UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN-REDD Programme is undertaking a cogeneration process during the course of 2024 and 2025 to inform the design of its future work beyond the current phase which ends in December 2025. This draft 2026-2030 Strategy builds on the current Strategy, a formative review of the UN-REDD Programme, along with an initial phase of consultations including at the recent UN-REDD Eighth Executive Board meeting, that have yielded rich insights and guidance that have helped to shape the emerging Strategy and make it fit for the future.

This document is intended to gather inputs and advice on how the Programme can contribute to achieving the global goal of halting and reversing deforestation by the end of the decade, and what it can do to catalyse and support efforts to achieve this goal during the 2026-30 period.

The cogeneration process to develop the Strategy will continue during the remainder of 2024, culminating with a final version of the Strategy in early 2025. During 2025, the programming phase will be undertaken, so that the Programme is ready to continue its work in 2026.

1. Context

The goal of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 is widely acknowledged and supported. The second half of this decade will be instrumental to turn that commitment into reality. In doing that, forests will contribute to address multiple planetary challenges including climate change and biodiversity loss.

The UN-REDD Programme has been in operation since 2009. Building on 15 years of experience with REDD+ and deep trust relationships with key actors, especially at the national level, UN-REDD is poised to make a meaningful contribution to having a transformative impact at global, regional, and national levels.

2. Framing the impact pathway for UN-REDD 2026-30

The Programme is framed around the vision of realising the full mitigation potential of forests by halting and reversing deforestation by 2030, and addressing degradation, promoting conservation and management of carbon stocks, thereby contributing to averting the climate crisis and related planetary crises. Specifically, the goal of UN-REDD is to continue to support countries and other key actors to achieve systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies, and incentives in the forest and land sector to achieve this vision.

For the 2026-2030 strategic cycle, UN-REDD is indicatively framed as four highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing outcomes, and three cross-cutting elements:

<u>Indicative Outcomes</u>

Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results

Consolidating, institutionalising, and updating forest monitoring and MRV, and safeguards systems, in line with country approaches (e.g. nesting models), supporting countries to demonstrate the integrity of results, safeguards addressed and respected, and socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results

Supporting national and subnational jurisdictions to access REDD+ results-based finance from different climate finance sources including a) scaled-up, country-led, results-based payments (Article 5 of the Paris Agreement); b) international markets (Article 6.2 and 6.4) and voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity; and c) non-market initiatives (e.g. Article 6.8).

Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition

Within the framework of the UN Climate Promise, supporting countries to enhance the climate ambition of their forest and land sector, aligned with the key elements in the Global Stocktake decision, and in line with the global 1.5oC target. This comprises support along the NDC cycle, including coordination, stakeholder engagement, building evidence on performance of past actions, enhancement, financing and implementation (thus feeding Outcome 1), as well as the associated Enhanced Transparency Framework. The NDC support will integrate acceleration, ambition, and inclusivity.

Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation

Linking and leveraging actions and actors to address deforestation drivers through strengthening and aligning policies, governance, and incentives within the forest sector and across relevant land-use sectors and stakeholders towards protection of forests and reduction in forest emissions, promoting appropriate solutions towards transformative change that addresses and respects safeguards. This includes support for countries to access upfront financing.

<u>Cross Cutting Elements</u>

The following cross-cutting outcomes will be implemented to reinforce and strengthen all four outcomes while aiming to build enhanced understanding and trust among stakeholders:

A. Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

Promoting social inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment in REDD+ policy formulation and governance, monitoring and safeguarding results, sharing benefits, delivering mitigation action, and participating in and accessing forest-climate finance. This will be achieved through an integrated package of county support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication, and advocacy activities.

B. Knowledge Generation and Management

Creating and disseminating practical research and knowledge innovations, particularly levers of transformative, systemic change in forest and land-use governance, policies and incentives.

C. Convening, Advocacy, and Communication
- **Convening:** Targeted policy, science-to-policy and technical dialogues will be convened to identify and build consensus on key issues. As part of that, potentially establishing knowledge networks and neutral platforms across stakeholder groups.
- **Advocacy:** Customized, evidence-based advocacy messaging to strengthen the position of forests and land-use as an essential climate mitigation opportunity.
- **Strategic Communications**: Influence the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of diverse audiences associated with forest and land-use sectors.

3. Framing the implementation approaches for UN-REDD 2026-30

UN-REDD plans to continue to operate at the country, regional, and global scales with interconnected approaches and synergies between these three levels.

At the country level, UN-REDD will respond to country needs with a tailored and inclusive approach, building on the UN in-country system, with the following indicative service lines:

- Technical Assistance: UN-REDD will mobilise technical and policy advisors from the three agencies to support governmental agencies and other national stakeholders.
- National Programmes: UN-REDD will provide comprehensive support to countries, including dedicated in-country operational budgets. It will include a wide range of support types, highly tailored to specific country circumstances, ranging from catalytic Targeted Support to fully fledged National Programmes (NPs).

Available resources will be allocated in a balanced way by applying a variable and modular approach to country level support.

Building on the experience and knowledge gained from country level support, UN-REDD will provide support also at the regional and global levels by convening action-oriented policy dialogues in which the knowledge generated at the country level, or at other levels, can be shared through peer-to peer networks; as well as through advocacy and strategic communications efforts in support of the four outcomes of the Programme.

Summary of the proposed programmatic outcomes and cross-cutting elements

INTEGRITY *Outcome 1: Demonstrating High Integrity REDD+ Results*	FINANCE *Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results*	AMBITION *Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition*	RESULTS *Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation*
MRV Output 1.1: Monitoring, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated and institutionalized.	**Article 5** Output 2.1: Result-based finance schemes for forests under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement secured	**NDCs** Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5oC target	**Forest Sector** Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported
Safeguards Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	**Article 6** Output 2.2: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement secured	**ETF** Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)	**Cross-Sectoral** Output 4.2: Cross sectoral policy and governance changes supported
Benefit Sharing Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized	**VCM** Output 2.3: Voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured	**Analytical Capacity** Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition.	**Local Solutions** Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported.
			Investments Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized
Cross-Cutting Elements – Accelerating Transformation through: A. **Social Inclusion and Gender Equality** B. **Knowledge Generation and Management** C. **Convening, Advocacy, and Communication**			

1.0   INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

> *"We have what we need to save ourselves. Our forests, our wetlands, and our oceans absorb*
> *carbon from the atmosphere. They are vital to keeping 1.5 alive or pulling us back if we do*
> *overshoot that limit. We must protect them."*
> *([António Guterres, UN Secretary General](#))*

UN-REDD is the UN's knowledge and advisory platform on forest solutions to the climate crisis. It is the UN flagship partnership, composed by three agencies – FAO, UNDP and UNEP – that work together to assist countries to implement the Paris Agreement, particularly Articles 4, 5, and 6, supporting countries with REDD+ implementation and increasing ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It does so through policy advice, technical assistance, convening and knowledge management. UN-REDD strives to reduce deforestation, promote sustainable land uses, advance international cooperative approaches to climate mitigation and mobilise climate finance to turn the tide on deforestation.

The UN-REDD Programme was launched at the end of 2008 and has been in operation since 2009. Building on a first phase (2008-2020) focused on readiness and capacity building, the 2021-2025 phase focused on implementation and results-based finance to support scaled-up action and finance for forests and climate.

Looking to the 2030 horizon, this five-year strategy sets out a vision for the UN-REDD Programme for the period 2026-2030. UN-REDD will contribute to delivering ambitious and lasting transformations in the land and forest sector, building on the experience, trust, and traction that it has gained at country, regional and global levels over the past 15 years.

1.2.   Process

This draft of the UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy has been prepared building on the current [Strategy,](#) insights from subject-matter experts from within UN-REDD, a formative review of the UN-REDD Programme, and initial feedback received from national focal points, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, donors, and external partners, to shape it and make it fit for the future.

The formative review was undertaken in parallel with the UN-REDD strategy development process between April to October 2024. The formative review and lesson learning process was designed with the goal of soliciting experiences to date, lessons learned, approach, process and overall contribution. The review found that the UN-REDD Programme has been and remains highly relevant to the needs of forest countries ([Summary of Emerging Insights](#)). Key findings and conclusions were fed into the Strategy during the development process with the final report in December 2024.

A first phase of external consultations was also undertaken from July to October 2024, and during the UN-REDD's Eighth Executive Board meeting (2-4 October 2024) which focussed on the Strategy development. Consultation feedback was well aligned with the emerging draft, with constructive advice and inputs reflected in the ongoing Strategy preparation. The cogeneration process to

develop the Strategy will continue during the remainder of 2024, culminating with a final version of the Strategy in early 2025.

During 2025, the programming phase will be undertaken to provide specificity of depth, breadth and UN-REDD Programme niche. Review of the 2026-2030 governance arrangements will also proceed, with a view to updating them based on the programming and functions of the new programme, as well as the level of resources envisaged, so to ensure that form follows function and that new arrangements will be commensurate with the objectives of the next phase of the Programme.

1.3. Rationale

If humanity is to avert a climate crisis, it is essential to accelerate and scale up climate mitigation actions that can achieve the necessary and urgent reductions and removals of carbon emission by 2030. As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "Sectoral emissions in pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C require land use change reaching net zero emissions by 2030" (IPCC, 2023).

