

UN-REDD Programme 2023 Semi-Annual Progress Update

Introduction

The purpose of the following report is to provide a narrative update to the Executive Board of the UN-REDD Programme on implementation between 1 January and 30 June 2023. Overall, the Programme continues to demonstrate progress through Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation (TA), with most planned outputs on track to be delivered by the end of 2023. In the cases where delays have occurred, these challenges have been outlined in the progress overview below, along with the solutions that will ensure these programmes deliver in a timely manner.

2023 Programme Overview

The following report provides a progress overview by country, based on a traffic light system. Green represents those areas in which all deliverables programmed for 2023 have been completed; blue indicates that the programme is on track in accordance with the agreed workplan and that deliverables will be completed by the end of 2023; yellow indicates that delays have been encountered; and red indicates that implementation has not yet started. In the case of a yellow or red result, further information is provided on the specific challenges causing the delay and solutions being put in place.

			
Completed	On-track	Delayed	Not started

When referring to the pillars of the Warsaw Framework, the following abbreviations are used: NFMS (national forest monitoring system), FREL/FRL (forest reference emissions level/forest reference level), and SIS (both for safeguards and safeguards information system). When referring to the first pillar – national strategy/action plan - no abbreviation is used.

Country or KM component	Status	Highlights (including challenges & solutions where relevant)
Country Support: Realising, rewarding and enhancing forest solutions (UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework, Outcomes 1-3)		
Argentina	●	Supporting Access to REDD + Funding: initial analysis and meetings have taken place to provide inputs and recommendations for the design of an environmental fund that was created by the 2009 General Environmental Law but never implemented. MAYDS expressed interest in the model of special purpose vehicles, with different accounts used for specific objectives and the ability to manage diversification of assets and resources. Initial evaluation is being carried out of ART-TREES, JNR standards and preliminary GCF Scorecard; this will be presented to the government in the second half of the year. Piloting the due diligence tool on deforestation-free chains OECD-FAO (FAO). Support for improvements in the national SIS for REDD+ (“SIS-AR”) and reporting processes on safeguards to the UNFCCC and other possible schemes. As part of this activity, the UNEP team supported the Project Management Unit (PMU) of Argentina's Results-Based Payments (RBP) project in revising the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), as requested by the GCF.
Bolivia	●	<p>The workplanning for UN-REDD under both TA support and activities under AIM4Forest are being undertaken in parallel. Taking into consideration ongoing support through UNDP and other partners as well as the various related initiatives implemented by FAO.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> Limited engagement with REDD+ in the country will require rapid support for the country to meet the Warsaw Framework requirement, as well as for it to consider the current REDD+ financing landscape. In response, we are planning to involve Bolivia in the various upcoming knowledge exchanges planned in the second half of the year.</p>
Cambodia	●	FAO and UNDP completed an initial work planning and inception exercise for the identified UN-REDD-supported deliverables. These deliverables are expected to commence in the second half of 2023 once the UN-REDD funds have been replenished.
Chile	●	UN-REDD technical assistance to Chile over the first half of 2023 focused on a number of MRV and safeguards related activities. During the first quarter, CONAF successfully completed the Technical Assessment of its proposed updated FREL/FRL for the period 2001-2013 . The updated FREL includes 99.9% of the forest coverage at the national level, moving from 6 to including 12 regions, and the estimation of uncertainties applied to the Montecarlo method, including building on a Chile-specific FCPF’s Carbon Fund tool. Noting CONAF’s request to build institutional capacities to continue to apply the Montecarlo method through in-house expertise and a dedicated tool free of charge, between March and May FAO has delivered a series of capacity building sessions focused on uncertainty analysis, the Montecarlo method and available tools (FCPF and ART/TREES) . Further collaborative work between FAO and CONAF in this direction and in line with the multiple transitions of Chile’s FREL is planned for the second half of 2023. In relation to safeguards, UNEP has worked closely with CONAF's safeguards team in the review of its draft 2nd Summary of Safeguards Information, including a detailed desk-based review and a virtual working session. In addition to this, a safeguards roadmap for the TA was developed, which includes support to define indicators for the SIS; feedback and identification of

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		<p>opportunities for improvement of the Benefit Distribution System; regional exchanges on safeguards; and capacity building on opportunity costs of REDD+ and the link reversals (Output 1.5).</p> <p>Led by CONAF and implemented with FAO's support through Chile's RBP GCF Project - +Bosques, Chile started the full implementation of its National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV) and its Benefit Sharing System (SDB) during the first half of 2023. Lessons learned from early implementation of ENCCRV's direct measures through pilots together with the operation of the first cycle of the SDB have underscored real implementation costs for each of the ENCCRV's direct measures have been significantly higher than those initially estimated: from an initial average cost of USD 1,800, real costs show an average of close to USD 2,500/ha, and for some action measures or sites costs have exceeded USD 6,000/ha. During the second semester of 2023 FAO's support will draw on said lessons to prepare a financial strategy for the ENCCRV, including through specialized expertise to conduct economic and financial analysis in terms of cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the diverse measures of action to facilitate access to a diversity of sources of financing, including through Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and voluntary carbon market standards and initiatives such as ART/TREES and LEAF (Output 1.1). Moreover, as of June 2023 CONAF has partnered with TNC and Climate Focus in developing a methodological framework for nesting, noting that TNC already have REDD+ type project under implementation. At the time of writing this report, CONAF and FAO are fine tuning the UN-REDD's support for the second half of the year, particularly in strengthening a governance framework to operationalize a nesting approach in a way that enables Chile to maximize funding opportunities to implement REDD+ actions at multiple scales while ensuring the environmental integrity of its NDC (Output 1.1).</p>
Colombia	●	<p>During this period, Technical Assistance carried out a comprehensive and participatory evaluation of the implementation of the ENREDD+ ("Bosques Territorios de Vida"), as an input to design the implementation route 2023-2026 within the framework of the new National Development Plan." "Colombia World Power of Life". This evaluation included the analysis of the behaviour of the indicators and of the governance around REDD+, based on the analysis of the effectiveness of the instances of intra and inter-institutional coordination, as well as the instances of social participation. These inputs provided by the UN-REDD Technical Assistance were key to designing a participation plan (Link) and the deforestation containment plan of the current government, which contemplates five pillars: i) social conservation agreements with the communities; ii) consolidation of the forest economy and biodiversity; iii) the inclusion of deforestation in the "Total Peace Plan"; iv) the strengthening of criminal investigation to define the determinants of deforestation; and v) greater presence of the State in the territory through its entities. In this new logic, the Government has signed social conservation agreements with the communities, community action boards and leaders in the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare and Meta, thus achieving a 29% reduction in deforestation nationwide. and 34% in the Amazon. (Link).</p> <p>Along with the participation plan, a capacity building process is being implemented around REDD+ and carbon markets, which seeks to address emerging conflicts around voluntary carbon markets. In this process, UN-REDD has participated in courses and seminars financed by different donors, such as a seminar with civil society convened by the Norwegian Embassy and a course with</p>

