative. As of early 2023, national work planning meetings have been held in all the three target countries.

### Technical assistance services

The focus of the UN-REDD TA support will be on assessing the contribution of social forestry interventions towards climate change mitigation, identify the commercial potential of selected social forestry models in the ASEAN region, begin building capacities to assess and monitor social forestry interventions, and to develop in collaboration with the ASEAN secretariat a set of regional guidelines for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA) Initiatives in the forestry sector. In addition there will be a strong focus on developing a practical regional toolkit for NbS/EbA practices in social forestry and to build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS/EbA in the AMS.

Outcome and Output as per overall UN-REDD Results Framework <sup>[1]</sup>	Deliverables of the ASEAN Technical assistance (TA)	Lead UN-REDD agency in the TA	Observations / notes
<b>OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED</b> <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	Output 1. Contribution of social forestry schemes towards climate change mitigation in the ASEAN assessed to inform action and climate finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking assessment of the current state of social forestry models in the target countries</li> <li>• Undertaking assessment of potential extent of implementing social forestry interventions in the target countries</li> </ul>	FAO	Frameworks developed, potential data sources identified and assessments ongoing in each of the 3 target countries.
	Output 2. Capacities to assess and monitor social forestry to the NDCs/Climate change frameworks built in 3 countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of current capacity of local stakeholders to monitor and report periodically and accurately on climate change mitigation actions of social forestry interventions under National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR</li> </ul>	FAO	Assessment of NFMS and scalable sub-national monitoring methodologies ongoing in each of the 3 target countries.
	Output 3. Facilitate the integration of social forestry actions in NDC implementation and in the	FAO	Gap analysis of existing tenure regimes and

	<p>upcoming NDCs revision (2025) in 3 countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Indonesia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analysis and assessment to target and promote tenure security and potential incentives in support of long-term investments by stakeholders in social forestry-based mitigation actions in support of NDC commitments</li> </ul>		benefit sharing mechanisms ongoing in each of the 3 target countries.
	<p>Output 4. Promote and accelerate responsible private investments in social forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stocktaking of actors (social forestry programmes, incubators/accelerators, etc.) connected to commodity value chains and non-forest timber products in the 3 pilot countries</li> <li>• Assessment of the economic and business potential of selected social forestry models in the 3 pilot countries</li> </ul>	UNEP	Frameworks developed, potential data sources identified and assessments ongoing in each of the 3 target countries.
	<p>Output 5. Capacities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) to quantify benefits, connect partners and operationalise Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA) in the context of social forestry enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of regional guidelines of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA) including decarbonization efforts in the forestry sector</li> <li>• Development of a practical regional toolkit to: 1) Support the implementation of NbS and EbA practices in social forestry and; 2) Build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS/EbA practices in the AMS</li> </ul>	FAO	Finalizing agreement with NTU to: 1) Begin development of Regional Guidelines that will facilitate the design of policies, programmes, and investments within AMS and; 2) Identify gaps and needs and enhance capacities on NbS and EbA for forest sector interventions within AMS through development of a practical toolkit for NbS/EbA practices in social forestry.

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### 3. Knowledge Management

#### Outcome 4. Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions

Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) movement to accelerate climate action.

### 3.1. Output 4.1

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

#### **Rationale**

The 2023 KM work plan seeks to meaningfully contribute to the knowledge and capacity needs of UN-REDD partner countries to enable them to pivot from an era of readiness to an era of scaled up financing, implementation and impact. These efforts reflect the Programme's and its partner countries' raised ambition to deliver climate action and contribute to the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Declaration. The deliverables outlined for 2023 are supported by funding for 2023-2025 from Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Following the 2022-2025 UN-REDD CDKM Theory of Breakthrough:

*Instead of delivering a series of stand-alone products (events, publications, webpages) covering a plethora of topics, the Programme will pivot towards an approach where (i) annual thematic priorities will guide all outputs, (ii) CDKM outputs are connected, coherent and sequenced and (iii) UN-REDD's CDKM work links to the knowledge of partners outside of the Programme. The Theory of Breakthrough builds on the idea of an intrinsically linked three-step knowledge journey from knowledge generation to knowledge distribution and knowledge-based advocacy. In this knowledge value chain not one step is more important than the other, only their interconnectedness enables the Programme to deliver.*

This approach builds upon the UN-REDD Programme's nine established thematic knowledge areas:

- a. Forest tenure, governance and carbon rights
- b. Forest landscape restoration
- c. Forest positive agriculture and food systems
- d. National Forest Monitoring
- e. Safeguards and multiple benefits
- f. REDD+ finance
- g. NDC forest ambition
- h. Social inclusion
- i. Gender equality

The 2023 knowledge journey will focus on three priority knowledge topics: REDD+ finance, social inclusion, and forest-positive agri-food systems. These topics are in direct response to the knowledge and capacity needs of UN-REDD partner countries and build on the outcomes of the 2022 REDD+ dialogue on strategic finance pathways for forest solutions and the 6th UN-REDD Executive Board meeting. Knowledge on these three topics will be documented through a diverse set of policy briefs and technical papers, case studies, info briefs, guidance notes and capacity building materials. This knowledge will be further enhanced and shared through a series of webinars, regional and global exchanges and communities of practice. Existing UN-REDD knowledge on these topics and emergent knowledge harvested from these events and activities will be further disseminated in a targeted manner, both regionally and globally where appropriate.