Forests are essential to achieving 1.5° C and other non-carbon benefits

"AFOLU mitigation options, when sustainably implemented, can deliver large-scale GHG emission reductions and enhanced CO2 removal" (IPCC, 2022). Forests have a massive mitigation potential of 4.1 – 6.5 GtCO2e by 2030". It is also the sector with the greatest capacity to rapidly scale-up mitigation before 2030.

Ecosystem services provided by forests are a cornerstone of human well-being, both for Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and local communities (LCs), including traditionally non-represented groups, such as women and youth among them, as well as stakeholders at the national and international levels. Forest-based climate mitigation is one of the few options that has a sizeable impact on other planetary boundaries such as biosphere integrity and land system change.

Forest-based climate mitigation can result in social benefits if it is achieved in ways that enhance synergies with broader development goals and alignment between the NDCs and SDGs.

Time is of the essence

The NDCs under the Paris Agreement are due to be submitted again in 2025. This will also be a key opportunity to include 2035 targets, which Parties are encouraged to include in the new NDCs. Despite the need to enhance ambition and support, promising results are emerging from many forest countries regarding reducing deforestation (e.g. Brazil, Indonesia, Colombia, and Costa Rica).

According to IPCC (2023), delayed mitigation action will further increase global warming, which will decrease the effectiveness of many adaptation options, including ecosystem-based adaptation and many water-related options, as well as increase mitigation feasibility risks, especially for solutions tied to ecosystems.

Through the efforts of forest countries in alignment with the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR), as well as global programmes such as the Carbon Fund of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Green Climate Fund (GCF), REDD Early Movers, Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance Coalition (LEAF), and others, a growing number of forest countries are starting to deliver forest mitigation results. Notwithstanding these promising developments, emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in all regions continue. The top 20 deforestation-emitting countries released an average of 5.5 billion tons of CO_2 equivalent (tCO_2e) per year between 2018 and 2022[1].

Multilateral and bilateral agreements for results-based payments for reduced deforestation, which remains the core of REDD+ as defined under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, remain important to provide incentives for climate action in forest countries. However, results-based payments are thus far insufficient in both volume and scale to bring about the transformational, cross-sectoral changes that are needed to catalyse the volume of emissions reductions from the forest sector that are essential to address the climate emergency.

The problem to address

In 2021 at COP26, over 140 leaders, accounting for more than 90% of the world's forests, committed to work together to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 as part of their commitment to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. However, performance is falling well below this ambitious goal. The reasons for this are four-fold.

First, financing for REDD+ implementation is insufficient. By the end of 2022, global pledges to finance results-based payments during the period 2020-2025 reached over USD 1.7 billion, which accounts for only 24% of what is needed to achieve the equivalent of one gigaton of emissions (UNEP, 2022), well below the level needed to achieve longer-term goals.

Ex-ante finance for the investments that support policy and structural socio-economic changes that are essential to halting and eliminating deforestation have also been insufficient. Between 2013 and 2020, climate action and investment in land-based mitigation, of which forest mitigation is a subset, received only about 2.5% of climate finance tracked (CPI, 2022).

Major initiatives have increasingly focused on mobilizing private financing to fill the results-based funding gap. The underlying reasons set forth in the Glasgow Leaders Declaration for shortfalls in forest mitigation financial commitments include:

- Concerns over the integrity and robustness of emission reductions being reported by some countries; and
- Increasing domestic fiscal pressures and prevailing economic conditions.

Second, policy action, with ambitious targets and effective, wide-scale implementation by forest countries is currently insufficient. The underlying reasons are many and varied, but include:

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[1] Estimated using annual deforestation emissions data from Global Forest Watch.

- Insufficient up-front and results-based financing from public budgets, the donor community, multilateral financing, and the private sector;
- Relatively small bursts of financing, while driving positive change, are insufficient to trigger deep transformations that could only be sustained by significantly larger finance flows;
- Increasingly complex requirements and high transaction costs placed on forest countries related to accounting, safeguarding, and measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV), requiring significant adjustments to current REDD+ readiness arrangements;
- Institutional capacity needs within forest country governments on the technical aspects of REDD+, requiring further investment and incentives to meet requirements that go beyond the internationally agreed requirements for REDD+ set forth in the WFR that underlies Article 5 of the Paris Agreement; and
- Weak forest and land sector governance, as well as limited alignment and support for cross-sectoral policies to reinforce and amplify forest and land sector reforms.

Third, while the emergence of carbon markets is an important source of carbon finance for forest solutions, it is associated with a variety of challenges for countries to make full use of this funding source, including:

Environmental and social integrity:

- How to access and enable various types of carbon markets while meeting and increasing ambition on their own NDCs.
- How to manage the potential overlap of claims on emission reductions and ensure the integrity of transactions across different geographic scales.
- How to ensure VCM projects and programmes avoid, mitigate and manage adverse social and environmental impacts and promote sustainable development outcomes.
- How to ensure that the carbon credits generated are of the highest integrity and support the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Finance:

- How to finance the significant upfront transformational changes that go beyond individual transactions (such as land and forest tenure reform).
- How to address the fact that current payments per tonne of carbon are below the opportunity costs of reducing emissions from forests and land use.
- How to ensure that the finance commitments of countries is not shifted to private sector yet, at the same time private sector markets are tapped to achieve financing at scale.

The market price and volume-related demand signals from the private sector and sovereign governments for high-quality jurisdictional scale forest-based emissions reductions have not yet generated sufficient incentives for forest countries to rapidly deliver high-quality, large-scale mitigation results. As a result, the virtuous cycle of implementing enhanced forest and land regulations, alongside payments for forest mitigation results, reinvested in actions to conserve and restore forests with increasing ambition with each turn of the cycle, has yet to materialize. While carbon markets are undoubtedly an important and steadily improving climate mitigation finance tool, they should be considered as a tool that is complementary to, rather than a replacement of existing and much-needed ex-ante donor-funded efforts. Such ex-ante donor-funded efforts need

to be aimed at achieving durable transformational changes in the institutions and structures that underly both the forest sector and the larger economy of forest countries to generate the level of forest emissions reductions that are needed to prevent climate change.

Fourth, global market demand for commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper, to name just a few, continue to be the principal drivers of deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems to commodity productions systems to meet this demand. These market forces drive countries to consider other climate mitigation measures that are easier and less costly to implement. Recent demand-side policy developments that restrict the import of agricultural commodities associated with deforestation (i.e., the EU Deforestation Regulations and UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulations) provide incentives for producer countries to address agriculture-driven deforestation for their producers to maintain access to these markets. As elaborated upon in the Strategy section, effective capacity for cross-sectoral policy reforms and actions are essential to achieving the desired levels of national and global ambition for forest sector emissions reductions.

Transformative change is needed

The multisectoral nature of major drivers of deforestation imply that focusing REDD+ implementation on policies and measures limited to the forest sector will not be sufficient to achieve the level of forest emissions reductions that are necessary to avert a climate crisis.

The globally agreed goal of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 can only be achieved through systemic changes with structural shifts at the scale and speed typical of a "transformation."

However, such systemic, structural shifts will require political will, significant finance, and acumen regarding the systemic shifts that can produce durable and lasting results. Such shifts must include tangible cross-sectoral policy reforms and incentives and as well as reforms and incentives within the forest sector. These systems-level shifts, policy reforms, and actions could also serve as an opportunity to strengthen the synergy between adaptation and mitigation, and deliver non carbon benefit outcomes.

As described in the Strategy section that follows, the UN-REDD Programme will take on a broader approach to build national ownership to shift complex systems. We will target our interventions to enable shifts in the complex systems that are preventing progress on halting and reversing deforestation, rather than focusing on incremental changes which characterizes many current approaches to REDD+.

2.0   STRATEGY

2.1.   Vision and Goal

The UN-REDD Programme's **vision** for the future is that the full mitigation potential of forests is realized by halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 and addressing degradation, promoting conservation and management of carbon stocks, and thereby contributing to averting the climate crisis and related planetary crises.

The **goal** of the UN-REDD Programme is to continue to support countries and other key actors to achieve systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies, and incentives in the forest and land sector to achieve this vision.

2.2.   Theory of Change

The globally agreed goal of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 can only be achieved through systemic changes and structural shifts in the highly complex systems dynamics underlying forest loss.

Building on 15 years of experience with REDD+ and deep trust relationships with key actors, especially at the national level, UN-REDD is poised to make a meaningful contribution to having a transformative impact at global, regional, and national levels by addressing the four key challenges outlined above and restated here:

- Reducing the financing gap through multiple actions aimed at containing costs and incentivizing public and private investments;
- Addressing the need for effective implementation of REDD+ actions in forest countries;
- Addressing ongoing challenges with carbon markets that are preventing such markets from playing a scaling role in the transformations needed to halt and reverse deforestation; and
- Addressing pressure on forests emanating from agricultural commodity markets.

The Programme will contribute to addressing these challenges by enhancing country-level capacities, assisting forest countries to make strategic interventions in their public policies both within and beyond the forest sector, generating and managing knowledge effectively, and convening and facilitating platforms at national, regional, and global levels that enable dialogue and exchange.