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		<p>indigenous peoples together with RRI. In these spaces, UN-REDD has presented the national and international framework of REDD+, the challenges and opportunities identified in the national agenda. The Participation Plan proposal has made it possible to design spaces for dialogue and capacity building that allow for greater inclusion and better governance around REDD+ with multiple cooperation around MinAmbiente.</p> <p>With IDEAM and MinAmbiente, the roadmap was drawn up and a professional was hired for the construction of the new Reference Level of Forest Emissions (NREF), the analysis and evaluation of the REDD+ initiatives registered in RENARE and the generation of the REDD+ technical annex. for the NREF 2018-2022. Technical assistance was provided to MinAmbiente to consolidate an internal Committee on Social and Environmental Safeguards, and an inter-institutional working group, including the development of a roadmap to operate the National Safeguards System. Discussions have started and technical support is foreseen from UN-REDD to help the country build its approach to nesting. In addition, support is being provided to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and to a range of government institutions on innovative financial instruments and mechanisms for forests and climate. MinAmbiente is devoting important efforts to address complaints received from diverse stakeholders in relation to the implementation of REDD+ projects and potential noncompliance with safeguards. The resources needed to process and resolve the issues present a burden for the Ministry. This highlights the need to strengthen procedures and capacities for risk mitigation, as well as reception and management of grievances and claims.</p> <p>In terms of discussions on environmental integrity and reduced emissions accounting, the Climate Change and Risk Management Directorate of MinAmbiente delegated to FAO and the UN-REDD program as facilitator of the dialogues to be held with different institutional, governmental and social actors throughout the year, based on a roadmap proposed by MinAmbiente.</p> <p>Publications and participation in academic spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD Bulletin: the UN-REDD National Program in Colombia bears fruit with the National Forest Inventory (NFI). • V Colombian Congress and VI Ibero-American and Caribbean Congress on Ecological Restoration as speakers "Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies. • Discussion on REDD+ and carbon markets - Roundtable with the Pastos and Quillasingas Indigenous Peoples. • Discussion on REDD+ and carbon markets with the Gran Tescual Indigenous Reserve.
Costa Rica	●	<p>During the first half of 2023, efforts have been directed to support Costa Rica in the validation and verification process (registration document 2017-2021 and monitoring document 2017-2021) carried out by VVB Aster Global. Even though UNDP, through the GCF project, ensured the VVB company was hired in 2021, and the TREES registration and monitoring document were uploaded to the ART registry in October 2022, the VVB was not available to start the process until Q2 of 2023.</p>

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		<p>The kick-off meeting for the verification and verification process with UNDP/Aster Global/FONAFIFO and ART Secretariat (directly supported by UNDP) did not occur until March 30th. Also, a workshop was held in Costa Rica organized by the ART secretariat on May 15th with all the relevant actors to set up the bases and steps of the process that Costa Rica will have to follow in issuing the results under the standard TREES. Furthermore, once the kick-off meeting was done, the field mission had to be postponed and rescheduled twice, finally taking place July 16th with direct support from UNDP accompanying and providing technical assistance to the country participant (Costa Rica) to both workstreams, monitoring, and safeguards.</p> <p>Regarding the consultation process with indigenous people, Costa Rica held in February 2023 a workshop to raise awareness among the indigenous leadership of the negotiation with the LEAF Coalition for the sale of CO2 credits and understand the market mechanisms with the LEAF coalition and the required certification. Continued support to the REDD+ Secretariat at FONAFIFO has been provided to update the baseline layers for the Carbon Fund co-benefits monitoring. The updated layers include climate change mitigation, natural scenic beauty, biodiversity conservation, support to communities vulnerable to water stress, potential for socioeconomic improvement, soil erosion control, and improved governance. The analyses are currently being finalized. In addition, preliminary discussions and scoping on a methodology to analyze fires within protected areas have been carried out.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The delays in this process due to the lack of availability from the VVB and the unfinished ERPA negotiations have been the two major challenges that Costa Rica has faced this year. According to the country, issues and delays between Emergent and FUNBAM 's late and ineffective response to signing an agreement with regards to FUNBAM as a Financial Intermediary and on the ERPA have put the sale of 2017 at high risk, which is no longer attractive to buyers looking for results obtained after 2020.</p>
Côte d'Ivoire	●	<p>Technical support has been provided to the REDD+ Permanent Executing Secretariat (Secrétariat Exécutif permanent à la REDD+ - SEP-REDD+) for the adjustment of the methodology aiming at the update of the national investment plan. The timeline for the implementation of the activity has been also updated from July 2023 to June 2024.</p> <p>After training on carbon markets provided to Government, private sector, and civil society, a technical discussion has been launched on international carbon market potential, legal requirements, and the first identification of the country's vision for a better orientation of the technical support to be provided for the country access to potential future result-based payments. This area of intervention has been strengthened with a reflection on nesting approaches which could be developed in Côte d'Ivoire. Technical assistance has been also provided to SEP-REDD+ on aspects relating to reduced emissions rights, as the context evolves. In particular, technical support to discussions on the draft law on climate change has been provided with a focus on aspects relating to rights on reduced emissions/carbon rights, and benefit sharing, taking into account an inclusive and participative approach (Terms of Reference for the definition of future support submitted to SEP-REDD+).</p>