## Global KM Deliverables

Deliverable type	Indicative activities and key topics
Policy briefs, technical papers and guidance notes on priority topics, including:	<p>REDD+ standards, carbon pricings and mitigation ambition</p> <p>Use of future jurisdictional REDD+ revenue streams to drive upfront finance</p> <p>Carbon markets to achieve forest sector NDC components</p> <p>Social inclusion in events, including gender entry points</p> <p>Financial flows on commodities and timber trade in the Lower Mekong Region</p> <p>Implementation of forest sector NDC components</p> <p>Forest Biomass using Inventory Plots and Modelling</p> <p>Scoping of approaches for monitoring beyond carbon (e.g. adaptation)</p> <p>Analytical tools for demand of agricultural land and deforestation (thru 2024)</p>
Lessons learned and experience documented through fieldwork, case studies and info briefs on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement and implementation of forest sector NDC components</li> <li>• Pilot testing of the W+ standard (gender mainstreaming) in REDD+ investment programmes/schemes in two countries</li> <li>• Gender and voluntary carbon markets</li> <li>• Application of FPIC in REDD+ implementation</li> <li>• National schemes to monitor and certify deforestation free production and trade</li> <li>• Nesting and jurisdictional approaches to NDC/REDD+ implementation</li> <li>• IP &amp; LC participation in REDD+ implementation and benefit distribution</li> </ul> <p>Successful examples of safeguards in practice</p>
Regional knowledge exchanges (in-person) focusing on priority topics:	<p>LAC</p> <p>Lessons from channelling REDD+ incentives to the ground (hosted by Costa Rica)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring forest degradation</li> <li>• Financial sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+ strategies to contribute to NDCs</li> <li>• Livestock and deforestation free supply chains</li> </ul> <p>Asia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon markets, RBF – use of proceeds</li> <li>• TREES and LEAF including (i) process involved (ii) carbon accounting and (iii) benefit sharing, legal basis for title to carbon and tenure</li> </ul> <p>Africa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority topic in partnership with AFF, TBD</li> <li>• Design and implementation of nesting frameworks (Africa-Asia regional exchange)</li> <li>• Article 6, VCM and NDC financing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community forestry exchange in West Africa</li> </ul>
Webinars and knowledge clinics (virtual) offered on priority topics, including:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REDD+ finance and safeguards, nesting and benefit sharing</li> <li>• Article 6 and VCMs, including special focus targeting gender networks</li> <li>• High integrity climate finance and emerging standards for carbon markets</li> <li>• Monitoring and certifying deforestation free production and trade</li> <li>• IP &amp; LC rights, sharing case examples from specific countries</li> <li>• Gender &amp; REDD+ linkages (initial focus in LAC)</li> <li>• Carbon rights in the context of jurisdictional REDD+</li> </ul>
Capacity building, training, and communities of practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and expansion of REDD+ Academy curriculum</li> <li>• Contextualizing and disseminating UN-REDD knowledge to specific African needs with AFF</li> <li>• Moderation and development of community of practice on REDD+ finance</li> <li>• Monitoring and reporting on the UN-REDD gender marker</li> <li>• Capacity building and support for IPs &amp; LCs to engage in climate finance, NDCs &amp; ETFs</li> <li>• Explainer series to explain complex issues and terminology to diverse audiences</li> <li>• Convene Sustainable Finance Forum for Lower Mekong region</li> </ul>
Dissemination infrastructure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletters (quarterly and topical)</li> <li>• Website and online knowledge repository</li> <li>• Social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)</li> </ul>

## 3.2. Output 4.2.

### Collective political and societal support to NbS increased.

#### Rationale

The climate change and biodiversity crises, combined with challenges presented by wars, food insecurity and pandemics, are pushing us to the brink. Fortunately, actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore forests can deliver cost-effective climate change mitigation at scale. These actions can also reverse declines in biodiversity and enhance resilience to climate change. Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), recognized as the most effective stewards of forests, often play a key role in achieving these outcomes. Forest-based actions can make an essential contribution to meeting the ambition of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

To achieve transformative reductions in deforestation, UN-REDD will run an advocacy campaign based on the *Making Good on the Glasgow Climate Pact* paper's key points (incentives, investments, integrity, equity) that seeks to a) enhance understanding on the synergies and co-benefits of forest and biodiversity conservation b) build consensus on the need to increase forest carbon price and requirements for high-quality emissions reductions that optimize biodiversity conservation; c) mobilize societal support and build on multilateral initiatives such as 'FCLP', 'One Forest Summit', 'OPEC for rainforests' to unlock one gigaton emissions reductions by 2025, while ensuring biodiversity, and social and environmental safeguards.