UN-REDD will help to scale up delivery from the forest countries through country-owned and country-led processes designed to build both national and subnational capacity and institutional structures, and to adopt or amend laws and policies aimed at reversing and halting deforestation and accessing climate finance at scale. It will help forest countries to position themselves to access results-based financing, including facilitating scaling up finance by serving as neutral broker of information among countries on financing opportunities and challenges. UN-REDD will reduce risk and build trust through support for social and environmental safeguards, robust systems of benefit sharing, credible forest MRV, and sound and fair arrangements supporting forest

carbon transactions. At the same time, these interventions will deliver non carbon benefit outcomes and synergies.

2.3.   Assumptions

Internal Assumptions

The theory of change (TOC) is based on several internal assumptions that support the overall Programme logic and drive delivery of results. These are defined as foundational narratives, or hypotheses, that inform and guide the overall Programme logic. Four key internal assumptions that guide this TOC are presented below:

- While REDD+ ERs are not cheap, quick, and easy as was originally hoped, they are: a) essential to achieving the Paris climate goals; b) less costly and more quickly scalable than many other climate mitigation pathways; and c) have the potential to deliver significant non carbon benefits, including sustainable livelihoods, improved adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.
- Policies, measures, and other actions at the national scale (and at the project and subnational level) are essential for generating the massive volume of forest ERs needed from the forest sector to achieve the goal of reversing and halting deforestation by 2030.
- Promotion and respect for the rights and unique roles that Indigenous Peoples, and local communities - including women, men, and youth, as critical actors in the conservation and sustainable management of forest landscapes - is central to ensuring the social equity of forest emissions reductions.
- While project-scale intervention from carbon markets can play an essential role in achieving the scale of financing to meet the level of ambition needed, a series of fit-for-purpose measures, including sound systems for nesting project scale ERs with jurisdictional scale ERs, will be required in each country to ensure high-integrity emission reductions.

External Assumptions

External assumptions are defined in this context as external conditions that will need to be met for the TOC to be realised or achieved. They are conditions over which the Programme has little or no direct influence. Some key external assumptions include:

- Sufficient national political will exists within the international community to increase ambition as well as financing for reduced deforestation.
- Forests and their role in reducing emissions continues to be a seen as a key aspect of UNFCCC as well as other political processes linked to climate mitigation.

It is well understood that development and change are not linear processes and progress is often made through evolving cycles that require reaffirmation, constant effort, and collaboration to move forward. In the context of REDD+ processes, this necessitates programme designs that recognize the highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing nature of programmatic outcomes and outputs.

2.4 UN-REDD Programme Value Proposition

Building on the mandate of the UN System to achieve international cooperation in solving international challenges, and more than fifteen years of delivering solutions for forest-based climate mitigation, the UN-REDD Programme's unique value proposition is:

- **Trusted in-country support:** The Programme provides impartial and high-quality technical assistance as a trusted in-country partner on a wide array of forest-based climate mitigation solutions. Building on the in-country presence of the UN, a deeply rooted understanding of political economies, and direct access to the decision-makers in key ministries, UN-REDD support is always tailored to country needs.
- **Coordinating climate solutions:** UN-REDD advises countries on how to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of market actors, TA providers, and political voices for REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme is not aligned with any crediting system or standard other than those aligned with the UNFCCC. Thus, our focus is on nationally owned solutions that put countries in the driving seat to halt and reverse deforestation.
- **Convening for change:** Through the Programme's role as a trusted convener at the country, regional, and global levels, we are able to bring together diverse stakeholders across geographies and sectors to develop shared understandings that enhance coherent and effective action.

While there are numerous REDD+ technical assistance providers, many are focused on narrow support or operate in close association with specific market instruments. The UN-REDD Programme takes a neutral systems-wide view that is in line with country priorities, the Paris Agreement, and Sustainable Development Goals. These overarching points regarding the value proposition for the Programme are elaborated upon in Section 3.0 in connection with the four programmatic outcomes and three cross-cutting programme elements described below.

2.5 Synopsis: Programmatic Outcomes, Cross-Cutting Elements, and Delivery Modalities

For the 2026-2030 strategic cycle, UN-REDD is indicatively framed around four *highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing* outcomes, and three cross-cutting elements as described below and depicted in Figure 1.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results

Consolidating, institutionalising, and updating forest monitoring and MRV, and safeguards systems, in line with country approaches (e.g. nesting models), supporting countries to demonstrate the integrity of results, safeguards addressed and respected, and socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results

Supporting national and subnational jurisdictions to access REDD+ results-based finance from different climate finance sources including a) scaled-up, country-led, results-based payments (Article 5 of the Paris Agreement); b) international markets (Article 6.2 and 6.4)

and voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity; and c) non-market initiatives (e.g. Article 6.8).

Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition

Within the framework of the UN Climate Promise, supporting countries to enhance the climate ambition of their forest and land sector, aligned with the key elements in the Global Stocktake decision, and in line with the global 1.5°C target. This comprises support along the NDC cycle, including coordination, stakeholder engagement, building evidence on performance of past actions, enhancement, financing and implementation (thus feeding Outcome 1), as well as the associated Enhanced Transparency Framework. The NDC support will integrate acceleration, ambition, and inclusivity.

Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation

Linking and leveraging actions and actors to address deforestation drivers through strengthening and aligning policies, governance, and incentives within the forest sector and across relevant land-use sectors and stakeholders towards protection of forests and reduction in forest emissions, promoting appropriate solutions towards transformative change that addresses and respects safeguards. This includes support for countries to access upfront financing.

Cross Cutting Elements

The following three cross-cutting elements, while not having specific outputs, will have several actions, which will necessitate budgetary allocations and clear lines of responsibilities. These supportive actions will be implemented to reinforce and strengthen the four outcome areas while aiming to build enhanced understanding and trust among stakeholders.

A. Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

Promoting social inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment in REDD+ policy formulation and governance, monitoring and safeguarding results, sharing benefits, delivering mitigation action, and participating in and accessing forest-climate finance. This will be achieved through an integrated package of county support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication, and advocacy activities.

B. Knowledge Generation and Management

Creating and disseminating practical research and knowledge innovations, particularly levers of transformative, systemic change in forest and land-use governance, policies and incentives.

C. Convening, Advocacy, and Strategic Communications
- **Convening:** Targeted policy, science-to-policy and technical dialogues will be convened to identify and build consensus on key issues. As part of that, potentially establishing knowledge networks and neutral platforms across stakeholder groups.
- **Advocacy:** Customized, evidence-based advocacy messaging to strengthen the position of forests and land-use as an essential climate mitigation opportunity.
- **Strategic Communications**: Influence the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of diverse audiences associated with forest and land-use sectors.
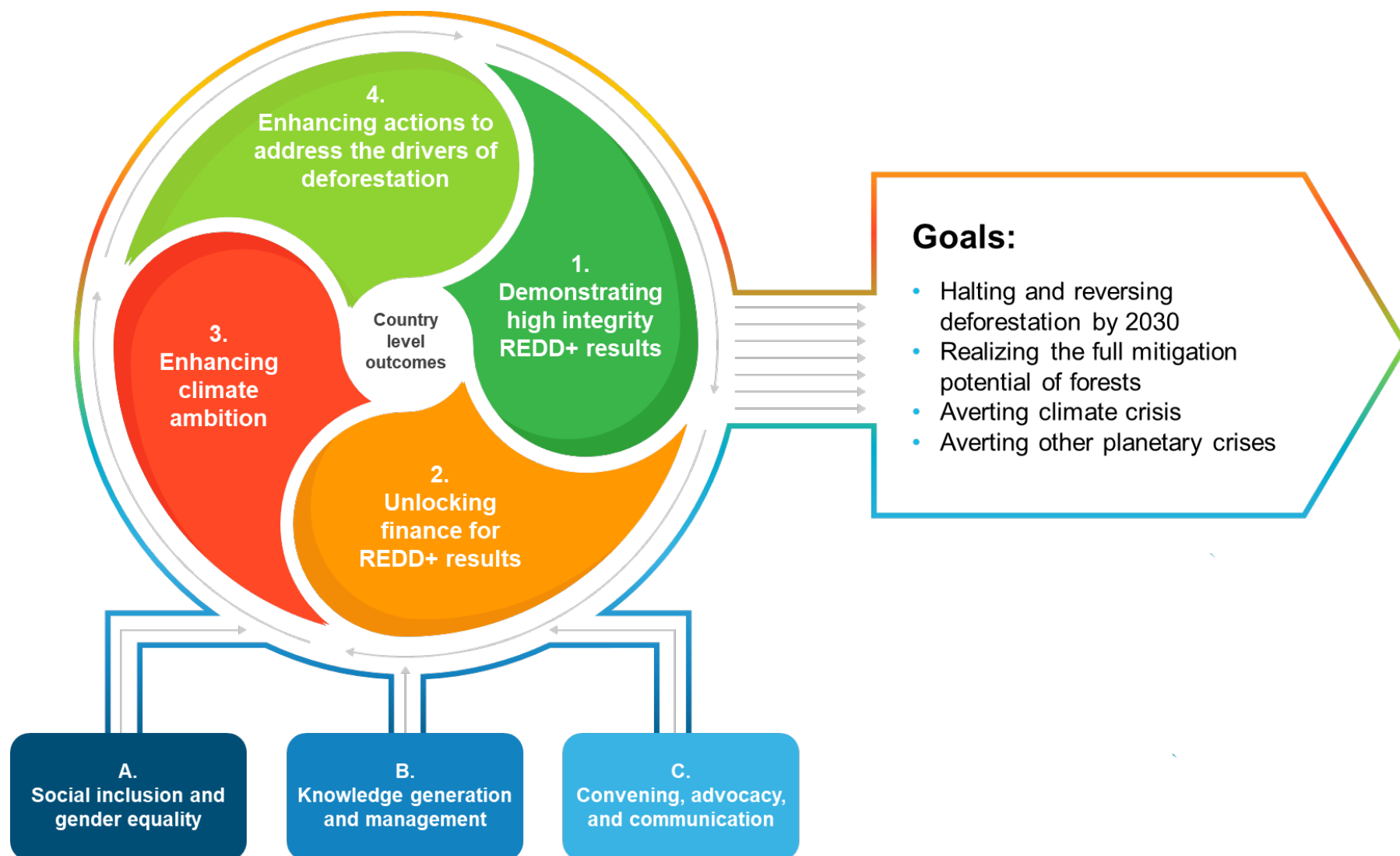
Delivery Modalities

