

# UN-REDD Programme

## 2024 Semi-Annual Progress Update

### Introduction

The purpose of the following report is to provide the Executive Board of the UN-REDD Programme with a narrative update on implementation between 1 January and 30 June 2024. Overall, the Programme continues to demonstrate progress in providing technical assistance for REDD+ implementation, with most planned outputs on track to be delivered by the end of 2024. Where delays have occurred, the progress review below outlines the challenges and solutions that will ensure these activities are delivered as planned.

### 2024 Programme Overview

The following report provides an overview of progress by country, using a traffic light system. Green represents areas where all deliverables programmed for 2024 have been completed; blue indicates that the programme is on track according to the agreed work plan and that deliverables will be completed by the end of 2024; yellow indicates that delays have occurred; and red indicates that implementation has not yet started. In the case of a yellow or red outcome, further information is provided on the specific challenges causing the delay and the 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.

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
<b>Country Support: Realising, rewarding and enhancing forest solutions (UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework, Outcomes 1-3)</b>		
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is being provided to the National Sub-secretary of Climate Change and the National Direction of Forests to develop a National Working Group on Carbon Markets and Nesting Approaches, ensuring continued safeguards compliance with the Warsaw Framework.</li> <li>• In May 2024, UN-REDD presented to the new National Director of Forests, discussing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Nesting Approaches</u>: Considering initiatives like that of the Province of Misiones and other provinces' interest in advancing. The formation of a Nesting Working Group to build capacities, share experiences, and evaluate scenarios was agreed upon (DNB focal point: Dir. Octavio Pérez P.).</li> <li>○ <u>Safeguards Information System (SIS)</u>: Updating commitments to the UNFCCC regarding safeguards. While the importance is understood, the focal point within the government is yet to be identified. Coordination with the Climate Change Secretariat was suggested.</li> <li>○ <u>Technical Elements</u>: Linked to decoupling commodities from deforestation, due diligence, sustainable production, and related market-based regulations (including technical responses to EUDR and geospatial data).</li> <li>○ <u>Deforestation-Free Commodities (D-Free)</u>: Highlighted as a priority and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of Bioeconomy. The government is preparing a “Country Report” and is interested in aligning with the EU's criteria based on national forest monitoring and the Early Warning System for deforestation (SAT). Logging activity and Integrated Forest Management with Livestock (MBGI) are also relevant (DNB focal point: Julieta Bono).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Director noted limited capacity due to ongoing personnel structure reviews but expressed the intention to continue the previous REDD+ process, confirming the 2024 Work Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the change of administration in December 2023, the Ministry of Environment was downgraded to a sub-secretariat, resulting in a significant reduction in staff and budget. This makes it difficult to get a timely response from the government, although there is also interest on their part in obtaining external support. It was proposed to create a working group focused on carbon markets and nesting approaches in which subnational governments and potentially private actors can also be involved.</li> <li>• The institutional organization of the government is still undergoing changes since the change in government of December 2023, making it necessary to allow for flexibility in timeframes to deploy the technical assistance during the second half of the year.</li> </ul>
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the beginning of the year (Jan/Feb), an exploratory and planning mission was conducted in La Paz. This mission identified strategic priorities, non-regret actions, and proposed milestones for 2024 under</li> </ul>

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		<p>Technical Assistance. It also enhanced understanding of Bolivia's progress in developing a Roadmap for the Implementation of Bolivia's NDC in the forest sector. This effort, supported by the Conservation Society Fund (CSF) and commissioned by the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT), aims to consolidate a national policy and action plan to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD's Technical Assistance aims to build on and complement the sectoral NDC roadmap through various analyses that will inform a national forest and climate change strategy. These analyses include: estimating the total costs of implementing the strategy, analysing the opportunity costs and cost efficiency of policies and measures, providing legal analysis and recommendations to facilitate access to financing. Terms of reference for hiring a dedicated consultant have been prepared, and the recruitment process is underway (output 1.1).</li> <li>• Under the A4F, a TREES gap assessment completed in January identified areas for methodological improvements in constructing baselines and generating estimates for Pando and Charagua. Subsequently, technical discussions with Bolivia's MRV team have aimed to define a selected methodological approach for Activity Data (AD) improvements required to ensure TREES compliance. Bolivia has shared data and maps used in constructing its first Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) submitted to the UNFCCC, and scenarios are being analysed to refine this approach (output 2.2).</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both streams of work progressed slowly during the first semester of 2024. UN-REDD TA in the country resumed recently due to Bolivia's renewed interest in forest carbon financing through a LEAF proposal and subsequent funding from the UK. However, forest and climate governance remains fragmented, with historical political opposition to a REDD+ and/or forest carbon finance agenda hindering progress. This complex context necessitates strategic delivery of UN-REDD TA to secure an institutional home, ensuring the sustainability of support. A dedicated consultant will serve as a liaison with UN-REDD's counterparts and partners, including the UK's PACT initiative via UNDP Bolivia.</li> <li>• The definition of the selected scenario for methodological improvements to ensure TREES compliance has been slow due to the MRV team's capacity limitations and multiple changes in authorities within the Ministry of Environment and Water. Regular coordination with the UK, which began at the end of Q2 2024, has facilitated more fluent communication. Progress is expected to accelerate in the second half of 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>CAMBODIA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nested System piloting assignment's technical activities have been agreed upon with Conservation International (CI) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia, based on REDD+ Secretariat guidelines, and an international consultant will provide options for managing REDD+ revenues/incentives through Cambodia's Environmental and Social Fund, both starting in July. A comprehensive review has identified technical gaps in the Safeguard Information System (SIS) and REDD+ Registry. Utilizing a socially inclusive and gender-responsive approach, work on the SIS and 2nd Summary of Information will</li> </ul>