The campaign sets out deliverables for 2023 with a medium-term vision until 2025. It is structured in three phases: (i) *Incubation Phase: Insider Advocacy and Relationship Building* (facilitating dialogues among influencers, potential champions, and floaters from forest countries, donors and the private sector); (ii) *Illumination Phase: Media Outreach and Event Engagement* (phase will bring the debates to the event stages at UNEA 6, UNFCCC COPs, Climate Weeks and regional ministerial meetings); (iii) *Implementing Phase: Influencing standards, rules, policies and practices* (champions will have committed to increasing the forest carbon price and to ensuring high levels of social and environmental integrity of emission reductions and biodiversity conservation.)

### Global advocacy deliverables

Deliverable type	Indicative activities and key topics
Advocacy campaign	<p>Engagement through side events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional ministerial meetings: LAC, Africa (in collaboration with AFF) and AP</li> <li>• Engagement in at least 1 global event (UN Climate Ambition Summit/NY Climate Action Week and/or COP28)</li> <li>• 2 Africa focused events as part of the AFF project (e.g. Africa CAW, COP28)</li> </ul> <p>Issue-based working groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce at least two documents to guide the discussions</li> <li>- Virtual or in-person dialogues</li> <li>- Plans and roadmaps to summarizing the agreed points and pathways during the discussions.</li> <li>- Including one Africa-focused policy dialogue organized by AFF</li> </ul> <p>Communications and media relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bespoke communications campaign collateral, including 2-pager narrative, branding guide, social media assets, and video interviews with opinion leaders</li> <li>- 1 outreach partnership with top-tier media (FT, Guardian or Economist), tentatively including coverage and a roundtable event</li> <li>- 1 media trip to make the case for JREDD and need for an incentive (price, volume, predictability)</li> <li>- 4 or more editorials for web and media placement</li> <li>- Collaboration with Climate Advisers and N4C as well as GGC: media relations, joint messaging, coordinated outreach, media monitoring and intelligence sharing.</li> </ul>

Communications related to the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication products and activities to advance the efforts of the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition on Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Supply Chains</li> </ul>
Advocacy activities targeting indigenous peoples and local communities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous voices in forest solutions – multi-media storytelling/comms campaign – co-branded with FDP, GATC and other IPs networks</li> <li>- IPs as NDC/REDD+ Implementation Partners (continuation of IP rights &amp; NDC work) – multimedia stories/comms campaign – co-branded with AIPP</li> <li>- Strategic engagement with IPLCs at UNPFII.</li> </ul>

### 3.3. Output 4.3

#### Digital cooperation and frontier technologies deployed to accelerate and enhance Nbs

##### Rationale

Emerging technologies offer an opportunity for UN-REDD to improve its evidence-based decision making and to better design technical interventions and products that could effectively contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of forests. This is aligned with the UN Roadmap for Digital Cooperation which notes that "recent advances in technology offer ground-breaking opportunities to monitor and protect the environment as well as overall planetary health".

To seize this opportunity, UN-REDD will develop a proof-of-concept for using artificial intelligence to enhance the organization's ability to design technical assistance and improve its knowledge on strategic areas. To do so, UN-REDD will continue assessing advances in Machine Learning including Machine Classifiers, Natural Language Processing techniques and Deep Learning with the following objectives:

- accelerate knowledge on strategic REDD+ topics: by systematically mining, extracting, and labelling data from reports, publications, datasets, etc. related to a selected REDD+ topic to produce further insights that can facilitate evidence-based decision-making and design of technical assistance and other knowledge products;
- support evidence-based decision-making by setting up a system for prescriptive/predictive analysis on pathways for accessing results-based finance based on historical GHG emissions data and other criteria.
- enhance the efficiency of detection and data processing in monitoring systems

##### Global digital cooperation and frontier technology deliverables

Deliverable type	Indicative activities and key topics
Test approaches and establish proof of concept for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of Block Chain and AI technologies for forest, MRV and REDD applications</li> <li>• An AI-powered decision-making RBP tool (integrating machine learning functions to conduct predictive analysis on whether access to RBPs is possible and how)</li> <li>• A REDD+ knowledge graph using natural language processing to extract key insights from relevant reports, knowledge products and other databases</li> <li>• Innovative technical solutions to share knowledge in low-bandwidth scenarios (within AFF)</li> </ul>

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