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		Two flyers on carbon markets potential were developed and a roadmap has also been designed for better identification of capacity-strengthening needs in the same technical area. The infobrief on the local communities' rights to access climate and REDD+ finance has been published and officially launched through a webinar (held on 16th June)
Democratic Republic of Congo		<p>During the reporting period, several outcomes and outputs were achieved to enhance environmental safeguards, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) rights, and the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). New inputs were collected for the TREES safeguards assessment exercise. They will be further enriched via sub-national level meetings in Tshuapa province to complement information needed to meet conformance with TREES safeguards indicators. Information collection was undertaken as part of an analysis of IPLC rights in the country. The exercise started towards the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>A Carbon Market retreat took place in Zongo with the participation of twenty parliamentarians. Recommendations from the retreat will inform high-level meetings on the financing of the NDC, chaired by the Prime Minister, with an aim to agree on a multi-sectoral approach to public financing of the NDC by the DRC government, with regard to non-conditional NDC measures. Moreover, a proposal on NDC implementation and carbon finance is under preparation, at the request of a project document on access to carbon markets and implementation of the NDC was prepared; the document is under review by FONAREDD and CAFI before submission to CAFI's next Board of Director. Regular technical assistance to FONAREDD also continued during the reporting period, through technical reviews of projects and programs in the FONAREDD portfolio and participation of UNDP in meetings of the Technical Committee. Data and information collection aiming at the analysis of local communities and indigenous people's rights to access climate and REDD+ finance is ongoing.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> Change in key positions in the government counterpart (FONAREDD), which disrupted correspondence in the second half of the reporting period and implementation. Moreover, the delay in receiving part of the funds (part under UK funding) did not help implementation, especially for Outcome 1. A UN-REDD mission, planned for Q3 2023, will meet with the Government counterparts and other key stakeholders (e.g. UK Ambassador) and discuss a way forward to ensure proper support. The presence of UNEP personnel in the country since May 2023 will help optimize collaboration across the three UN agencies and the Government. The mission will also: i) investigate concerns related to changes in recent legislation related to mining extractive processes, which could raise additional questions related to safeguards conformance and TREES registration stage and ii) identify agreement for moving additional resources to the country to support hiring consultants and meetings and consultations. Some activities could not be initiated without the feedback from the LEAF initiative (re-Thsuapa submission) – which is still pending. Measures are being taken through a provided technical support on institutional arrangement gap analysis for nested MRV.</p>
Ecuador		During the first half of 2023, UN-REDD technical assistance convened several technical and political meetings to continue to identify gaps in technical support needs and provide technical advice to address ART/TREES requirements to achieve certification under the "REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES). The country advanced with actions for addressing ART/TREES

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		<p>requirements to achieve certification under TREES and plans to move into the certification and registration stage under TREES in two stages, the first one for the vintage period (2017-2021) to be submitted to ART TREES at the end of August 2023, the second, for the next crediting period 2022-2026, to be submitted in December 2023.</p> <p>The 2023 TA was adjusted to comply with the certification and registration deadline; this includes the QA/QC of deforestation and forest degradation estimation and the development of the new methodology for the next ART/TREES period, for better operational forest degradation remote sensing interpretation. Also, legal and technical advice was provided to Ecuador to activate a Registry account for TREES document submissions to the ART secretariat.</p> <p>Regarding the ERPA negotiations, technical assistance has been provided to assess the draft Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPA) shared by Emergent with Ecuador. This assessment included an analysis of the process, the document's structure, issues identified, and recommendations. As a result, Ecuador has launched a call for proposals for the financial intermediary for the Emergent agreement. The country has also launched a participatory process to build a benefit-sharing plan to inform the distribution of benefits resulting from future ERs purchases. Preliminary information to report on conformance with TREES safeguards indicators is being updated in the TREES registration document, it will be complemented in the coming months with inputs for the first TREES monitoring report.</p> <p>Ecuador has officially launched the deforestation-free certification. In addition, advice and technical assistance were provided to consolidate commercial agreements with international companies (Lavazza and Silva cacao) for 2023, strengthening local producers' capacities and the commercialization on international markets of their deforestation-free products. During 2023, Ecuador has shared Lessons Learned in several international events such as the Vietnam Deforestation-free workshop, International Trade Center EU regulation webinar, exchanges with Costa Rica, Colombia, and Mexico, on the deforestation-free national certification scheme. Also, feedback was provided to the draft technical regulation that establishes the compensation scheme for greenhouse gas emissions in Ecuador, this process aims at encouraging actions against climate change.</p>
Ethiopia	●	<p>During the first half of 2023, a significant amount of planning has been carried out related to the methodological approach, including with the technical assistance of UN-REDD, which in the country is complementing and leveraging on the MRV phase 2 project (financed by the Norwegian REDD+ Investment Program). UN-REDD TA is foreseen to be deployed further in the second half of the year and will support geospatial deliverables related to Activity Data generation. More specifically, a collaboration with SIG-NAL has been agreed upon to focus on capacity building for activity data and emissions calculations to determine REDD+ results in Ethiopia. The geospatial support will include Collect Earth Online survey support for activity data generation, creation of interpretation key for land cover classes, quality control on national and regional sample points, a software application created for visualization of results, documentation of methodologies and production of standard operating procedures for each key step in the process. Additional plans include contributions to the field data collection efforts related to assessing emissions from forest degradation. Degradation field plots have been identified and integrated into the larger NFI workplan. UN-REDD TA will allow</p>

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		these sites to be surveyed. Field crews will conduct sampling on these sites (30 plots in each of the 4 biomes). The field inventory started in earnest in June. Ethiopia Forest Development technicians (both national and regional) have been trained at Wondo Genet College of Forestry and National Resources
Ghana	●	<p>UN-REDD continues to support Ghana to submit its TREES registration and monitoring document and work has been completed with respect to the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference finalised to support the Forestry Commission to determine where the interventions to reduce emissions (ERS) have been carried out (for the period 2017-2021) and what will be implemented for the second reference period (2022-2026), are almost finalised. Discussions will be held with stakeholders on the interventions as well as the acceptance and implementation of the benefit-sharing plan. The hiring process is to begin in July. • With respect to safeguards, the Ghana TREES safeguards assessment was finalized in April 2023. The inputs were also made into the TREES registration document. Some details on the outcome indicators are still needed. A draft proposal of plans of conformance for outcome indicators has been drafted and is under review by Forestry Commission (FC). The safeguards elements for the TREES monitoring report has been drafted. The process for the 2nd summary of safeguards information has started, with the first draft of the document under review. • On the data side, TREES compliant crediting level was calculated. Emission estimates are made TREES compliant, implying among other elements the application of an algorithm on all points to meet the RS condition “More than one interpreter must analyze the reference data and/or trained algorithms and majority agreement must be used for the final reported data.” Other elements have been revised and updated. • ERs for 2017-2019 have been assessed. This data underwent the same algorithm application for increased quality control and quality assurance. • New inventory data is being evaluated to improve the emission factors used under TREES. • Forestry Commission staff members were trained on degradation assessment and algorithm application (in Rome) • A national consultant working on the national forest inventory is to be hired. Interviews will take place on July 6th) and a NFI design workshop to be organized on 18-19 July. Analysis of regional forest inventories to determine the variances (precision models) for variables like trees/ha, basal area, volume, biomass and carbon have been performed. • Draft Standard Operating Procedures have been prepared for the TREES compliant emission estimates. • Skeleton version of the ART-TREES registration document and monitoring report were developed, and gaps were identified with the government.
Indonesia	●	An initial work planning for the identified UN-REDD supported deliverables was completed with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and the Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF). These deliverables are expected to commence in the second half of 2023 once the UN-REDD in-country funds have been received. Support to establish a “Climate & Resilient Fund” focused on identifying an asset manager, pipeline development, and preparing for fund launch. Support to develop a jurisdictional programme concept for results-based payments continued to engage potential corporate off-takers and respond to rapidly