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		<p>begin in July, while efforts to establish the REDD+ Registry are ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-REDD is also supporting the analysis of the results for forest biomass assessments and the development of updated emission factors, which will be concluded in Q3, 2024. In response to a request from the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), the development of updated activity data for the period 2018 to 2024 and the development of Forest and Land cover data for the year 2024 has commenced, testing different approaches to improve the workflow and for the RGC to be able to prepare regular and consistent data.</li> <li>Activities for Cambodia Environment Management Information System's (CEMIS) track indicators and community-based protected area management were agreed upon in June, with final deliverables expected by December 2024. UN-REDD TA is supporting the development of climate-awareness REDD+ communication products in Khmer and generating visual materials for future knowledge products.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lingering delays have persisted since 2023 due to government transition, necessitating intense dialogue with the new administration in Ministry of Environment (MoE)/ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Despite UN-REDD actions and work plan revisions, the consultation and activity review process were time-consuming. Consequently, the decision-making about implementation was limited. In 2024, these challenges were adequately managed but continue to impact project timelines and implementation.</li> <li>The limited availability of qualified national REDD+ consultants, particularly for Khmer and English speakers familiar with the program, MoE/MAFF management, and rural realities, has caused delays. To address this, an extensive search for consultants has been conducted in Cambodia and neighbouring countries, including outreach to academic sectors potentially unaware of RGC/UN-REDD service requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>CHILE</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-REDD's TA has focused on conducting an array of technical, legal, and institutional analyses and gap assessments to facilitate Chile's access to various carbon finance opportunities, including those under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and through TREES. With UN-REDD's technical support, Chile aims to revamp its reference level and overall methodological approach for estimating Emission Reductions. This involves regular technical discussions, analysis of methodological approaches, and the development of scenarios for CONAF's consideration. These efforts are consistent with the country's forest monitoring and MRV-related information, processes, and systems, ultimately building institutional MRV capacities (output 1.4).</li> <li>Three consultancies are underway until the end of Q3, focusing on providing analyses to inform Chile's revised budget and financing plan for the ENCCRV. A legal consultant has been working closely with CONAF to thoroughly assess Chile's legal and institutional framework relevant to the implementation of</li> </ul>

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		<p>Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the forest sector and VCMs, preparing to provide recommendations and/or proposed institutional arrangements by Q3 2024 (output 2.2). The other two consultancies are focusing on financial and economic analyses to inform a proposed financing plan for the ENCCRV. To date, a series of discussions have been held with CONAF regarding domestic and international funding and costs under the ENCCRV, and a detailed budgeting exercise is underway (output 1.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is being provided to Chile in the development of a financing strategy under the National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). This strategy aims to define its scope and other critical aspects to strategically position Chile in climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resource management (Output: 3. 1). In terms of safeguards (output 1.5), the UN-REDD safeguards team is working with CONAF safeguards experts in updating a gap analysis and strengthening capacities on the ART-TREES safeguards requirements</li> </ul>
<b>COLOMBIA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The First Intercultural and Inter-Institutional Dialogue Roundtable, emphasizing rights and peace, was held in Villa Catalina, a key deforestation hotspot in Putumayo. This model intervention addressed complex issues such as land tenure conflicts, illicit crops, and illegal armed actors. Delegates from the Afro-Amazonian community and the Ministry of Environment (MinAmbiente) discussed a collaborative roadmap for forest governance, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.</li> <li>• Efforts included updating the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for 2023-2027, which was submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2024. Colombia resubmitted a revised FREL in May 2024 after evaluation by international experts. In parallel, technical assistance was provided to The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) for the development of the Technical Annex for REDD+, which will be part of the BTR. Additionally, technical support was given to IDEAM for the National Registry for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (RENARE) analysis and functional testing of the platform. This included identifying the number and type of incidents and transferring RENARE to MinAmbiente. The UN-REDD supported OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation was successfully implemented in the coffee supply chain, highlighting its utility and the need for widespread dissemination, including receiving request of support from key stakeholders (Federación nacional de cafeteros) which is currently being discussed depending on funding availability.</li> <li>• The safeguards team of the Climate Change Directorate of MinAmbiente has been strengthened, with a full-time safeguards specialist recruited to provide legal assistance in alignment with Colombia's NDC and national development plans. This work is focused on providing legal assistance on safeguards and regulations for safeguards, in alignment with Colombia's NDC and national development plans and priorities. This has also included analysis of potential conflicts related to carbon markets and other forest carbon finance options.</li> <li>• UN-REDD has also fostered collaboration among the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), MinAmbiente, and indigenous communities, particularly in REDD+ processes and</li> </ul>

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		<p>sustainability initiatives. UN-REDD also supports small coffee producers in meeting EU sustainability standards and integrates biodiversity considerations into Colombia's NDCs through various initiatives, emphasizing indigenous perspectives in environmental governance and sustainable development.</p>
<b>COSTA RICA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TA on validation and verification process has focused on responding to the first round of comments coming from Aster Global (the VVB) after the field visit for the validation and verification of the registration document (2017-2021) and monitoring document (2017-2019). Regarding the studies on soil organic carbon (COS) reserves to improve the REDD+ results, the technical and financial evaluation of the proposal of INISEFOR-UNA (Institute for Forestry Research and Services of the National University) has been carried out. The contracting process is expected to be finalized Q3 2024. A work plan will be submitted in September, including sampling points, field forms, quality assurance, and quality control procedures for the COS and biomass inventories. The final revised report with calculation memories, databases, and paper field forms is expected by Q2 2025. This process has included extensive consultations on the terms of reference with crucial actors such as the Ministry of Agriculture, FONAFIFO, National Institute for Innovation and Transfer of Agricultural and Livestock Technology, National Meteorological Institute (IMN), SINAC, ICAFE, FAO, Institute of Technology, Costa Rican soil science association, and the National University Institute of Forestry Research and Services.</li> <li>• Several technical meetings have been held with FONAFIFO and the IMN to define the scope of the national carbon registry considering the methodological challenge of various standards coexisting in the country (i.e., FCPF, ART/TREES) with different methodologies, and to ensure that there is no double counting. FONAFIFO and INM have reviewed a digital public good open-source platform to host the national carbon registry and have decided to use this platform for national-level reporting in all NDC sectors, including the forest sector. To this end, a national hiring process is ongoing for a consulting firm with expertise in these systems to adapt the existing information from the transparency registry (SINAMECC) to this national carbon registry platform.</li> <li>• Finally, a detailed analysis and feedback were provided to the REDD+ safeguards team on selected safeguards compliance indicators for their SIS update through a "Safeguards Lab" as part of the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity. A specific discussion focused on gender and social impacts took place. Initial planning for supporting updated reporting on co-benefits to the Carbon Fund has taken place.</li> </ul>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A technical reflection was conducted on the various options for future valorisation of the ER. This included considering the country's ER capacity, the national context, and the existing markets. It was concluded that an evaluation of the emission reductions for at least a more recent period (post- 2021) is necessary. This evaluation is planned for the second semester of 2024 and will inform the country's strategic decisions moving forward.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national legal consultant was recruited to support the SEP-REDD+ in two main tasks. Firstly, to establish the legal and institutional arrangements necessary for the functioning of the NFMS, and secondly to review the draft climate change law currently under formulation in the country. For the first task, the following products have been elaborated: a) a document summarizing the mandate and functions of relevant NFMS institutions; b) two set of questionnaires for the interviews with key stakeholders; and c) the draft outline of the legal analysis. As for the second task, provided two rounds of reviews focusing on the draft climate change law and related decrees establishing the institutional setting.</li> <li>• TA was provided to formulate a GEF-8 child project to mobilize additional resources (7.7M USD) for further work on deforestation-free cocoa production, linking with UN-REDD interventions. And TA is being provided for the finalization and validation of the carbon markets national registry. A validation workshop is scheduled for 22-25 July 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>DRC</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the business incubation programme (restoration factory) to support Smallholder Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to develop bankable projects contributing to emissions reduction was launched: with the contracting of Bridge for billions to provide the platform for the capacity-building support. Also, support was provided to FONAREDD-CAFI for implementing an innovative south-south cooperation investment program to enhance NDC implementation in the LULUCF sector.</li> <li>• A policy dialogue was conducted with senior officials on GCF-REDD+ RBPs to increase awareness and engagement in ongoing discussions. Arrangements are being made for a GCF REDD RBPs experience-sharing workshop between DRC, Indonesia, Brazil, Ecuador, and Costa Rica, scheduled for September 2-6, 2024, in Indonesia</li> <li>• A project document on carbon markets and NDC implementation was finalized and submitted for FONAREDD Secretariat approval. A meeting with the Ministry of Finance was held to explore innovative financing instruments for NDC implementation.</li> <li>• Several assessments were also conducted during the reporting period, including: (i) Analysis of national and sub-national benefit-sharing mechanisms identified the need to emphasize institutional and legal aspects for future design, (ii) NFMS institutionalization assessment highlighted issues like lack of coordination, budget needs, and capacity limitations affecting operability, (iii) ART_TREES MRV assessment in Tshuapa Province initiated a gap analysis, to be strengthened in Q3 and Q4 with the Ministry of Environment's support, aiming to aid ART-TREES registration. Initial findings show challenges in local technical and financial capacity and clarity in MRV institutionalization.</li> <li>• A technical brief on local communities' and indigenous peoples' rights and access to climate finance has been finalized and will be published soon.</li> <li>• The recruitment of the UN REDD Technical Advisor, based in DRC to support REDD+ coordination in the country is underway.</li> </ul>