The Programme plans to continue to operate at the country, regional, and global scales with interconnected approaches and synergies between these three levels, all of which are grounded in the four country-level outcomes described above. The Programme aims to fill a niche that emphasizes connecting and convening within and across geographies, stakeholders, and themes that underlie the interrelated and mutually reinforcing outcomes of this Strategy.

In addition, the partner agencies of UN-REDD will expand the reach of the Programme through new funding modalities and interagency collaboration with varying levels of affiliation with UN-REDD. During the 2026-2030 period, we envision greater collaboration with external strategic partners such as the World Bank, the GCF, the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP), and the NDC Partnership, as well as cooperation and coordination with a growing cadre of REDD+ technical assistance providers.

These delivery modalities are elaborated in Section 4.0.

Figure 1. Four highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing country-level outcomes and three cross-cutting elements

4.
Enhancing actions to address the drivers of deforestation

1.
Demonstrating high integrity REDD+ results

Country level outcomes

3.
Enhancing climate ambition

2.
Unlocking finance for REDD+ results

A.
Social inclusion and gender equality

B.
Knowledge generation and management

C.
Convening, advocacy, and communication

Goals:

- Halting and reversing deforestation by 2030
- Realizing the full mitigation potential of forests
- Averting climate crisis
- Averting other planetary crises

3.0. Results

Table 1 provides a high-level summary of the proposed programmatic outputs for each of the four highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing outcomes around which the UN-REDD Programme 2026-2030 will be organized.

INTEGRITY *Outcome 1: Demonstrating High Integrity REDD+ Results*	FINANCE *Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results*	AMBITION *Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition*	RESULTS *Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation*
MRV Output 1.1: Monitoring, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated and institutionalized.	**Article 5** Output 2.1: Result-based finance schemes for forests under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement secured	**NDCs** Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5oC target	**Forest Sector** Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported
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Benefit Sharing Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized	**VCM** Output 2.3: Voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured	**Analytical Capacity** Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition.	**Local Solutions** Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported.
			Investments Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized
Cross-Cutting Elements – Accelerating Transformation through: A. **Social Inclusion and Gender Equality** B. **Knowledge Generation and Management** C. **Convening, Advocacy, and Communication**			

3.1. Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results

> *Consolidating, institutionalising, and updating forest monitoring and MRV, and safeguards systems, in line with country approaches (e.g. nesting models), supporting countries to demonstrate the integrity of results, results-based finance, and socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms.*

The challenge

There is a need to build the capacity of forest countries to build and operate robust systems of reporting, safeguarding, and sharing of benefits from emission reductions.

With regard to MRV, there is pressing need to enhance and consolidate institutional capacity to secure consistent generation of quality data and the use of improved methods to track progress on land use change and associated emissions reductions. The institutionalisation of NFMS in many countries has proven to be challenging due to the recurrent costs of maintaining a permanent cadre of core staff when faced with high levels of turnover, as well as highly variable operational and technical capacities. Countries are increasingly challenged to keep up with demands from different multilevel REDD+ initiatives, which have differing MRV requirements and standards, in ways that deliver robust reporting and avoid double counting or methodological discrepancies.

Regarding safeguards, while much progress has been made in establishing national systems in line with WFR requirements, problems persist. SIS currently serve, primarily, as national reporting systems, yet behind the reporting, on-the-ground implementation remains an operational challenge. There is still a need to continue strengthening country approaches to safeguards, informed by periodic and participatory assessments of environmental and social benefits and risks, and the subsequent design of actions to mitigate the risks and promote co-benefits. Furthermore, partner countries need to upgrade their approaches to addressing, respecting and monitoring safeguards, to conform with increased complexity and methodological rigor of market standards, such as ART-TREES, FCPF Carbon Fund Methodological Framework, and Verra Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+. Finally, the focus of safeguarding will need to expand beyond managing risks to encompass reporting on the generation of co-benefits, including biodiversity as a way to support mainstreaming of REDD+ and promote broader acceptance.

Regarding benefit sharing there is a need to ensure that carbon revenue as well as non-carbon benefits generated through REDD+ programmes reach all stakeholders, particularly those more marginalised actors with significant stake, but limited voice and influence, such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, including equitably women and youth among them. Jurisdictional results-based finance schemes have developed ambitious benefit sharing schemes, but these have yet to be fully tested, with many negotiating the complex trade-offs between equity (ensuring all relevant stakeholders are reached) with efficiency and effectiveness (ensuring that systems are functional and manageable at reasonable cost).

The response

UN-REDD will support forest partner countries to develop and implement country-driven responses to new and emerging demands to ensure high integrity REDD+ results. In recognition of the increasing diversity and complexity of REDD+ results-based jurisdictional, subnational and national schemes, UN-REDD will help countries position themselves to be able to respond to the needs of these different programmes. Specifically, UN-REDD will consolidate, strengthen and support the institutionalisation of national forest monitoring and reporting systems, ensuring that there is sufficient national capacity and that there is access to the latest, state-of-the-art approaches and data. Furthermore, the Programme will work with partner countries to strengthen safeguard monitoring and reporting in line with the WFR but also meeting any additional requirements of complementary subnational or national programmes that have emerged in recent years. Finally, UN-REDD will work with partner countries to strengthen the delivery of socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit sharing arrangements and building opportunities for non-state forest stakeholders to engage in oversight and monitoring of benefit sharing outcomes.

The value proposition

UN-REDD's unique value to supporting countries to demonstrate integrity of results is based on its in-country presence, the team of specialized technical teams and the broad set of tools that are constantly being updated. In addition, the UN agencies are connected with other organizations and engaged in relevant initiatives. By having technical experts based in supported countries, the Programme can ensure long-term continuity of support and build strong relationships with country counterparts, which enhances the likelihood of the transformational impact from systems developed under this outcome.

Unlike other TA providers, UN-REDD is impartial and initiative agnostic. By working by country request rather than endorsing a particular funding mechanism, our support can adapt to the needs of the country rather than requiring the country to adapt to the needs of a scheme. This is a balance between the long-term need to enhance aspects of monitoring, safeguards and benefits sharing against the short-term need of meeting transactional requirements. Having said this, UN-REDD has provided support on a range of integrity requirements, including the FCPF, the GCF and more recently, with LEAF.

Similarly, central to the UN-REDD's work in this area is the country ownership of results. In this outcome, those results are emissions reductions and wider non-carbon benefits, but also advances in foundational systems and structures that enable wider transformation and halting and reversing of deforestation to occur.

Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated and institutionalized

This output will support partner countries to build on earlier progress made in establishing and operationalising robust systems of forest and carbon monitoring, measuring, reporting, and verifying actions and results.

Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored, and reported

This output will support partner countries to develop robust and credible nationally owned systems for safeguarding REDD+ results-based financing arrangements at national and subnational levels in ways that respond to the increasingly diverse and complex requirements being demanded from such schemes.

Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized

This output will support countries to design and operationalize mechanisms to share benefits from REDD+ in a socially inclusive and gender-responsive[2] manner at the national and subnational level.

3.2.   Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results

> *Supporting national and subnational jurisdictions to access REDD+ results-based finance from different climate finance sources including a) scaled-up, country-led, results-based payments (Article 5 of the Paris Agreement); b) international markets (Article 6.2 and 6.4) and voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity; and c) non-market initiatives (e.g. Article 6.8).*

The challenge

In terms of results-based payments, despite the reported level of commitments from existing initiatives, RBP financing available for forest countries is insufficient. Such financing comes with different technical requirements, and demands on institutional capacities, depending on the standards applied. In addition, the prices for forest carbon credits that meet these standards provide limited incentives for the undertaking results-based actions. There is, however, a high potential for results-based payments from forests if both integrity levels and carbon prices achieve levels commensurate with ambitions. Furthermore, many countries have struggled making the transition from grant-supported readiness activities to results based actions, due to a lack of finance to support implementation. The lack of up-front finance has been shown to be a key constraint to many lower-income countries struggling to finance actions in advance of anticipated results-based finance.