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		<p>evolving national regulations on forest carbon markets. Key areas for safeguards support identified include the development of the national SIS and national and provincial institutional capacity building.</p> <p>Work planning for UN-REDD support was discussed with the DG for CC in Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in February and the Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF). The new UN-REDD Social Forestry project with ASEAN and RECOFTC recruited new staff and held two missions and workshops. Support delivered through two field missions in February and May 2023 to advance Indonesia's NDC and FOLU Net-Sink Operational plan through forest and peatland restoration and improved mapping and monitoring. FAO supported resource mobilization for the government following the received request from the Peatlands and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM).</p> <p>Four MoEF staff were supported to present and participate in the Global Forest Observation Initiative Plenary and presented work on forest and peatlands monitoring to 300 people in Rome in May partly funded by UN-REDD. Capacity development was increased by using satellite imagery for land cover (40 participants) and for monitoring peatland soil moisture as an indicator of restoration success (30 participants from MoEF, BRGM, and the private sector) with the trainers and their travel funded by UN-REDD.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> With the introduction of a new regulation by the MoEF on foreign cooperation: MoEF Decision 134/2023 (February 2023), an operational focus for the Programme has been to identify the most appropriate institutional and legal response for each UN-REDD partner agency. Institutional arrangements are expected to be concluded before 2024. Support for developing the economic model for peatland landscapes, including mobilizing finance is a key question if the country is to succeed in reducing GHGs from peatlands (drainage and fires). FAO was requested to support the country in developing a potential financial model, however, this support was not finally included in the UN-REDD work plan</p>
Kenya	●	<p>UN-REDD technical assistance in Kenya leverages and complements the Improving Measurement for Payments to Reduce Emissions and Strengthen Sinks (IMPRESS) project, which comes to an end on the 30th of June 2023. UN-REDD will complement and continue the work therefore from July 2023. KFS has been working closely with FAO on IMPRESS and is well placed to continue benefitting from UN-REDD Technical Assistance. Additional work activities related to preparing the necessary registration documents for ART-TREES have begun. UNDP has had a number of meetings with relevant stakeholders, led by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, and has been given a clear mandate to move forward to working on the TREES Registration Document and to lead the process going forward. An MoU has been signed with LEAF.</p> <p>The Concept Note to the ART Secretariat will be re-submitted as soon as the safeguards assessment has been completed. FAO is preparing Standard Operating Procedures outlining the implementation of the updated NFMS. The ART-TREES crediting level has now been completed and the relevant information will soon be transferred to ART-TREES registration document. Additional monitoring under the AIM4Forests program will be incorporated into the crediting level as and when it is available while the legal assessment will be facilitated in the second half of 2023.</p>

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		<p>A concept note on a jurisdictional REDD+ project is being reviewed by potential donors. Legal support was provided in the context of carbon markets through coordination of UN-REDD internal review of the Climate Change Amendment Bill and consolidation and submission of input to the Government of Kenya. At present FAO has taken part in several planning calls with UNDP and UNEP discussing the planned activities and opportunities for collaboration. Recently the team discussed the opportunity to follow up on nesting discussions relevant to Kenya. A call is planned with stakeholders for early July 2023 where experiences from Peru will be presented to stakeholders. Additional work activities related to preparing the necessary registration documents for ART-TREES have begun with colleagues from FAO preparing Standard Operating Procedures outlining the implementation of the updated NFMS.</p>
Laos	●	<p>The first half of 2023 has focused on the deliverables related to supporting Lao PDR in accessing carbon finance. Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of a roadmap to facilitate the government’s decision-making in accessing forest carbon markets and REDD+ RBPs. A draft document has been prepared that presents options for jurisdictional REDD+ programmes, with an analysis of risks, benefits, and recommendations. ● Options towards nesting projects within jurisdictional REDD+. A series of workshops have been held with government and related stakeholders to facilitate understanding of projects including the implications of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and decision-making of the risks and benefits, as well as technical considerations needed for nesting options. ● Exploration of guidance on the role of private sector-led forest carbon projects. A public benefit and risk analysis is being conducted on different types of potential carbon projects, with the aim to guide the government’s strategic selection and prioritization of smaller-scale projects to be approved. ● On safeguards, a review of benefit-sharing options including links to the SIS was delivered and work started on reviewing the proposed Lao National SIS structure. ● Separately, the UN-REDD TA is involved in a coordinated UN-World Bank response to higher-level government requests for building national awareness around accessing carbon financing in general.
Mexico	●	<p>In the first quarter of 2023, Mexico’s National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) changed its focal point for REDD+ related matters. The work under the UN-REDD technical assistance therefore mainly focused on further planning, prioritizing and initiating key deliverables as well as setting up clear responsibilities between UN-REDD agencies and CONAFOR’s operational units.</p> <p>Regarding enabling access to REDD+ and climate finance (Output 2.1), UN-REDD is continuing its support to CONAFOR in understanding and potentially tapping different finance possibilities. A series of capacity building meetings around topics of the UNFCCC negotiations, ART / TREES and the LEAF Coalition as well as voluntary carbon markets have been planned for the second semester, with a first meeting taking place during SB58 in Bonn with the involvement of SEMARNAT. During this initial meeting, representatives of CONAFOR, Mexico's Art. 6 negotiator and representatives of UN-REDD, both participating in the SB58, discussed the implications of Art. 6 on the forest sector in Mexico. In addition, other questions on Art. 6 were raised by the</p>