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<b>ECUADOR</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD supported Ecuador in meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under ART/TREES for the 2017-2021 period, and for accessing financial resources through LEAF for emission reductions for 2022-2026. This included negotiating an Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with Emergent and facilitating exchanges with other countries to share lessons learned and perspectives. To fulfil TREES requirements and advance to the registration stage, UN-REDD provided critical technical assistance on aspects such as Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), safeguards, social inclusion, the development of Terms of Reference (TORs) for the verification process, and legal compliance, including benefit sharing. A significant challenge for Ecuador was the inclusion of carbon emissions from forest degradation, which Ecuador is still in an internal validation of the new data collected.</li> <li>• Ecuador's safeguards capacities were strengthened by aligning safeguards and legal specialist. Additionally, technical assistance was provided to refine safeguards information in their ART-TREES Registration Document. Further support has started to develop a Guide on Stakeholder Consultation and Safeguards for the Programa Ecuador Carbono Cero (PECC), a domestic offset mechanism to promote carbon neutrality for high-integrity multi-sectoral projects, including those in the forest sector.</li> <li>• Support was also extended to promote commercial agreements between local producers and national and international companies, generating the necessary capacities to comply with new global regulations and market trends, including organic, sustainable, social equity, and deforestation-free standards. Additionally, technical assistance helped the country design and deploy new credit lines for deforestation-free producers with public banks. This was coupled with developing a certification and traceability system to ensure that the production of essential commodities in the Amazon region complied with REDD+ objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 25% of the 1096 clusters are finalized (Somali, SW Ethiopia, South, Central and Sidama Regions completed), including for degradation measurement purposes. There is an ongoing assessment of accessibility due to security issues. This assessment is meant to gauge how many plots can be assumed to be safe to conduct fieldwork in. This will help in determining the need for alternative ways of supplementing the data in biomes that are sparsely covered. Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) has committed itself to increasing number of field teams from 5 to 8/9 for the remaining fieldwork to increase the speed of data collection. Additional fieldwork will continue in September, after the rains cease.</li> <li>• Training with Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda being planned for mid-October 2024. Workshops introduce Ethiopian team to next generation Open Foris tools like Arena and Arena Mobile. This workshop will be combined with training on calculating emissions from Activity Data (AD) and on Emission Factors (EF). The field teams who have been involved with the NFI data collection will be the target audience of this training.</li> <li>• Technical exchanges have been held between EFD country correspondents and REDD+ reporting</li> <li>• ART TREES training accomplished in Addis, including a 22 Regional and Federal level officers. Overall objective of the training was to build national capacity for generating reliable estimates of emission</li> </ul>

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		<p>reductions and removals associated with forests while ensuring adherence to the specific MRV and carbon accounting requirements outlined in the ART-TREES standard. The training was well received by the participants positive feedback provided on the relevance and impact of the training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical dialogue session was conducted May 14-17, 2024 in Rome with participation of Ethiopia and Norway in order to: take stock of progress and remaining tasks under the MRV II project, on which the UN-REDD TA leverage on to catalyse and boost broader REDD+ work, and how to optimize alignment with other MRV initiatives, ensure a clear and common understanding of remaining MRV work, including institutional arrangements and roles and responsibilities, clarify how Ethiopia is responding to the diverse requests it receives for participation in different carbon market mechanisms, and discuss opportunities for Ethiopia upon reaching results-based payments.</li> </ul>
<b>GHANA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Second Monitoring Report for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for 2020 and 2021 submitted early 2023 is under review by a Validation and Verification Body. Upon completion of the process in 2024, Ghana could receive Emission Reduction payments from the FCPF Carbon Fund for the reporting period spanning from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021.</li> <li>• Ghana submitted the first TREES Registration Document and Monitoring Report. The country's second summary of safeguards information was finalized and was submitted to the UNFCCC. Also, support has been provided to strengthen capacities on safeguards application through the national and provincial meetings, focused on discussing ART-TREES and LEAF safeguards requirements.</li> <li>• An Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement was signed with Emergent for USD 20 million TREES ERs @10 USD/tCO2 in December 2023 to channel private sector carbon market resources (referred to as 'proceeds') from LEAF in the context of the ERPA. The issuance of serialized TREES Credits to Ghana for the crediting period spanning from 2017 to 2021 was expected to occur by the end of 2024, but it is now expected to occur in the first months of 2025 due to delay in the issuance of the first round of findings by the Validation &amp; Verification Body that will most likely result in a revision of the audit plan. Agreements with stakeholders in the TREES area, a financial intermediary and a benefit sharing plan are required to channel proceeds from the ERPA to Ghana.</li> <li>• A benefit sharing plan is being developed in Ghana. The methodology was developed, reviewed in a national stakeholder's meeting and approved by the Forestry Commission in January. Thereafter in-depth discussions have been conducted in six localities in the TREES area (Kakum, Atewa, Juaboso-Bia, Winneba, Enchi and Tarkwa) and material collected for the draft benefit sharing plan and indicators for REDD+ actions. Stakeholders - from government, communities, NGOs and private sector - were mapped and consultations held on awareness of the ART/TREES and LEAF process, interests and roles of communities in the programme, experiences with the FCPF benefit sharing arrangements, and the environmental and social integrity needs. The process will continue in the Q3 with remaining additional consultations in identified localities with a view to the Benefit Sharing Plan for the TREES area finalised. Financial</li> </ul>