The development of REDD+ projects for the voluntary carbon markets (VCM) has changed very rapidly in recent years. In 2022, the value of the VCM in the forestry and land use category reached USD 1.2 billion (Forest Trends, 2023). While the evolution and growth of the VCM may respond to its potential to incentivize the reduction and removal of carbon emissions, the integrity of the VCM has been challenged on grounds of leakage, non-additionality, lack of robust quantification, non-permanence and social integrity concerns. The price of forest-based carbon credits in the VCM remains low because of the integrity concerns that affect market demand and ongoing discussion

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[2] A gender responsive approach proactively identifies, understands, and implements interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions. Gender responsiveness in application attempts to re-define women and men's gender roles and relations and contributes pro-actively and intentionally to the advancement of gender equality. More than 'doing no harm', a gender-responsive policy, programme, plan, or project aims to 'do better.'

about the appropriate use of carbon credits to achieve voluntary targets for Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. The price of carbon traded in voluntary carbon markets could also increase as the supply of project-level initiatives from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are "nested" within jurisdictional crediting systems grow. Carbon revenues as part of a project's business model could, if designed in a way that ensures high integrity by being fully nested into jurisdictional accounting, provide additional finance. Carbon credits could emerge as an alternative to MSMEs to diversify income streams and accelerate the VCM within a country's boundaries. Consequently, as quality supply increase, corporate demand in relation REDD+ credits (both at the project and jurisdictional level) could accelerate in alignment with net zero commitments. To this end, environmental and social integrity in the carbon markets both in the demand and supply side needs to be established as a condition for carbon trading.

Carbon markets in the context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement also present a financial opportunity for forests. To that end, REDD+ results will have to comply with the requirements specified in the guidance on cooperative approaches under Article 6.2, and the rules, modalities, and procedures for the Article 6.4 mechanism. Supporting countries in addressing the requirements and rules for accessing Article 6 in the context of the forest sector could become a tangible tool for finance.

The response

UN-REDD will support national and subnational jurisdictions and stakeholders within them, to access REDD+ results-based finance from different climate and carbon finance sources, including domestic ones. To this end, the Programme will prioritise, scaled up results-based payment schemes for forest protection under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement; forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; and voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+.

The value proposition

UN-REDD's unique value in unlocking finance for REDD+ results lies in being a trusted and impartial partner that helps governments to navigate the pros, cons, implications, and key terms - including prices, vintages, standards, among others - when accessing different results-based finance sources. UN-REDD offers an agnostic position on results-based finance sources so long as they are aligned with scalability, speed, and, most importantly, integrity, as key conditions for countries to be rewarded for reduced emissions from forests, and other land-uses in alignment with their NDC and national REDD+ strategy priorities, and responding to country circumstances.

To this end, UN-REDD adopts a stepwise approach to bringing an inclusive pipeline of REDD+ results to meet a range of results-based finance opportunities, from public only results-based payments to private sector market approaches. Such a phased approach should also drive stepwise improvements in emission reductions quality (both environmental integrity and social equity) over time, to be rewarded with commensurate improvements in price, predictability and volume of financing.

UN-REDD partners up with results-based finance sources to facilitate (but not broker) transactions by helping countries make informed and confident choices through exchange of technical and legal

knowledge on emission reductions purchase agreements (ERPAs). Key partners include: i) results-based payments sources, such as the Green Climate Fund through its REDD+ Results-based Finance Mainstreaming Policy and the SCALE Programme of the World Bank; and ii) those in the carbon markets arena, in the form of corporates, investors and bilateral sovereigns as buyers.

In the context of emerging integrity initiatives, such as the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM) and the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI), UN-REDD's value lies in the ability to influence global efforts towards promoting forest-based climate solutions of integrity in the VCM, as well as feedback back insights on key VCM developments to partner countries.

Output 2.1: Result-based finance schemes for forests under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement secured

This output will support country access, both at the national and -subnational level, result-based payments as per Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.

Output 2.2: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement secured

As Article 6 operationalization takes place, this output will support countries to fill regulatory and institutional gaps and to complement these actions with capacity building.

Output 2.3: Voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured

This output will support social (including gender), environmental, and accounting integrity of emission reductions to scale up the speed and volume of financial flows.

3.3. Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition

Within the framework of the UN Climate Promise, supporting countries to enhance the climate ambition of their forest and land sector, in line with the global 1.5°C target. This comprises support along the NDC cycle, including coordination, stakeholder engagement, review, enhancement, financing and implementation (thus contributing to Outcome 1), as well as the associated Enhanced Transparency Framework. The NDC support will integrate acceleration, ambition, and inclusivity.

The challenge

The important role of the forest and land use sector in meeting national climate goals is broadly recognized, with approximately 85% of NDCs including the land-use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector. However, current NDC pledges, submitted between 2017–2023, do not meet the global ambition to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and only eight of the top 20 countries with highest rate of deforestation have quantified targets on forests in their NDCs. Only 11 of all NDCs contain quantified targets relating to afforestation and reforestation (UNEP, 2024). Thus, despite ambitious goals and demonstrated political commitment both at the country and global levels,

deforestation and forest degradation remain alarmingly high and are increasing rapidly in some countries, leaving many commitments towards the 2030 forest goals off track.

The year 2025 – the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement – marks a critical moment in the collective fight against climate change. Countries will submit revised NDCs that should reflect a ratcheting of ambition that outline their sovereign commitment to climate action under the Paris Agreement. The UN Secretary-General has stated that ambitious NDCs are a key priority for the UN system, and NDCs are high on the political agendas of the G20, G7, African Union, and other major political dialogues. Countries are encouraged in this new round of NDCs – or the NDCs 3.0 – to update their targets to 2035.

As such, the next two years stand as one of the best chances we have as an international community to ensure global warming stays under 1.5°. Bold NDCs can usher in the green transition and integrate climate with national development priorities, plans - such as the National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAPs) - and investments. In particular, the national ownership of NDCs gives them the power to transition an economy to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking ahead to 2026-2030, this period will mark the commencement of the last-best opportunity for countries to put into action NDCs that align with the Paris Agreement and 2030 goal to halt and reverse deforestation.

The response

To respond to the urgent challenge of delivering ambitious and inclusive NDCs by 2025, ready for accelerated implementation, the UN Secretary General has called on UNDP to leverage the infrastructure of the Climate Promise to lead a coordinated, UN System-wide support effort on NDCs. The aim of Climate Promise 2025 is to help countries align NDCs with the 1.5° goal and SDGs, strengthen quality, and accelerate implementation to drive sustainable development. There is already extensive ongoing UN System support to developing countries on climate actions and their NDCs, which will be brought together and mobilized for this coordinated effort. UN-REDD country and global-level work will be delivered through association with this UN flagship effort to increase NDC ambition and implementation. This is structured through three pillars:

1. **Ambition**: Support countries to enhance their 2025 NDCs – from bold targets to reduce emissions and/or enhance removals, increasing resilience to climate impacts, channelling finance, and other areas, in response to other global, regional, national, and local signals.
2. **Acceleration**: Scale-up implementation of climate action on the ground through public, private, international, and national finance towards NDCs. This also includes leveraging innovative approaches, such as high integrity carbon markets, and technical support for stronger policies, institutions, budgetary frameworks, and capacities.
3. **Inclusivity**: Meaningful and long-term engagement with underrepresented actors, including women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and youth – to support them to contribute and lead climate action.

Recognizing and responding to this context, the UN-REDD Programme is part of the UN-wide Climate Promise 2025 effort to support countries on their NDCs 3.0. Going forward, beyond 2025, in partnership with the Climate Promise, UN-REDD is committed to supporting countries to demonstrate the potential of the forest and land use sector for both raising ambition in NDCs and accelerating NDC implementation. The work supported is done in an inclusive manner with governments, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth groups, civil society, and the private sector.

The value proposition

UN-REDD is in a unique position, within the broader constellation of UN partners, to lead the technical analysis and support to continue to promote and enhance the role of forests within the NDCs. This will build off the Climate Promise 2025 process and the direction of the UN Secretary General, which has brought together the UN system, through a more coordinated approach, in support of countries' efforts on the NDCs 3.0.

Extending beyond the UN system role in supporting countries on their NDCs, UN-REDD will aim to engage more deeply with the NDC Partnership, through its three partner agencies, taking advantage that all are partners there, but can strengthen alignment and connection on forest-related support in that forum.

When it comes to NDC ambition and implementation, there are no other partners assuming this forest-focused thought leadership and support role, beyond the three UN-REDD agencies.

In terms of Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), the space can be considered more crowded, extending to key partners including ICAT, PATPA, IGES, GHGMI and UNFCCC. However, again, FAO, UNDP and UNEP all play key leading roles in the context of transparency-related support, and again, UN-REDD can more effectively serve as a platform to coalesce that support, when it comes to the forest sector.

Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target

This output will work at two distinct levels. At country level, support will be provided through technical inputs and review of country-level products and processes, participation in technical workshops, and country-oriented analysis and assessment. Secondly, this output will work at global-level support through a wide-ranging set of technical advisory, convening, and knowledge management efforts.

Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) supported (forest and land use focused).

UN-REDD will support countries to meet the ETF Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) and enhance their systems and reports over time, with a focus on forests and land use.

Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition.

Under this output, UN-REDD aims to leverage its analytical capacity to both enhance REDD+ implementation while also enabling clear pathways for greater ambition.

3.4. Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation

> *Linking and leveraging actions to address deforestation drivers through strengthening and aligning policies, governance, and incentives within the forest sector and across relevant land use sectors and stakeholders towards protection of forests and reduction in forest emissions, promoting appropriate solutions towards transformative change.*

The challenge:

Deforestation is driven by a complex web of drivers, both direct and indirect, and primarily linked to the extraction of resources from forested areas and changes in land use of the production of agricultural commodities. Despite the progress made, the full implementation of policies and measures to halt deforestation in many jurisdictions is still lagging.

Sub-optimal implementation is linked to a range of factors. Firstly, national policies that guide the forest sector in many forest countries do not adequately recognize the value and contribution of forests to short, long-term, consumptive, and non-consumptive uses (such as climate mitigation).

Secondly, even when such policies do exist, it is often the case that national policies that drive land-use more generally result in deforestation due to the emphasis on short-term production of commodities or minerals and a failure to reconcile or balance the trade-offs between economic development and forest protection. A third key factor that is linked to sub-optimal implementation is linked to a failure to recognize and reward Indigenous Peoples, and local communities for their role in protecting and defending forest areas under their control. Lack of clear tenure rights, limited voice and influence over decision-making and insufficient financial and capacity support are key challenges that many forest communities continue to face. Finally, the failure to fully value forests for the multiple values that they provide society, beyond carbon, continues to lead to deforestation in many forest-rich countries. There is an urgent need to capture these benefits and translate them into an increased flow of forest finance to support forest managers more effectively, through leveraging international climate finance, supporting socially inclusive and gender-responsive schemes such as payments for ecosystem services (PES) and emerging mechanisms, adjusting financial subsidies and incentives that currently drive forest conversion.

The response:

Halting deforestation will involve a complex mix of interventions including changed policies at national and subnational levels, new approaches to forests and land governance, as well as a range of investments targeted at addressing different deforestation drivers.

UN-REDD will provide support to forest country partners regarding the development and implementation of socially inclusive and gender-responsive national and subnational approaches to reducing deforestation and forest degradation. UN-REDD works to facilitate, broker, leverage and catalyse a range of support channels directly to partner countries and align them with country

priorities and plans. This will include linking directly to and leveraging complementary projects across the UN-REDD agency portfolio.

UN-REDD will play a strategic and catalytic role in strengthening and aligning policies, governance, and incentives both within and outside the forest sector, recognizing the importance of land-use change more broadly as a key and growing driver of deforestation. Furthermore, it will involve supporting countries to develop clear and coherent national policy frameworks that navigate and address the complex trade-offs between demands for national economic development as well as protection of forests, environment, and biodiversity. A key aspect of this outcome will be ensuring that Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, including equitably women and youth among them, are provided with the capacity, resourcing, and legal rights to effectively manage and protect forests. This is in line with recent international moves to recognize and reward the unique role that Indigenous Peoples, and local communities play in forest conservation and protection. This outcome will also support partner countries to identify and capture new forms of forest financing more generally including upfront finance that will play a supportive role in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, such as through the establishment of PES schemes, debt-for-nature swaps, forest bonds and other innovative instruments.

Working with and supporting commodity market actors will also be key, given the role of corporations, enterprises and small-holders in driving land-use change. UN-REDD will harness the growing momentum around voluntary commitments and mandatory provisions aimed at decoupling traded commodities from deforestation. This has translated into due-diligence requirements to ensure that traded commodities are not sourced from recently deforested areas.

The value proposition

UN-REDD's unique value is its global technical expertise across technical areas that enable the Programme to flex to national needs, which are inherent in this outcome. Sustainable forest management for climate outcomes, deforestation-free agricultural production, and the design and implementation of inclusive incentive mechanisms are topics where the agencies' portfolios and expertise are considerable. The Programme draws on the respective agencies' wider portfolios and teams, associated expertise on agriculture, forestry, economics, legal issues, investments, trade, value chains, land use governance, rights etc. The ability of the partnership to leverage expertise and programmes within agency portfolios ensures that UN-REDD support can be targeted and benefit for a broader view of support, maximizing its role as a convener, facilitator of coordinated support and provider of targeted support in key gaps.

Countries may seek to implement a broad range of actors to implement REDD+, however, many of those actors exist outside the forest sector. The extended reach of UN-REDD agencies is an additional aspect of the value proposition for this outcome, where policy alignment and adjustments will be supported across agriculture, finance, planning, and development ministries. UN-REDD agencies' network brings multiple entry points in a country, which can ultimately enhance the potential for a country to achieve their implementation results in addressing the drivers of deforestation by ensuring the relevant stakeholders are on board with the implementation agenda. This in turn leads to more scalable, deeper and country-owned results.

In several of the sectors that are driving deforestation, there has been considerable work already completed. Actions to date have primarily addressed place-based land use governance and in parallel supply chain initiatives such as certification. Several potential UN-REDD partners on agricultural commodities, such as the Consumer Goods Forum and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development lean on the private sector and higher sustainability standards as a route to reducing deforestation. The challenge for governments has been how to consolidate and keep track of relevant actions through effective coordination at a national and subnational level and between the private and public sector initiatives. The UN-REDD Programme is well placed as a neutral party to support governments to convene these actors across sectors and levels of governance and to support the coordination of any subsequent policy alignment that is required.

Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported

This output will provide increased and coherent support to design and deliver forest policy and governance reforms linking and leveraging broader forest sector initiatives through dialogue and coordination to align incentives (ex: RBPs and improved market access); build on respective tools (e.g., MRV); and ensuring lessons learned are well communicated and used. Supporting countries to assess and expand social & community forestry initiatives ensuring enhanced forest value, better livelihoods and entrepreneurship with forest products will be central to this output.

Output 4.2: Cross sectoral policy and governance changes supported

This output will focus on supporting systematic analysis of progress in implementation of the cross sectoral agenda and the concurrent identification, prioritization and design of REDD+ related interventions in strategic areas that would unlock transformational change. As agriculture is the most significant driver of deforestation, supporting countries to expand sustainable agricultural production and enhancing policy alignment between the agriculture and forestry sectors at the national level in countries will be a major focus of activities in this output.

Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported

This output will work to support Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities to strengthen, formalise or protect their rights to forests, lands, and natural resources within the context of REDD+ policy processes and implementation as well as catalysing access to finance through existing and innovative mechanisms.

Output 4.4: Incentives aligned and upfront finance mobilized

This output will support partner countries to access upfront forest and climate financing instruments and products in support of REDD+ investments. This output will support countries to evaluate domestic finance sources for REDD+ actions, develop payment for ecosystem services mechanisms and create the conditions that facilitate private sector investment in forests. A range of private sector actors - financial institutions, anchor companies, micro, small and medium enterprises – will be engaged in the design and operation of a variety of financial instruments.

The Programme has three cross-cutting elements, which contribute to the overall achievement of the four programmatic outcomes. As noted above, these elements, while not having specific outputs, will have several actions, which will necessitate budgetary allocations and clear lines of responsibilities. These supportive actions will be implemented to reinforce and strengthen the four outcome areas while aiming to build enhanced understanding and trust among stakeholders.

3.5.　Cross-Cutting Element A: Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

Promoting social inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment in REDD+ policy formulation and governance, monitoring and safeguarding results, sharing benefits, delivering mitigation action, and participating in and accessing forest-climate finance. This will be achieved through an integrated package of county support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication, and advocacy activities.

The challenge

There is strong evidence that initiatives with the highest environmental performance are also those which often fully mainstream a social inclusion and gender approach, wherein the participation of more marginalized stakeholder groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, are actively and equitably promoted and their leadership encouraged. Social inclusion is ultimately about full and effective participation of the diverse stakeholders and rightsholders to forge public policies and field actions. Similarly, gender equality involves ensuring that women's, men's and youth invaluable experiences and perspectives, across stakeholder groups, are integrated into REDD+ actions to help enable a more accurate analysis of the problem of forest loss, what underlying factors are at play as well as what solutions are needed to address such problems. Social inclusion and gender equality are, thus, complementary work streams and when integrated into REDD+ action, can have multiplier effects in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, wherein they not only have a great impact on promoting conservation, but also in improving the well-being of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and particularly women and youth among them. Hence, in addition to ensuring that safeguards are addressed and respected, throughout REDD+ implementation, a broad socially inclusive and gender-responsive approach is required, so that diverse governmental sectors and agencies, civil society actors, Indigenous Peoples, development practitioners, the private sector, and development financiers, among others, work together to devise, implement, and monitor forest solution from local to national scales, to the climate emergency.