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		<p>Mexican counterpart and were addressed by Mexico's Art. 6 negotiator and representatives of UN-REDD. Further discussion has been planned in preparation for COP28.</p> <p>Initial support has been provided to further define the scope of an activity to strengthen financing for rural forest areas (Output 1.2) through recommendations for action for the 'Cuenca Balsas' project, an initiative aimed at reducing climate vulnerability and emissions through sustainable livelihoods. It is a \$55 million project that began in 2022 and is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Support from UN-REDD will provide inputs to strengthen social banking, people's savings banks, or other institutions to strengthen the agricultural cores and forest producer organizations with which the project works, potentially scaling to a more general level with direct impact on REDD+.</p> <p>For safeguards (Output 1.5), support is being provided to review and provide feedback on an updated summary of information; capacity-building needs are being defined to develop integrated safeguards approaches; and regional and international exchanges are being planned on topics of interest for the CONAFOR safeguards team, including SIS improvements and integrated safeguards approaches.</p>
Myanmar	●	<p><u>Output 1: Safeguards - Output 1.3:</u> Safeguards guidance package in English and Myanmar language shared online and through a webinar "Testing safeguards approaches with mangrove communities in Myanmar" on 2 June, including presentations from Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN) and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) on experiences in the field (33 participants, 12 women). Feedback received from reviewers and stakeholders was integrated, including review by gender experts.</p> <p><u>Output 2: Mangrove Maps and Data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Output 2.1/2.2:</u> Mangrove extent and change map of Tanintharyi updated. New Mangrove extent and change maps of Rakhine for 2016 and 2021. Two webinars held: "Mapping for Mangrove Management, Conservation and Restoration" one focused on Community Forests (CF) and Permanent Forest Estate, another on mangrove extent mapping and classification – a total of 110 participants with 36 women. Training on Community mapping and mobile data collection (4 days) jointly organized by FAO, UNDP and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) – 27 participants. Basic QGIS Training (4 days) jointly organized by FAO, UNDP and CDE – 2 participants. • Two articles for web publication prepared on 'Mangroves field data analyses and 'Recommendations for a sub-national mangrove biome forest reference level'. One scientific article 'Mangrove biomass and carbon estimates for REDD+ from national forest inventory in two regions of Myanmar' submitted to International Forestry Review, currently under peer-review. • <u>Output 2.4:</u> A series of webinars (four in total, including the two on mangrove extent mentioned above) on mapping different aspects of mangrove cover, quality and ecosystem services, as well as restoration potential, held during March-April 2023.

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		<p>Total of 172 participants (60 women). Tutorials and instructions shared during the webinars on mapping change, classification, introduction to QGIS, InVEST coastal vulnerability model, etc. Consultant report on economic information related to Myanmar mangroves and testing of se.plan received and reviewed, with selected inputs added to a story map and a presentation made during webinar 3. Maps/analyses have been completed and an online Story Map drafted and shared with project team, partners and expert reviewers in May/June 2023. This is to be published in mid-2023.</p> <p><u>Output 3: Integrated Landuse and Forest Planning:</u> In the context of strengthening awareness and capacity of ethnic armed organizations (EAO), A manual: “Community Forest Management: a manual for the development of a community forest and its management planning” was finalized for the Karen National Union (KNU). A virtual training was organized with KNU personnel. Adopted from RECOFTC’s Community Forestry Participatory Assessment manual, in collaboration with CDE and University of Bern, completed the assessment and mapping of community forests in Myeik and Kyaukphyu districts. A validation workshop with local partners was organized to clean the data and finalize CF maps. A report with mapping and assessment methodology and findings will be published in the last quarter of the year.</p> <p><u>Output 4: Operational models of community-led management of land and forests.</u> As of June 2023, over 30 communities in Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi regions and Mon state finalized management plans and business plans for mangrove protection as well as mangrove friendly business development such as beekeeping, mud crab fattening, fish paste production and blood clam culture. Two manuals drafted: (a) Guidelines for Community Protected Area Management Plan Preparation, and (b) A Guide for Developing Business Plan for Community Forest (Mangroves) Enterprise received feedback from mangrove communities, practitioners, and experts in the field. Advanced versions were shared with the IWG in June 2023 for final comment.</p> <p><u>Knowledge Management:</u> a UN-Volunteer and communication specialist is on board with UNDP to support communication work. An advanced draft of a website for the initiative is ready along with ongoing work on ‘packaging’ Initiatives’ outputs.</p>
Nepal	●	<p>Government approval on the UN-REDD TA was obtained only in April 2023, enabling the UN-REDD agencies to enter into action , particularly focused on fulfilling the ART/TREES Registration Document (TRD) requirements around carbon accounting, safeguards, legal title to ER transfer, benefit sharing and conducting consultations.</p> <p>For carbon accounting, UN-REDD TA is coordinating on-going technical advice to the Forest Research Training Center (FRTC) of the government, on the generation of activity data by other partners, to ensure fit against the ART/TREES 2.0, and providing support to estimating emission factors based on existing data from the national forest inventory. A number of technical challenges have been identified, including the separation of plantations from natural forests.</p>

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		<p>For safeguards, support was provided on drafting of FPIC guidelines/protocol, a zero draft for the safeguards section of the TRD was prepared and a checklist for LEAF programme development against Nepal safeguard requirements has been prepared.</p> <p>Under the legal analysis for title to ER transfer and the development of a corresponding benefit sharing plan, the TA is analysing how the legal rationale for ER title transfer applied under the Carbon Fund may apply under the conditions of TREES 2.0. The ART requirement of agreements between rights holders and the transferer may be additional and would be particularly important in the case where activity data on private forest owners cannot be separated out from the public forests. A national consultancy is being offered to support the government's negotiation of its ERPA with Emergent.</p>
Papua New Guinea	●	<p>The UN-REDD TA supported the finalization of a detailed assessment of PNG eligibility under ART TREES 2.0 requirements, looking at carbon, safeguards and legal aspect, integrating Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) comments. Through the TA the country developed a skeleton version of the ART-TREES registration document. More in details:</p> <p>Regarding Carbon/MRV: 2nd half of 2023 work will commence to update land use and land use change assessment with data for 2020-2022, and update of emission factors integrating NFI data, leading to the ART-TREES registration and first monitoring report.</p> <p>Regarding Safeguards: An Info brief on 2nd SOI was prepared together with draft SIS-SOI ToR, and feedback was provided on CCDA's SIS-SOI matrix/outline and workplan.</p> <p>Regarding Legal Aspects: Legal feedback was provided to the CCDA in the context of the review process of the draft climate change carbon market regulation through technical inputs and an online meeting.</p>
Peru	●	<p>TA has focused on monitoring and safeguards aspects, contributing to progress on the ART-TREES Registration Document (Output 2.2), a zero draft of which has been developed with support of FAO and UNEP. Support has included the generation of information, data and estimation on deforestation and forest degradation for 2020-2021, through the hiring of a consultancy team to work with MINAM. The team has made significant progress in the interpretation of deforestation, which will inform the preparation of Peru's first REDD+ Technical Annex (Output 1.4).</p> <p>Support to MINAM's efforts to consolidate a nesting process in Peru are being provided, focused on ensuring REDD+ actions contribute to the NDC, while guaranteeing environmental integrity and promoting the role of private sector in forest carbon initiatives. Technical and legal backstopping and recommendations for the completion of the National Registry of Mitigation Measures (RENAMI) regulations and its implementation are being provided, including an in-depth assessment of ER ownership rights. There has also been support for consolidation of the national forest monitoring and GHG accounting system that allows MINAM to reconcile multiple scales of REDD+ implementation and ER monitoring and reporting and the achievement of Peru's NDC, under the umbrella of a strengthened national MRV system (Output 1.1).</p>