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		<p>Intermediary discussions with the Government have progressed well and the various requirements are being agreed to and put in place to enable UNDP to play this role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With respect to ownership rights to credits, the Forestry Commission will obtain ERR rights from customary landowners and more broadly from the beneficiaries of the ER Program, by signing Framework Agreements covering the interests of the relevant stakeholders contributing to emission reductions in the accounting area. These are entered into on a voluntary basis and based on free, prior and informed consent. Work has been underway to update and draft the new set framework agreements covering the additional five HIAs, clearly reflecting the local interests and rights related to ERs and/or allocation of benefits generated in the context of the LEAF ER program. Ghana’s Forestry Commission had invited UNDP to play the role of Financial Intermediary in August 2023. Progress with respect to the details of the arrangements have been made through several meetings and a mission to Ghana in May 2024. Some highlights include progress on agreements to proceed with a Financing agreement with Emergent; modality to disburse funds to Ghana through a performance-based payment agreement and a project document.</li> <li>• Under the AIM4Forests programme, Ghana has been receiving support on a nesting approach in the TREES area to achieve the desired level of alignment in the accounting of ER reductions and removals.</li> <li>• The country’s second summary of safeguards information was finalized and has been submitted to the UNFCCC. Also, support has been provided to strengthen capacities on safeguards application through the development of national and provincial meetings, focused on discussing about ART-TREES and LEAF safeguards requirements.</li> <li>• Following acceptance of the TRD and TMR by the ART Secretariat in January, technical support has been provided to the Ghana Forestry Commission to aid in the ART-TREES Validation/Verification process. However, this support has not yet included responses and inputs to comments from the ART Secretariat due to the Validation/Verification Body’s delay in issuing the first round of findings.</li> <li>• The Monte Carlo workshop was postponed due to the overlap with the EUDR Ghana cocoa workshop in Aburi. The Ghana Forestry Commission has accepted the new proposed dates for the last week of October 2024, and it has been agreed that the workshop will be conducted in collaboration with USFS.</li> <li>• UN-REDD and the Ghana Forestry Commission are currently working on the cost estimate for the proposed NFI design. Carbon stock measurements in dry forests represent an MRV gap for carbon accounting, and Ghana would greatly benefit from a National Forest Inventory (NFI) to accurately capture the current carbon stocks with statistical representation at the national level.</li> <li>• UN-REDD also supported Ghana in preparing a brief analysis of the country’s landscape concerning ownership rights to ERRs and the proposed procedure to avoid double issuance of carbon credits. In the context of the FCPF/ART-TREES, the framework agreements to be signed within the HIA with the representatives of the beneficiaries legitimize the transfer of ER title by the Government to a third party. An assessment will soon be undertaken to better understand their level of implementation, and if sub-</li> </ul>