In terms of social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples' and local communities need the resources to be able to continue protecting forests as they have successfully done for millennia. Yet in many cases they are still seen as beneficiaries as opposed to partners. The Indigenous movement however has progressed in the last decades and we're seeing more Indigenous-led organizations and funds, demonstrating that Indigenous Peoples and local stakeholders have put in place infrastructure that can be further developed and supported by the UN-REDD Programme and others towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

And while the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in REDD+ has improved in recent years, barriers continue to persist. Discriminatory social norms, education systems, political participation, and decision-making processes, along with gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), legal restrictions on access to capital, markets and land ownership, continue to hinder the avenues for women and youth. As a result, they face barriers in to equitably and actively participating in, and benefiting from, sustainable management of forests and have limited access to related climate-forest finance and reward systems. Support continues to be needed to address and provide solutions to these prevalent inequalities that limit women's and youth's access and control of resources as well as promote their full and effective participation in efforts and decision-making processes on forest management

The response

Since its inception in 2008, the UN-REDD Programme has systematically promoted social inclusion and gender equality and women's empowerment in global, national, and local processes, including in policy formulation, Programme governance, political decision-making around REDD+ and access to forest-climate finance. This approach is based on the recognition that the people and communities that live within or near forests, and whose livelihoods depend on forests, possess knowledge, rights and livelihood practices that require respect and promotion in policy decisions and transformations related forest and land uses.

Over the years, UN-REDD has developed a wide-ranging practice of policy guidance, accompanying technical assistance, and direct funding to community-level initiatives (e.g., community-based REDD+) to support countries with integrating a socially inclusive and gender-responsive approach to the development and implementation of REDD+ policies and measures, with a notable focus on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and women. In addition, and linked to support on safeguards, support on social inclusion gender equality and women's empowerment are delivered through an integrated package of technical advisory support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication, and advocacy activities aligned with UN-REDD's four outcomes.

The value proposition

Anchored by the UN system-wide commitment to the human rights-based approach, UN-REDD's strategic value is in leveraging its status as trusted neutral partner to make connections across scales and geographies to create opportunities and support frameworks to embed socially inclusive, gender responsive and rights-based measures into national and jurisdictional REDD+ implementation and financing mechanisms, including carbon markets. Informed by the experience of 15-plus years of technical and capacity support to national REDD+ readiness and implementation, UN-REDD is ideally placed to support countries and jurisdictions to shift social norms to achieve demonstrably better, more inclusive and sustainable, results.

To do this, UN-REDD works alongside and in support of local, jurisdictional, national and international Indigenous Peoples' organizations, women's organizations and youth organizations to support countries and jurisdictions to deploy a broad range of policy and legal reforms, participatory processes (relating to decision-making, monitoring, benefit sharing, among others), as well as on access to finance, capacity building and knowledge sharing.

The organizations that UN-REDD has established working relationships with include the UNFCCC's Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum

on Climate Change, the FCLP, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, the Climate and Land Use Alliance, Forest Trends, Rainforest Foundation US, World Bank's FCPF and ISFL, Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG), the Equator Initiative, Confluence Philanthropy, Forest Peoples Programme, Rights and Resources Initiative, the Tenure Facility , and WOCAN.

3.6.   Cross-Cutting Element B: Knowledge Generation and Management

Creating and disseminating practical research and knowledge about innovations, particularly levers of transformative, systemic change in forest and land-use governance, policies, and incentives.

The challenge

REDD+ continues to evolve and develop, with new tools, approaches and innovations being developed in a range of contexts and scales. Forest countries are developing an increasing repository of experiences across a range of areas including technical aspects of MRV, baselines, forest monitoring, benefit sharing, stakeholder engagement, gender and inclusion and policy reforms. Currently there are limited opportunities to capture this knowledge and share it with the growing community of practice. Furthermore, given the scale of the challenge regarding the capture and dissemination of knowledge, there is a need to identify and explore cost-effective channels to communicate knowledge widely.

The response

Success in this workstream will be defined by an improved well-functioning knowledge management network that bridges knowledge-policy and practice gaps in REDD+ implementation and bolsters global advocacy efforts. This KM network will support UN-REDD's overall goals, aiming for transformative changes necessary to halt deforestation and forest degradation at scale and speed.

Transformative change in REDD+ is heavily influenced by institutional capacities, incentives and the presence of external coalitions advocating for these changes. UN-REDD provides an essential function in advancing the understanding of these complexities, developing capacities, and mobilizing collaborative solutions to address the deep-seated drivers of deforestation through its knowledge management and advocacy initiatives.

By the end of this funding period, success will be evident when our updated knowledge management network can provide tailored, contextually adapted guidance to countries. In response to recent criticisms on REDD+, the KM network will be closely interlinked with advocacy efforts, focusing on influencing public opinion and behaviours through evidence-based messaging and will include strengthening our coalitions to amplify our impact.

UN-REDD will establish localized knowledge networks and regional hubs to ensure that knowledge management is context-specific and accessible. These networks will serve as platforms for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange, allowing countries and regions to share good practices, innovative solutions, and critical insights.

Our focus will be on the creation and dissemination of practical, research and programmatic knowledge, particularly solutions on REDD+ issues. When presenting these solutions, we will incorporate our thought leadership and a layer of in-depth analysis of global and external trends

and issues to ensure that the recommendations are not only actionable but also strategically sound and forward-thinking.

Regular stakeholder engagement workshops and exchanges will ensure that all voices, including those of Indigenous Peoples, are integrated into the knowledge management process, and that solutions are accessible for everyone. These workshops and exchanges will foster dialogue and collaboration, ensuring that the knowledge shared is comprehensive and inclusive. By leveraging these approaches, the Programme will create robust, adaptive and dynamic knowledge management networks that effectively supports REDD+ implementation and contributes to advocacy efforts.

The value proposition

As a trusted knowledge broker, UN-REDD connects countries with the best available in-house and wider knowledge and expertise to drive effective REDD+ action. Donors and country partners recognize UN-REDD's foundational role as a first mover in the REDD+ field — introducing the earliest REDD+ curricula, training courses and knowledge products on critical topics like nesting, benefit-sharing, MRV, and gender. With this long-standing experience, UN-REDD has earned deep trust from countries and remains a go-to source for REDD+ knowledge and support. No other player in the REDD+ space can match this depth of expertise or proven track record.

What makes UN-REDD especially effective are its cross-country learning labs, south-south exchanges, and targeted knowledge-sharing platforms. These resources enable countries to connect with global specialists and apply targeted knowledge to national REDD+ goals. Rather than duplicating the work of others, UN-REDD builds upon and synthesizes existing efforts, ensuring countries have the right tools and information to take meaningful action. Donors recognized that this unique, convening approach has helped countries build knowledge, capacity and position themselves to access transformative forms of support, such as results-based finance.

Looking ahead, UN-REDD is expanding partnerships with research groups, multilateral organizations, and think tanks to stay at the forefront of new trends and methodologies. This means UN-REDD isn't just focused on REDD+ in isolation but is actively linking forest-based mitigation with broader national priorities such as biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development — making it a uniquely versatile and responsive partner.

3.7   Cross-Cutting Element C: Convening, Advocacy, and Communication

> **Convening**: *Targeted policy and technical dialogues will be convened to identify as well as build consensus and trust on key issues, with a view to raising ambition.*
>
> **Advocacy**: *Customized, evidence-based advocacy messaging to strengthen the position of forests and land-use as an essential climate mitigation opportunity.*
>
> **Strategic Communications**: *Influence the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of diverse audiences associated with forest and land-use sectors.*

The challenge

While the UNFCCC offers a global platform for the development of international policy relating to climate change, there is no equivalent forums at a more operational level, where practitioners engaged in implementation of REDD+ can meet with other stakeholders engaged in supporting the process through technical assistance or finance. As such, channels for communicating learning,

best practices and building consensus and trust between stakeholders is lacking. Furthermore, as forest countries become increasingly engaged in supporting REDD+, they are accumulating an increased body of knowledge regarding the practical tools and approaches for implementation as well as the real potential that forests and land-use present as an opportunity for cost-effective climate mitigation. Again, however, there are limited opportunities for countries to advocate for changes in the international architecture of REDD+ approaches and policies that are supportive and in line with their practical experiences.

The response

Convening

As a key complement to the knowledge management and communications activities, the UN-REDD Programme will implement regular dialogues with forest countries and donors on scaling up ambitions of forest targets and finance. The objective is to promote consensus and strengthen support for the implementation of key actions that are considered critical to achieving the 2030 goal of net zero deforestation. These dialogues will build upon past and existing similar processes and would be a concrete contribution to the Secretary General´s call to Turn the Tide on Deforestation and therefore deliver the full mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity potential of forest ecosystems by 2030.

The dialogues will be anchored in current political processes such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and the Asia-Pacific and the Latin American Forums of Ministers of Environment. Discussions are expected to focus on implementing net-zero commitments and facilitating access to funding at scale.

The UN-REDD Programme will support logistically and financially the regional dialogues, which will have background material summarizing current thinking on key issues to scale up ambitions and funding, including the balance between ex-post and ex-ante financing, conditionalities, and the overall integrity of emission reductions from REDD+.

Building on past experiences, the UN-REDD Programme will work with "champions" in each region. Countries and/or actors of recognized stature may play this role. The Climate Action Team (CAT; EOSG), the UNFCCC and other REDD+ actors and partnerships - such as World Bank, FCLP, FCPF, and GCF - will be invited to participate in these dialogues. Finance, business or investment-based coalitions will be a useful platforms to establish synergies with other UN and non- state actors particularly corporate players.