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		<p>UN-REDD has also supported MINAM to build capacities on safeguards, with a focus on completing safeguards assessment for the ART-TREES Registration Document (Output 1.5). Assessment of conformance with TREES safeguards indicators has been supported, and a guiding document on interpreting indicators and developing conformance plans developed.</p> <p>UN-REDD has supported MINAM in the review of the draft version of Peru’s Climate Finance Strategy (EFMCC), which focuses on financing the NDC implementation and the transition to net-zero in 2050 with key strategic areas focused on the land use and forest sectors. Consultancies are being designed by MINAM and UN-REDD to strengthen the REDD+ component and to lead the overall technical coordination and validation of the Strategy, and to support work on the voluntary carbon market (Output 2.2).</p>
Republic of the Congo		<p>The update of the OpenTenure tool is ongoing, as preparation for the training planned for the Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. The elaboration of the rationale and methodology for the assessment and analysis of REDD+ national strategy implementation status has been finalized through a consultative process. Planning of the deployment of the technical work has been established. Technical support has been provided for the development of the concept-note which has been submitted to LEAF, and for the adjustment of the document following the comments received from Emergent. Information has been shared with stakeholders through a webinar on the content of this concept note. The infobrief on the local communities and indigenous peoples' rights to access climate and REDD+ finance has been published and officially launched through a webinar (held on 16th June)</p>
Uganda		<p>The main progress in high-quality data for MRV outcome includes i) completion of training NFA RS officer on assessing emissions from forest degradation and sample-based area estimation; ii) Finalizing of the sample points that will undergo second visual interpretation. iii) Implementation of the multi-purpose response design in Collect Earth, and iv) presentation of the survey design and main interpretation rules to NFA.</p> <p>Uganda submitted a TREES concept note in January 2023 to claim for vintage emission reductions on the 2018-2022 period. UN-REDD supported review and provided inputs for the safeguards section of the document. Update of TREES Safeguards assessment is in the last stages of review, it will inform TREES registration document. The development of the plan of conformance for TREES outcome safeguards indicators is ongoing; it will inform the country’s SIS update.</p> <p>UN-REDD provided support to Ministry of Water and Env, via input from the Taskforce on the guidelines for Article 6: draft guidelines produced, and adoption planned for July 13 by the Ministry team, will be presented to Cabinet and then will go for endorsement by the Gov of Uganda. A two-week training was undertaken on the MRV tool and its application to AFOLU, including practical sessions for participants. Idea notes developed for water management zones including the Kyoga and Albertine water management zones as potential projects for REDD+.</p>

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Viet Nam	●	<p>As of June 2023, the UN-REDD TA for Viet Nam is progressing albeit with some delays. The TA for Viet Nam focuses on supporting the Department of Forestry (DOF) in its preparation of the ART/TREES Registration Document (TRD), particularly for carbon accounting, safeguards, legal title to transfer, and support to conducting national and sub-national level consultations.</p> <p>So far, the carbon accounting gaps have been largely filled, and is undergoing internal review. Work on safeguards aspects under the TRD is also progressing, with the involvement of the Institute for Policy and Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD). Legal and benefit sharing considerations are expected to largely echo the institutions applied under the Carbon Fund ERPD – but require further consultations with forest owners who, under ART/TREES need to enter into agreements to transfer ER title. The consultation plan is being drafted and envisages a campaign to be rolled out 2023 from national, provincial and local levels to inform, discuss and engage stakeholders in taking part in the LEAF jurisdictional program. Considering institutions such as for benefit sharing are not new – as they are applied also under the government’s Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services (PFES) program – major obstacles are not foreseen.</p> <p>In parallel, TA to support MoNRE in its NDC enhancement and assessing blended climate financing options such as Article 6 and emerging international market mechanisms are progressing according to schedule.</p>
Zambia	●	<p>The TA was officially kicked off on April 3rd, with Government counterparts, in which FAO and UNEP presented and discussed the planned activities. The in-country team has been reinforced with the recruitment of an UN-REDD (FAO) international technical advisor, based in Lusaka and with frequent travel to Northwestern province. National experts are being recruited.</p> <p>Assessment of Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) in Northwestern province (FAO led): Ongoing definition of methodology and field work (which is planned to start by mid-July). Assessment of Forest-Water relations (FAO led): Following exchanges with Zambia’s Meteorological Department (ZMD), data was obtained and is being used for modelling (through C.A.F.E tool). Assessment of Forest products value chains: Mapping (FAO led) completed (leading to the identification of ~90 Non-wood forest products-NWFP); Pre-selection of 15 NWFP through a consultation workshop completed; Selection process through field surveys ongoing, in collaboration with CIFOR; Ongoing definition of the Methodology for the assessment of the selected forest products. Assessment of rural finance (FAO led): First draft of the assessment being finalized (based data collected through a fiemission in December 2022). Meeting organized to clarify UN-REDD support on safeguards to the country (UNEP led).</p> <p>The draft TORs of the consultant who will support the elaboration of the country’s second Summary of Information have been produced and will be shared soon with Forestry Department for review. The consultant will be hired, once the budget is available (UNEP-led).</p>