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		<p>arrangements with the different sub-set of beneficiaries need to be improved and has effectively been endorsed by target stakeholders engaged in ERs activities. ToRs will also be developed in order to undertake a review of relevant instruments/NFMS mandates and propose ad-hoc arrangements to foster the institutionalization of the NFMS.</p>
<b>INDONESIA</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made of a validated spatial groundwater level (GWL) model utilizing soil moisture mapping from remote sensing and field data in peatlands and improving national peatland restoration monitoring systems. Critical data and analysis on MRV for peatlands generated, including in support to GOI efforts on financing arrangements for scaled up REDD+ actions in peatlands restoration, management, conservation and green economy.</li> <li>• <a href="#">A discussion paper</a> on Indonesia's potential leveraging RBPs from private sector that has been used to support the government on internal clarification and discussion. Critical components of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) prepared and agreed with the government to enable payments from the private sector to support jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives. The first investor dialog held to gather private sector investment supporting the Climate Resilience Fund (CRF). Coordinated support with IEF, Ministry of Finance, World Bank and GGGI on IEF's institutional strengthening which includes GCF Direct Access Entity accreditation.</li> <li>• In Riau Province, the governor has approved and signed a decree (Kpts. 292/III/20024), a REDD+ team established and capacity building on REDD+ RBPs delivered to the Riau Province government. Progress on safeguards, including a workshop with 134 participants, SIS REDD+ information gap analysis of the draft SIS submission prepared, and a provincial safeguards team has been established.</li> </ul>
<b>KENYA</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD supported Kenya with respect to an update of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 2016. This Act represents a significant legislative framework for the governance of forest resources in Kenya and aims at effecting Article 69 of the Constitution to provide for the development and sustainable management of forests, including conservation and rational utilization of all forest resources for the socioeconomic development of the country and for related purposes. The need for this was identified by the government to address emerging areas and existing gaps in the forest sector. This work is a next step to reflecting the updated policy areas in the updated National Forest Policy. It is expected that issues such as forest financing, NDC implementation and carbon markets will be considered. Currently a consultancy firm is undertaking the work and an inception process begun. Together with Conservation International who are covering the costs of stakeholder consultations required for this work, the Government will consider the updated Bill by the end of 2024.</li> <li>• Discussions have been ongoing on the continued support on NDC implementation and financing instruments through carbon markets. Scoping sessions have been held on the feasibility of a sub-County Bond in the land and forest sector.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support is on monitoring activities utilize the Standard Operating Procedures is ongoing. Further, there is a concurrent effort to enhance these tools to align them with the best practices associated with the analysis of forest cover changes and area estimation. Simultaneously, UN-REDD is facilitating updates to the annex material linked to sections 10 and 11 of the TREES Registration documents. New data ERR data is now available for 2021 from the Carbon Calculation Database facilitated by the data collected as part of another activity within this program. Work continues to support the TREES monitoring and registration documents, though Kenya's concept note submission to TREES is still pending.</li> </ul>
<b>LAOS</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A preliminary study to estimate potential for RBPs under ART/TREES standard was conducted with results indicating one of three regions as having potential. However, further deliberation is needed, considering the interest within the government for voluntary forest carbon projects, as well as issues on required capacity to operationalize a jurisdictional REDD+ program. On the other hand, Lao PDR conducted an exchange visit to Viet Nam to learn about the PES for forest ecosystems, as a means to sustainable domestic climate finance which can in turn facilitate the implementation of REDD. Regarding REDD+ safeguards, progress has been made related to SIS, update of the PCI, setting up of technical working group meetings, and a rapid review of safeguards information against three standards presented.</li> <li>The results of the completed rapid review of Lao PDR's safeguards information against three standards and current safeguards "principles, criteria and indicators", as well as the review of benefit sharing plans conducted in 2023, were presented to key government stakeholders in March 2024. A safeguards workplan was also agreed and national consultant recruited to work with DOF on strengthening safeguards/SIS capacities,</li> <li>A first meeting/workshop of the Safeguards Technical Working Group is currently being organised, and the WG members have been identified; and work has begun on the full review/update of the PC</li> </ul>
<b>MEXICO</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-REDD provided technical support to CONAFOR, proposing a framework to optimize the national grid's sample allocation. This aims to better understand deforestation in Mexico and reduce the grid's sample size by integrating national forest inventory data. The national forest monitoring system of Mexico implements a national grid of approximately 98,145 sample units. This grid is used to sample-based area estimations for activity data computations in the forestry sector. The data have been processed, with results to be analysed in the second half of 2024. Additionally, preparations are underway for an exchange of experiences in community monitoring as part of the Network of NFIs.</li> <li>The draft of the Second Summary of Safeguards Information has been reviewed and strengthened, to be submitted to the UNFCCC later this year. CONAFOR's capacities were also strengthened through their participation in the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity, which focused on experiences, guidance and best practices for updating summaries of safeguards information.</li> <li>UN-REDD provided continuous advice to CONAFOR on GCF Board's progress for the second phase of</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<p>REDD+ Results-Based Payment window and prepared projections to access this potential funding. UN-REDD Programme continues to support CONAFOR and SEMARNAT in climate finance, including innovative financial mechanisms. Experience-sharing on deforestation-free production actions, including traceability systems, has been facilitated. This support will be reinforced in the second half of 2024</p>
<b>MYANMAR (Mangrove)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Myanmar Mangroves TA continued operating in the country under a NCE granted until June 2024. Continued support to Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) was ensured under an additional LoA with MERN (Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network) with focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assisting selected CFUGs in the Delta region towards establishing Community Forest-based Enterprises (CFEs) and reinforcing their business capacity.</li> <li>○ Providing material, support and training as per their respective CFE plans, with a focus on crab fattening in Community Forest.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Data collection and analysis at Community Forest level allowed the development of new estimates for Emission Factors in Mangroves biome. Moreover, an impact/needs assessment of CFUGs was conducted in 8 villages (Pyapon Township). Additional support was provided to Mangrove communities in Tanintharyi region by procuring material (e.g. fishing gear) to encourage mangrove friendly livelihood development.</li> <li>• An independent Terminal Evaluation provided an overall evaluation of the initiative including conclusions and recommendations for the way forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The TA succeeded (beyond expectations) in delivering on the stated objectives, also thanks to adaptive management in line with country situations and restrictions.</li> <li>○ The political fragility and conflict context leads to an increased rate of natural depletion thus calling for conflict-sensitive natural resources management financial support.</li> <li>○ Field visits and community interviews revealed that while communities benefited from training and livelihood support, continued support is essential to sustain the TA's impacts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>NEPAL</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nepal's TREES registration document (TRD) for ART is drafted and undergoing a final review before submission. A draft benefit sharing plan and draft grievance redress mechanism have been drafted for the Nepal LEAF ER Program. Consultations for the LEAF ER Program are being supported throughout the accounting area (on-going).</li> <li>• The review of the National REDD+ Strategy is ongoing and expected to be finalized to trigger the update for a new strategy.</li> <li>• On REDD+ safeguards support, in addition to ensuring strong safeguards inclusion to all the above, a first draft Summary of Information (SOI) has been delivered and progress is made on Nepal's SIS</li> <li>• Final draft guidance for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for REDD+ activities has been prepared and is now in the government approval process. FPIC consultations are also underway, with a round held in June 2024, facilitated by RECOFTC.</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft benefit sharing plan for the LEAF jurisdiction has been prepared, feeding into consultations, and a draft document on Nepal's GRM channels and how they are accessed has also been prepared.</li> <li>• The final draft TREES registration document has been prepared and submitted to the Nepal government (REDD IC) for their review and official processing</li> <li>• Nepal's second draft SOI has been drafted and is currently undergoing internal review, with a consultation process planned for mid-2024.</li> <li>• A review of Nepal's previous NRS (2018) has been conducted, including safeguards elements, involving desk review and consultations, with a final report submitted. An update of the NRS is now being planned.</li> <li>• A concept note has been prepared for the strengthening and update of Nepal's SIS, including training for DFOs and other key data providers planned for Q3 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>PERU</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peru received support to refine its safeguards information and emissions from deforestation and forest degradation estimates in the ART-TREES registration documents. Emissions estimates are going through the quality control phase, so an action plan to finish the Registration document along with the Monitoring Report was developed along with the Peruvian Ministry of the Environment (MINAM). This included strengthening the summaries of safeguards information to be submitted to the UNFCCC later this year. In addition, UN-REDD has strengthened safeguards capacity within the Peruvian Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) by hiring local safeguards and legal. A major achievement during this period has been the development of a legal analysis and proposal for guidelines for the Safeguards Information System (SIS), known as the REDD+ Safeguards Information Module (MIS). These technical and regulatory proposals are currently under review by the Director of Climate Change and reflect Peru's commitment to maintaining robust environmental governance and compliance with international safeguards standards. This sustained support and capacity building ensures that Peru is well positioned to participate effectively in global REDD+ mechanisms and contribute to its national climate change goals. A South-South exchange on “Experiences and progress regarding the implementation of market regulations on deforestation” was undertaken, as requested by the Peruvian Government.</li> <li>• UN-REDD also supported MINAM in the refinement of its National Strategy to Finance Climate Change Mitigation Measures, which is a central piece of the country’s strategy to fund and implement the NDC. Support was provided directly to MINAM, focusing on the coordination of technical inputs from different stakeholders and the preparation of the Strategy’s consultative process. Furthermore, UN-REDD and MINAM, together with Climate Focus, prepared a funding proposal for the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity (VCMI) Initiative to develop options to spur demand for high-integrity carbon markets as part of the Initiative’s access strategies. If approved, developing this Strategy and anchoring it in the broader climate finance landscape will be part of the work plan in 2024 and beyond.</li> </ul>
<b>PNG</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support was provided on nesting and REDD+ RBP/Finance opportunities in line with the national context.</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<p>Progress is made towards ART-TREES registration, with a plan to submit the ART-TREES registration document (TRD) and first monitoring report by the end of 2024, with UN-REDD providing overall guidance, and support on safeguards and MRV. Discussions with LEAF are ongoing, and MoU with Emergent was extended in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing support is provided to update the Land use and land use change assessment for 2020-2023, and the development of ART TREES compliant Emission Factors using existing data. The land use change assessment update will be completed in Q3, 2024.</li> <li>• The second Summary of Information on Safeguards is being finalized and updates to SIS platform underway, with training on SIS operations and data entry planned for July 2024.</li> <li>• The four key REDD+ development and safeguards guidelines developed by CCDA (with inputs from UN-REDD last year) are now available online (<a href="https://pngreddplus.org/document-library/">https://pngreddplus.org/document-library/</a>).</li> <li>• A series of safeguards related meetings and consultations have begun with UN-REDD support, including bilateral discussions with key partners/stakeholders (June 2024), a meeting of the Safeguards Technical Working Committee (TWC) planned for July 2024, and SIS training (also planned for July 2024).</li> <li>• CCDA has prepared a first draft of the country's second summary of safeguards information, with input and review from UN-REDD; consultations will take place over the next few months.</li> <li>• A review of PNG's SIS indicators is ongoing, including identification of means of verification and data sources, feeding into the upcoming SIS training</li> <li>• A first draft of the TREES registration document (TRD) has been prepared; a national consultant is also being recruited to support data collection and finalisation of the TRD safeguards sections. at the national level significantly, the first nesting approach will be subtraction leaving sufficient vintages under ART-TREES/LEAF.</li> </ul>
<b>REP. OF CONGO</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for national Free, Prior, informed Consent (FPIC) guideline document: technical inputs were provided to the document and UN_REDD participated in the strengthening of it through technical exchanges.</li> <li>• Assessment of the National Strategy and REDD+ Investment Plan: The assessment has been finalized, producing key recommendation for the main stakeholders involved in the implementation of the REDD+ in Congo. Key findings include the necessary operationalization of the REDD+ national coordination, the acceleration of the implementation of REDD+ projects and programs to meet performance indicators outlined in the investment plan and initiating the first result-based payments to restore the confidence of potential beneficiaries.</li> <li>• The preparatory phase for identifying safeguards for ART-TREES requirements has been launched with the government: the planning for the design of the document has been completed and the next steps have been identified.</li> <li>• The terms of reference for the following activities have been developed: legal carbon rights and market</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<p>analysis, and the capacity building on greenhouse gases inventory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The focus of the UN-REDD support to RoC during the reporting period is on developing the country's first Summary of Information on Safeguards. The process for hiring consultant(s) to support this work will be finalized in the next couple of weeks, with guidance and recommendations of potential candidates received from the country counterpart in early July.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda continues to receive UN-REDD Programme support to enhance its capacity for accessing REDD+ results-based finance. This includes updating the analysis of ART-TREES safeguards to meet international standards through thorough data collection to identify and address gaps. The focus has been on thorough data collection to identify existing gaps and ensure full compliance with TREES safeguards assessments.</li> <li>Significant progress has been made in preparing ART-TREES registration documents and initial monitoring reports. Although the documents have not yet been submitted to the ART Secretariat, ongoing efforts are progressing well and are on track towards meeting international REDD+ standards and securing sustainable forestry financing.</li> <li>Moreover, technical support was provided for generating a new set of activity data (deforestation, forest degradation, forest enhancement) for the period 2013 to 2022 at the national level. All methodologies, interpretation keys, quality control processes, fieldwork, and challenges, among other aspects, are being thoroughly documented. Preliminary results were presented and discussed with representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment, based on which, various strategies for obtaining results-based payments and climate finance have been discussed. Training was also provided to the National Team to understand TREES requirements in terms of plantations, natural and commercial forests.</li> <li>A consultant is being recruited to support the Government on REDD+ implementation including provision of support in the REDD+ Secretariat, preparation of a forest programme building on work done in the Kyoga and Albertine Rift, and engagement with partners and potential financiers to contribute to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets. The consultant will also support stock take of Uganda's NDC in the AFOLU sector and contribution to the overall process of NDC review. The consultant will engage through the REDD+ Secretariat, on the framework that Uganda is setting up for carbon markets and seek to propose elements to Uganda's engagement in carbon markets for high integrity in the AFOLU sector, building on the new regulations that Uganda has developed.</li> <li>Uganda has received technical support for generating a new set of activity data (deforestation, forest degradation, afforestation) for the period 2013 to 2022 at the national level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All methodologies, interpretation keys, quality control processes, fieldwork, and challenges, among other aspects, are being thoroughly documented.</li> <li>The national team was trained to understand TREES requirements in terms of Plantations, natural and commercial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preliminary results were presented and discussed with representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment.</li> <li>○ Based on these preliminary results, various strategies for obtaining results-based payments and climate finance have been discussed.</li> </ul>
<b>VIETNAM</b>	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration document and TMR complete and accepted by ART Secretariat</li> <li>• Second SOI drafted, with provincial and national stakeholder consultations held in January and March 2024, respectively, and shared with REDD+ Network for comments</li> <li>• Safeguards guidance being prepared for LEAF provinces, with 2 regional introductory workshops held in January 2024</li> <li>• First round of updates to SIS undertaken in during 2022-2023; further updates pending finalization of SOI and decision on final SIS institutional arrangements.</li> <li>• A policy dialogue with 53 participants representing key government ministries, research, development partners, donor agencies was held on REDD+ financial resources and opportunities. The recommendations are informing the draft policy paper on accessing RBF.</li> <li>• Finalized TORs for Consultant teams to develop legal regulations on transfer of emission reduction results and benefit sharing plan of the ERPA to implement the LEAF program in the South Central and Central Highland.</li> <li>• Lao PDR – Viet Nam PFES (Payment for Forest Environmental Services) exchange event to Viet Nam, organized 27-31 May 2024</li> <li>• Finalized TORs for Consultant teams to review and update the National REDD+ Action Program (including an option to integrate into national forestry strategy). Recruitment for these consultant positions is about to begin.</li> <li>• Organized a MRV - Training to expand the knowledge base on use of R for statistical analysis for conducting carbon accounting uncertainty assessments, with FIPI staff in Hanoi in January 2024</li> <li>• Work in progress with Mekong River Land Governance (MRLG) to prepare for a Regional Learning Exchange about the Social Integrity of REDD+ and Forest Carbon Investments in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. In preparation for that, a national-level workshops with government officials and experts will be organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam to review the current status of the social risks related to carbon investments and policy needs.</li> <li>• The Vietnam TREES registration document for their LEAF jurisdiction was submitted at the end of 2023, and initial comments from ART Secretariat addressed in early 2024.</li> <li>• The country's second SOI has been drafted, and consultations held, including a national workshop in March 2024; the final draft has been shared with the Dept of Forestry for comment in June 2024.</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following on from provincial capacity building sessions in LEAF provinces on safeguards in late 2023, an annotated outline for a safeguards guidance package has been prepared and shared with DOF for comments, with further development and capacity building planned for 2024.</li> <li>• A meeting was held with DOF in June 2024 to discuss next steps for the SIS, among other issues, and a set of data requests have been prepared to collect information for the update of Vietnam's SIS; updates will be collected and implemented later in 2024.</li> <li>• Support was provided to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guideline development for mangroves, and measuring carbon stock of mangroves in 26 coastal provinces and developing database, in order to support inclusion of mangrove forests in subsequent NDC reviews</li> <li>• Support on assessing the requirements and recommendations for the implementation of Paris Agreement Article 6 was completed, and a national workshop on Carbon mechanisms was organized</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ZAMBIA</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of the country's second summary of safeguards information has started. A meeting of the National Safeguards Technical Working Group is planned for July. Discussions have started on needs for strengthening the Safeguards Information System.