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Lower Mekong	●	<p>Following the workplan with no-cost-extension granted until end of 2023, the first half of 2023 has been a period towards concluding the gist of country and regional activities.</p> <p>Under Outcome 1 on regional dialogues, the Lao-Viet Nam annual MoU conference was held physically in February for the first time since the COVID pandemic resulting in agreement to elevate the MoU to the ministerial level (expanding coverage to two forestry related departments in the respective countries). The Cambodia-Viet Nam bilateral cooperation dialogue took place in June 2023. During this dialogue, the two countries exchanged on timber traceability system development and validated their cooperation bound in a MoU, to be extended for the next five years. More broadly, a review was conducted on the effectiveness of such bilateral and multilateral forestry sector MoUs and agreements to enhance regional cooperation. Many of the bilateral MOUs existing or being planned for by forestry agencies in the region serve in part a diplomatic function to facilitate technical engagement, and while their effectiveness is not as clear in terms of impact, without them, technical cooperation could be hindered by having to go through more formal diplomatic channels. Trade agreements such as the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) under the EU FLEGT Action Plan were analysed to have higher technical impact, at the time of the analysis (but circumstances are changing, with the EU potentially refocusing on the new Forest Partnership agreements in countries which have not yet concluded their formal VPA negotiations.)</p> <p>The final draft of the report 'Timber & rubber finance in Greater Mekong Subregion - Financiers, policy environment, risk mitigation', providing an analysis of the main financial actors involved in timber and rubberwood value chains in the Lower-Mekong Region is under review. The design of a regional financial collaboration forum has been finalised (here) around three pillars (pillar 1 - sustainable risk management; pillar 2 - scaling up sustainable finance; pillar 3 - the brokerage platform) and scoping for additional investments into its operationalization is ongoing. A press conference and forestry exposure visit for regional journalists have been organised (media advisory, ecard, press release) on current state of illegal rosewood and forest trade in the Lower Mekong and China.</p> <p>Under Outcome 2, the efforts to link Mekong forest products to sustainable and legal markets in China was completed, with a survey of Chinese forest products buyers and their procurement trends, the forming of a network of interested buyers and suppliers of sustainable and legal wood products. The FSC Sustainable Tropical Timber Trade Information Hub was developed and is now online at: https://www.fsc-asiatradenetwork.org/. Over 100 operators have registered to the network, and the Hub will be continuously populated with information on supplies of certified materials from the region. National forest certification schemes also gained momentum. In Thailand, two new certification bodies were accredited and official guidance issued then piloted on group certification for smallholders. In Viet Nam, technical support is being extended to expand the scope of the country's forest certification system to non-timber forest products. Cambodia and Lao officially began the process of establishing new national certification systems; Cambodia's first PEFC CoC certificate is in the process of being awarded.</p>

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		<p>Incubation of small/medium enterprises (SMEs) and forest community groups in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam also continues to be supported for acceleration of sustainable forest business models. A total of 70 SMEs are being incubated.</p> <p>An overall focus throughout 2023 is the development of a solid theory of change and project, to link and expand the UN-REDD Lower Mekong efforts in the direction of deforestation-free commodities and jurisdictions. In this regard, through the engagement with CIAT, deforestation-risk commodities with feasible entry points for impacting change is being identified.</p> <p>Under Outcome 3 on data and monitoring, advances were made on Near Real Time Monitoring (NRTM) aimed to identify and support government agencies to intervene when deforestation occur. The FAO developed SEPAL NRTM tool was introduced to regional stakeholders, and is being adopted according to their unique needs and institutions. Cambodia for instance tested the SEPAL NRTM tool in four provinces. In Thailand, SEPAL's unique high temporal and spatial resolutions features are being integrated into its existing national monitoring system, which can trigger mobilization of law enforcement actions where needed. Further, a webinar (Session 3 of the UN-REDD SFT-LMR Webinar Series) on "Near real-time monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation" was held in May and a regional in-person learning event on the SEPAL based NRTM tool is being hosted at the end of June, convening relevant experts from all five Lower Mekong countries.</p> <p>Under the social and environmental data and monitoring, responding to the different country priorities and needs, in Myanmar where UN-REDD interventions are focused on community forestry, an impact monitoring framework for monitoring and evaluation of community forestry has been developed and tested. In Cambodia, mapping of ecosystem services against forest cover change was concluded, synergizing with the SEPAL NRTM testing by applying the same four pilot provinces. This information will contribute to Cambodia's SIS. In Lao PDR, a review of REDD+ benefit sharing was conducted to provide an analysis and options going forward. In Viet Nam, an overall review of the Viet Nam SIS has been initiated, completing the updates for a number of the REDD+ Safeguards so far (work to continue also under the UN-REDD TA for Viet Nam). In Thailand, the work is underway for refinement of SIS design, preparation of SIS operationalization plan, and development of interim safeguards webpage.</p>
ASEAN Social Forestry		<p>At the end of 2022 and start of 2023 work plans were developed in the three focus countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Indonesia) and activities started being delineated. In-country personnel and partnerships have been further reinforced in the three countries and with ASEAN secretariat.</p> <p>Under Output 1, an estimate of potential climate mitigation contributions resulting from existing social forestry interventions in each of the three pilot countries commenced, starting with undertaking assessment of the current state of social forestry models, and assessment of potential extent of implementing social forestry interventions in the target countries. Under Output 4 activities progressed to understand the landscape of successful social forestry NTFP and timber/timber products enterprises in Cambodia,</p>

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		<p>Indonesia and Laos PDR, and assessment of the commercial potential of social forestry models was initiated. Initial findings of the assessments under output 1 and 4 were presented in consultation workshops in the three countries.</p> <p>Updates on the initiative were provided to the ASEAN working group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), ASEAN working group on Forest and Climate Change (AWG-FCC) and 26th meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (26th ASOF) in order to ensure member states well aware of progress and linkages with member state priorities are sought.</p>
Africa UN-REDD - AFF Partnership		<p>Since the inception workshop held in February 2023 that launched the project, the main progress in the AFF project includes: i) the hiring of the full-time project Manager, ii) the agreement reached between the institutions involved (UN-REDD and AFF), iii) budget agreed and finalized, and clear outputs and outcomes to deliver by the end of the year. In summary, the project is ready for full implementation.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solution:</u> Delays to funds accessibility due to internal processes. This somehow delayed the full implementation of the project; however, the project implementation is expected to catch up with its planned milestones by the end of the year 2023.</p>
Output 4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation		<p>Public-facing and high-level advocacy campaign, to run from 2023-2025 has been developed. The implementation of most of the activities will commence in the second half of 2023. However, in June promotion of the campaigns' hashtag (#SaveForestsNow) begun on the UN-REDD Social Channels and a first story from Indonesia has been recorded.</p> <p>Globally, REDD+ knowledge and lessons related to high-integrity measuring, reporting and verification, social forestry, and delivering REDD+ climate finance were captured in multimedia stories, blogs and video interviews that were widely disseminated across social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram), newsletters, website and expert insights)</p> <p>Two issues of the REDD+ Resource (March & June) were produced and disseminated, as well as Thematic Round-up newsletters on sustainable forest trade and gender. Over 10,000 subscribers received knowledge and country-based lessons via the Resource and Round-up newsletters in the reporting period. Further improvements to the UN-REDD website have been implemented to increase engagement. For example, a digital version of the publication 'Communication Handbook to Combat Forest Crime in the Lower Mekong' has been published. A press conference and media junket on current state of illegal rosewood and forest trade in the Lower Mekong and China was held. Over 20 regional journalists participated in the event resulting in extensive media coverage on Bangkok post, Jijipress and the reporter.</p> <p>In February, UN-REDD released a Gender Round-Up to share gender progress, updates and resources to help partner countries and stakeholders in incorporating a gender approach into their REDD+ action as well as provide information on how a gender</p>

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		<p>approach is being integrated into UN-REDD Programme support. Then for International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March, UN-REDD launched a social media campaign, to help illustrate how it is supporting efforts to help breakdown barriers for women entrepreneurs and increase their access to finance and technology within REDD+ and the forest sector.</p> <p>In June, UN-REDD co-organized a side event with UNDP’s Climate Promise and Forest Declaration Platform at the UNFCCC SBSTA meetings in Bonn to serve as consultation on the NDC Guidance for the forest sector that is under development to be launched at New York Climate Week in September 2023. The event convened country representatives from Kenya, Ecuador, Dominica, Cambodia and elsewhere with Indigenous Peoples’ representatives from Latin America and Africa and served as an opportunity for the authors of the Guidance to gather perspectives and share initial findings with the knowledge product’s target audience.</p> <p>The first half of 2023 also committed significant time to planning knowledge management efforts around priority themes. Informal consultations took place with Indigenous Peoples representatives at UNPFII in New York in April and at Mesoamerican Climate Week in Panama in to inform the IP Climate Finance Capacity building process which will be rolled out by UN-REDD and the Forest Declaration Partnership over the second half of 2023 and through 2024.</p> <p>In addition, concept notes were developed collaboratively for UN-REDD knowledge exchanges focusing on different aspects of REDD+ finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costa Rica Exchange ○ Panama Exchange ○ AFF Exchange ○ AP Exchange ○ Cambodia-Kenya Exchange on Nesting. <p>Finalized the “comparative study on carbon rights in the context of jurisdictional REDD+: Case studies from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin-America” including feedbacks received from external and in-house colleagues. The scope being to strengthen countries ‘capacities to comply with ART-TREES and other carbon market-based and RBPs requirements, focusing on ERs titling and benefit-sharing aspects.</p> <p>The UN-REDD / Decade of Ecosystem Restoration joint campaign to protect and restore Rosewood in China has garnered significant mentions in the Chinese media; some 1,800 interactions on social media, and a reach of over 23 million.</p> <p>Produced the info-brief for Ivory Coast focusing on lessons learned, best practices and remaining challenges for ensuring IPLCs full and effective participation of REDD+ benefits.</p>

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		<p>Technical and logistic preparation of the webinar on lessons learned, best practices and challenges for ensuring IPLCs full and effective participation of REDD+ benefits organized identifying common challenges and recommendations (basing on the findings of Republic of Congo and Ivory Coast info-briefs) (Webinar date: 16 of July 2023).</p> <p>Technical partner, structure and organization of work undertaken to systematically compare policy coherence and public expenditure. Analytical framework on the level and composition of public expenditures in relation to the following objectives: halting deforestation and maintaining forests, restoring degraded lands and expanding agroforestry, and sustainably using forests and building green value chains developed.</p> <p>Progress were made strengthening partners relations for the “Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Commodities” (now renamed to Forests and Food Systems) Coalition the core-members (FAO, UNDP, WEF/TFA, WRI/FOLU), the UNFSS Coalition Hub including in the context of the UNFSS+2 stocktaking moment as well as with other relevant coalitions (e.g. the Agroecology Coalition), and with CIFOR as FACT Secretariat.</p> <p>Coalition webpage was prepared (and then launched) and enlarging partnership with Good Growth Partnership and with the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration impact programme (FOLUR).</p> <p>A needs assessment survey to assess country and private sector achievements and gaps/needs for deforestation-free commodity supply chains was developed and validated with coalition partners (and then launched in July – closing at the end of August). An LoA with BC3 to advance the analysis of changes in distribution of agricultural commodity production was drafted.</p>
<p>Output 4.2 Collective political and societal support to NbS</p>		<p>One additional constituency was engaged during the reporting period: Women’s groups. A webinar on Voluntary Carbon Market for Women’s & Gender-Focused Organizations was held on June 1, 2023, with a goal of helping to begin to address the large lack of women’s representation, voices and leadership across the emerging carbon market sector</p> <p>In March, to help in the efforts to fully mainstream gender within UN-REDD technical assistance, UN-REDD begun to support efforts to identify UN-REDD Gender Champions, that is, staff, leaders and decision makers involved in UN-REDD work, who can serve as role models committed to breaking down gender barriers and use their experience and role to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. To date, Gabriela Soto Nilo, who is the Head of Department of Climate Change & Environmental Services, National Forestry Corporation in Chile, has kindly and actively taken on the role of an UN-REDD Gender Champion.</p> <p>Recognizing gender gaps and women’s under-representation in the carbon market ecosystem and the positive impact a gender approach can bring to such work, the UN-REDD Programme has been providing support on gender mainstreaming in carbon</p>

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		<p>markets in 2023. To illustrate, on 1 June 2023, UN-REDD organized an ‘invitation only’ online knowledge exchange and capacity building event on voluntary carbon markets (VCM) with gender/women’s-focused organizations. With the goal of helping to begin to address the large lack of women’s representation, voices and leadership across the emerging carbon market sector, UN-REDD, in advance of the workshop, undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify organizations supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment who are also working on or wanted to learn more about the VCM ecosystem. In total, 32 people (31 women and 1 man) registered for the 2 hour event to learn about VCM as well as identify gender gaps and opportunities for mainstreaming gender in the VCM. Discussions and messaging of this event will inform the scope of an UN-REDD complementary workshop to take place in Quarter 3 of 2023 with actors from VCM governance structures, standards and integrity initiatives, amongst others.</p>
<p>Output 4.3. Digital cooperation and frontier technologies to accelerate and enhance Nbs</p>		<p>To promote additional knowledge sharing on how to address the gender gaps in the VCM, an online and open to public Community of Practice (CoP) on gender and VCM was also launched in June 2023. This CoP will allow CoP members to build on the discussions of the 1 June event, as well as let others, who were unable to attend, to also contribute to discussions.</p> <p>5 draft info briefs and a guidance document for internal use on block chain have been finalized together with Wageningen University (through an existing LOA). The documents entail e.g. governance and timber value chains.</p> <p>A country scoping mission to a pilot country is in preparation to test the concept of the use of block chain for their data storage and analysis.</p> <p>The adaptation monitoring desk study is finalized: report is ready and peer review paper in preparation and in-country work will start end of summer with Colombia and Uganda, on their request. Breakthrough in the indicators through the partnership with GCOS on the Adaptation Monitoring Team for FAO.</p>