</li> <li>• The planned assessments in the North-Western Province to develop a jurisdictional REDD+ program at the sub-national level are progressing as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessment of Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs): the geospatial assessment is finalised and will be discussed with District Forestry officers in Zambia, before publishing the assessment report.</li> <li>○ A study of forest carbon markets and local communities is being designed, which will complement the CFMG assessment.</li> <li>○ Assessment of forest-water-climate nexus; Tier 2. Field work undertaken in June 2024 in collaboration with the University of Zambia and the University of Valencia.</li> <li>○ Selection and assessments of forest value chains to develop alternative livelihoods that increase the value of standing forests: The finalization of this assessments has been delayed due to the need to better understand local/national/international market channels of the selected forest value chains, which follow quite informal paths. Additional field surveys will be undertaken in July/August in Northwestern province.</li> <li>○ Assessments of rural finance: Publication in progress, waiting for the assessment of the forest value chains to be fully completed.</li> <li>○ Forest-climate business case; activities will be initiated upon finalisation of the assessment of forest value chains.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ASEAN SOCIAL</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiative finalized a draft capacity development needs assessment (CDNA) for SF monitoring in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Lao PDR. The CDNA will serve as the basis for the capacity development program</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
<b>FORESTRY</b>		<p>in 2024-2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further discussions were held with government agencies in Cambodia and Lao PDR regarding methods, challenges, and opportunities for SF mitigation assessment in their respective countries to support integration in the 2025 NDC.</li> <li>• Activities focused on mapping the key market intermediaries and analysing selected SF timber and NTFP value chains to select the value chains in each country that exhibit the right characteristics for further commercial development. An analysis of the non-financial determinants of success that predict an enterprise's ability to implement its business and bring it to scale has subsequently been conducted for selected value chains. Additionally, land suitability maps for the production of SF products in high-potential timber value chains were developed. The next steps will involve providing a systematic approach towards identifying potential investment sources, assessing investment needs, developing tailored financial products, facilitating financial transactions, and creating a financing blueprint to guide future financing efforts in the field of SF.</li> <li>• In response to a request from the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the initiative worked to develop a concept note to support ASEAN member states in quantifying benefits and operationalizing Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Approaches in the context of forestry, including SF. This concept note was reviewed and approved by the ASEAN Working Groups on Forests and Climate Change (AWG-FCC), Social Forestry (AWG-SF), and ASEC.</li> <li>• An initiative coordination workshop was held with the participation of UN-REDD, AWG-SF, AWG-FCC, and other partners, including SDC. The participation of AWGs was appreciated, particularly regarding how the initiative will support the monitoring of SF and its integration into NDCs. Direct results from the workshop included a request to provide additional support to the respective AWGs in the implementation of current and the development of new Plans of Action.</li> </ul>
<b>UN-REDD &amp; AFF PARTNERSHIP</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD organized Africa Knowledge Exchange on strengthening REDD+ implementation and Learning Lab on Social Inclusion from 3-6 June 2024. The event was a dual initiative organized by UN-REDD in partnership with the African Forest Forum (AFF) and the Nangui Abrogoua University in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The first part of the event was a Regional Knowledge Exchange on achievements and lessons learned from selected African REDD+ countries. The second part of the event was a Learning Lab on Strengthening Social Inclusion in REDD+ Implementation in Africa. The Learning Lab featured training sessions to enhance the capacity and knowledge of participants to establish social and environmental measures in countries implementing REDD+. Experts in the field of social inclusion and benefit sharing led training sessions and provided practical insights for designing effective strategies. With 21 African government officials and practitioners (28 men, 2 women and 1 other) the objectives of 1) in attendance the lab centred on improving understanding on the importance of social inclusion in REDD+, 2) building capacity on gender mainstreaming in REDD+ and REDD+ governance and benefit sharing systems; and 3)</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		exchanging best practices and lessons learned in integrating social inclusion and gender approaches into REDD+ national and jurisdictional programmes.
<b>AIM4F</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AIM4Forests works towards the following thematic priorities: information on forests for better resource management, MRV for mitigation results, forest data for tracking progress in ecosystem restoration, and data for deforestation-free commodities</li> <li>• Technical assistance is provided to 11 countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, DRC, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Viet Nam, Zambia. The planning and delivery of the country support is done in full coordination with the TA of the respective countries (where overlapping) - through the country focal point, so for the TA and AIM4forests activities to be implemented in a harmonious manner and to leverage one on each other.</li> <li>• Highlights in the reporting period include: support to the International Day Forests, development of tools for managing data for deforestation-free commodity production (Whisp and OF Ground), progress in implementing country pilots for using the ecosystem restoration resource: Burkina Faso, Viet Nam, Peru, Kenya with Colombia and Brazil to start soon</li> </ul>
<b>ACADEMY 3.0</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The REDD+ Academy Howspace platform continued to significantly engage government stakeholders, recording a total of 829 participants, with notable participation from the African region, especially Kenya, Ethiopia, and Cameroon, and a total of 3,694 visits. April saw the highest activity, largely due to the engaging webinars hosted by the Africa CoP (UN-REDD and African Forest Forum). The platform now offers a variety of resources including 81 PDFs, 30 videos, and 12 chat interactions. Learning Lab PDFs garnered the most pageviews at 3,290, while the videos achieved a view rate of 55.24%. The demographic breakdown indicates strong representation from governments (163), academia (142), and international organizations (133).</li> </ul>
Knowledge management results (Outcome 4)		
<b>Output 4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two key publications, complemented by knowledge sharing events, have contributed to advancing the understanding of carbon markets, nesting, and standards, addressing key issues such as safeguards, carbon rights, land tenure, gender, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.</li> <li>• The publications, "Raising ambition, accelerating action: Towards enhanced NDCs for forests" and "Achieving a breakthrough for REDD+" provided insights on bridging NDC ambition gaps and presented innovative REDD+ financing solutions. Launched during the Bonn Climate talks, the NDC report encouraged countries to address these gaps and include more ambitious and implementable forest-based targets in NDC. The finance paper suggested financing models to stabilize supply and demand for forest carbon credits, ensuring market predictability and attracting investment.</li> <li>• A series of knowledge-sharing events complementing these publications were conducted. A March webinar</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<p>for Asia-Pacific advanced country-roadmaps for accessing RBFs. Participants from Lao PDR and Nepal described how integrating carbon markets with NDCs could address emissions and financing shortfalls. In April in New York, a knowledge exchange for Indigenous Peoples and local communities looked into the implications of carbon markets to their rights and especially in their role as stewards of forests. The first Ghana National Policy Dialogue on REDD+ in May 2024 led to recommendations that could boost public forestry funding and sustainable management. A learning lab in Cote d'Ivoire focused on equitable benefit-sharing on REDD+ and ensuring social inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Amazonian states, workshops in Acre and Para on climate finance and nesting enhanced accounting compatibility and the integrity of emissions reductions through a workshop that compared Acre's Carbon Standard with the IC-VCM Core Carbon Principles, as well as MRV training in Para. These efforts resulted in a nesting guide for Para and a strategic roadmap for Acre, and also facilitating knowledge exchange between Acre and Peru.</li> <li>• Efforts are currently underway to draft the case study publication on "LAC Good Practices in Integrating Gender into REDD+" being developed under the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform. This publication will document a wide array of country case studies that illustrate how REDD+ action within LAC countries have achieved a range of gender achievements, including in relation to RBPs. Current participating countries in the publication include Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. It is envisioned that the publication will be finalized by October 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Solutions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept note and work plan for the 2 planned Infobriefs on gender and VCM were developed in Quarter 1 and 2. In the meantime, the UK's WOW Programme also developed a guidance document of similar scope, which was fully drafted in Q2. (This guidance document was reviewed by the UN-REDD Gender Team.) Discussions are currently underway with the authors of this guidance document, to see how UN-REDD's new knowledge on gender and VCM can complement versus duplicate this work. As such, the scope of the Infobriefs will be revised accordingly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 4.2 Collective political and societal support to NbS</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One new campaign 'Future of Forests' was introduced while ongoing advocacy campaigns 'Forest Dialogues' and 'Save the Forests' gained further traction.</li> <li>• The new 'Future of Forests' campaign includes a series of stakeholder interviews focusing on the significance and future of forests. Notably, the Vice Minister of Brazil's Ministry of Environment discussed the importance of preserving the Amazon, and a Colombian youth activist highlighted forests' critical role for future generations.</li> <li>• During UNEA-6, the 'Forest Dialogues' pushed for enhanced forest commitments in NDCs, improved carbon market integrity, and better integration of forests into broader environmental strategies. A key event was an informal meeting with delegates from Indonesia, Nepal, Kenya, DRC, and Ecuador, discussing strategies</li> </ul>

	STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS
		<p>to halt deforestation by 2030. Indonesia emphasized its NETFOLU sink strategy and the importance of mangroves, advocating for higher carbon pricing. Nepal suggested a carbon price floor of USD 50 per ton to make forest conservation economically viable, while other Nepal, DRC, and Kenya shared their challenges and strategies (for example on implementing benefit sharing mechanisms).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD’s partnership with the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) was renewed during UNEA-6. The partnership will focus on enhancing youth engagement in global forums such as the UN Forum on Forests, the IUFRO World Forestry Congress, CBD COP16, and UNFCCC COP29 through joint side events and informal meetings/debates. IFSA also proposed the development of internships and academic collaboration focused on the interface of biodiversity and climate finance, as well as on enhancing the integrity of forest carbon credits through joint research and publications. Additionally, a workshop in New York introduced young leaders to the UN-REDD Programme. Discussions centred on improving communications, capacity building, and using technology to extend knowledge sharing and access to remote areas. These engagements have equipped young leaders to effectively apply REDD+ strategies in their environmental work.</li> <li>• For International Women’s Day, a social media campaign was developed, which involved creating 2 new UN-REDD cartoons depicting guidance on empowering women in land ownership and realities around women’s access to information on sustainable management of forests. Both available on the UN-REDD Gender and VCM Community of Practice here.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 4.3. Digital cooperation and frontier technologies to accelerate and enhance NbS</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early 2024 also saw the launch of new Communities of Practice (CoPs) on the REDD+ Academy platform. The CoPs in Latin America (Safeguards) and Africa (AFF) launched discussions on the application of safeguards and social inclusion in REDD+ initiatives, while the gender-focused CoP discussed equitable participation in voluntary carbon markets.</li> <li>• Efforts were undertaken in 2024 to further develop the UN-REDD Gender and VCM Community of Practice. This work involved organizing an e-discussion, improving its layout, building out its available resources, etc. In 2024, membership to this CoP has increased from 65 to 225 members.</li> </ul>