The UN-REDD Programme will publicly present at COP-30 an indicative 2026-2030 workplan on global advocacy efforts and intended outcomes. Annual workplans will be developed in an integral manner with those of knowledge management and communication. There will be stock-taking moments at COPs where advances, gaps and next steps will be presented to the wider public.

The dialogues and exploration may offer donor countries concrete options to follow up on commitments on terms that respond to their areas of interests and concerns. The feedback from forest countries on access conditionalities and delivery mechanisms, among other things, will be very valuable to improve the efficacy and impact of the funding package an increase the buy-in of countries.

Through its regional and global advocacy efforts, the UN-REDD Programme will strengthen the implementation of commitments by donors and forest countries. The goal is to deliver the full

mitigation and biodiversity potential of forests before the end of the decade as stated in the New York Declaration, COP-26 in Glasgow and recently, at COP28 in Dubai.

Advocacy: Influencing policy and making the case for REDD+ as a mitigation opportunity

Over the past 15 years, UN-REDD has built strong relationships in REDD+ countries, establishing the Programme as a key player in the forests sector. However, the landscape is evolving, with increasing external criticism and a need for an evidence-based approach in advocacy led by a broad-based coalition of stakeholders. Advocacy will focus on leveraging insights from knowledge management efforts to ensure that messaging is deeply rooted in evidence. This will enhance trust by making information available on the progress to ensure environmental integrity of REDD implementation and results. To achieve this, the Programme will combine storytelling with local capacity building, incorporating aspects such as technology transfer to ensure that communities are active participants in the narrative. These stories will help shift perceptions of REDD+, showcasing it as a model of integrity, inclusion, and impact. Well-crafted stories can counteract scepticism and fundamentally transform the way decision-makers view REDD+ initiatives.

Engaging donors, policymakers, and the global community in action-oriented dialogues, the Programme will build consensus around REDD+ as a tool for combating climate change and advancing social equity. Specifically, the policy dialogues will be framed to further enhance trust by establishing the appropriate mechanisms/adopting the pertinent instruments to ensure fair ERs transactions and equitable distribution of benefits, listening to and including critical voices, including dissenters, and especially those coming from the Global South and marginalized groups. This broad-based coalition of actors is essential not only for maintaining the momentum of policy changes but also for ensuring that REDD+ policies are resilient to political shifts and are inclusive of all aspects of sustainable development.

Strategic communications

Strategic communications will complement both our advocacy and knowledge management efforts. While both advocacy and strategic communications aim to influence outcomes, they target different aspects of change. Strategic communications focus on informing and reshaping the knowledge, attitudes, or practices (KAP) of a broad audience. They lay the groundwork by raising awareness and fostering an understanding that prepares the public for action. This is crucial because transformational changes in REDD+ need to be complemented by shifts in understanding, attitudes, behaviours and norms.

KAP surveys play a pivotal role in this approach, enabling us to target our communications precisely rather than taking a shotgun approach. Through KAP surveys, we will identify where changes are needed, develop compelling narratives to drive these changes, and share stories that deeply connect with communities. Each message will be designed to meet the specific needs of different groups, whether they are local communities, government officials, or international partners.

Additionally, these surveys help develop proxy indicators to measure success, ensuring that efforts are data-driven and impactful. Such measurement will also enable us to ensure that storytelling is more impact-driven, fostering a steady drumbeat of compelling stories. To further increase reach and visibility, implementing a joint branding approach will be essential, where lead agencies take

responsibility for creating content while ensuring that products are co-branded as UN-REDD. By managing our communications in a strategic way, the Programme will support a) advocacy goals of changing policies practices to better manage and conserve forests; and b) KM goals of enhance REDD+ knowledge and capacity among our key audiences.

The value proposition

UN-REDD's identity is built on trust, neutrality and legitimacy, anchored in its alignment with national REDD+ strategies, the Warsaw Framework and the UNFCCC. With technical support from three UN agencies, UN-REDD uniquely engages countries and non-state actors during REDD+ readiness and implementation and connects countries to results-based finance - no other partner offers this neutral, comprehensive support. Donors and partner countries value the Programme's ability to forge global relationships beyond traditional bilateral channels.

UN-REDD prioritizes country ownership, even if it means less visibility for itself. In a crowded REDD+ space, where short-term actions often undermine long-term results, UN-REDD brings together governments, technical providers, corporations, and multilateral partners in different levels to build consensus on REDD+ structural challenges. This approach fosters trust and creates a space for open, agenda-free dialogue.

However, there is still room to improve post-National Programme engagement with non-state actors, enhance private sector involvement, and strengthen political engagement.

Leveraging its trusted position, UN-REDD plans to broaden its strategic partnerships, engaging more decision-makers beyond the traditional environment and forestry sectors. By working with partners at the national level such as ministries of finance, trade, investment and sustainable development; as well as international partners like the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA), FCLP, the World Bank, GCF, as well as corporate actors, UN-REDD aims to strengthen the political influence of REDD+, putting forests at the centre of global policy and finance discussions.

4.0. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Delivery Modalities

For the 2026-2030 period, the UN-REDD Programme plans to operate at the country, regional and global scales with interconnected approaches and synergies between these three levels. To be impactful, the Programme will operate across all outcomes and levels with the delivery modalities described below.

Country Support

At the country level, UN-REDD will respond to country needs in relation to the proposed outcomes and work to ensure that social inclusion and gender equality are addressed, by promoting inclusive rights-based practises. It will do so with a tailored and inclusive approach, building on the UN system capacities and country presence of the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Teams. The following service lines are being explored:

- Technical Assistance: UN-REDD will mobilise technical and policy advisors from the three agencies to support governmental agencies and other national and subnational stakeholders.
- National Programmes: UN-REDD will provide comprehensive support to countries, including dedicated in-country operational budgets. The nature and scale of this support will vary across countries depending on specific country needs and resources available. It will include a wide range of support types, highly tailored to specific country circumstances, ranging from catalytic Targeted Support to fully fledged National Programmes (NPs). Future NPs will build from best experience from UN-REDD and other partners. NP-scale investments will be assessed to ensure longer-term investment in institutional capacities, policy alignment, reform and integration, multi-stakeholder governance platforms and processes, particularly for inclusive NDCs, and brokering trust between stakeholder constituencies. For instance, where requested by national governments, this could include in-country coordination of national and subnational efforts of government and non-state stakeholders to advance FOLU-based mitigation at scale and speed, and with environmental and social integrity.

A variable/modular approach will allow the Programme to cater for both high-impact geographies, as well as other countries. Resources will be allocated in a balanced way to be able to cover needs and demands from countries while maximizing the potential impact of the Programme.

Global and Regional Support

Responding to the needs of the global and regional climate agenda and building a virtuous connection global to local, UN-REDD will provide support also at the **regional and global** levels with the following service lines (as described above):

- Knowledge Generation and Management
- Convening

- Advocacy
- Communications

4.2   Partnerships

Collaboration and partnerships are essential to support delivery at the pace and scales required and, as such, are at the centre of UN-REDD's approaches. Partnerships are made with all stakeholders with the influence or ability to deliver on the objectives of the forest and climate agenda – most notably governments of forest countries, donors, CSO, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector, and international organizations. This diversity is reflected in the composition of the UN-REDD Programme's Executive Board. The Programme is also a large-scale example of the UN "Delivering as One", where the three participating UN Agencies come together to provide an integrated delivery approach.

The Programme will pursue internal and external approaches to leverage impactful partnerships. A summary is provided below, and a full mapping of partners will be undertaken to further identify where UN-REDD can best focus its support.

Internal partnerships

The primary modality for funding the results framework of the UN-REDD Programme will continue to be through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Pooled funds remain a high priority for Member states and Donors. The UN development system has engaged UN pooled financing as an instrument to promote UN coherence and advance global and national development goals. UN leadership and its Member States have recognized pooled financing as an effective instrument for improving collaboration with and within the UN – a major tenet of the reform process across all of its pillars. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on repositioning the UN Development System (A/RES/72/279) committed to reduce fragmentation to "double inter-agency pooled funds to a total of US\$3.4 billion" per year by 2023. The United Nations Funding Compact, approved in 2019, contains a set of commitments between the UN and Member States to raise the quality of funding and delivery of development assistance. The compact includes specific targets on inter-agency pooled funding where, for Member States, 10% of non-core resources are committed to development-related activities and channelled through inter-agency pooled funds.

To maximize its value to the forest and climate agenda and its stakeholders, the three UN-REDD agencies will enhance their capacities to leverage and connect other relevant initiatives managed or funded by the agencies outside the UN-REDD Programme.

An agile and pragmatic approach to funding modalities will also be taken when necessary to fully engage in external partnerships such as those described in the next section.

As such there will be two integrated typologies that the Agencies will use to provide a coherent platform of support to partners: UN-REDD core and associated interventions:

- **UN-REDD core programme and affiliated initiatives.** This is the current modality where funds are administered through the MPTF, and the agencies jointly manage the delivery. UN-REDD core includes the possibility (already an established practice) to earmark funds within the MPTF to achieve programme results, on specific themes or geographies (e.g. ASEAN

Social Forestry, African Forest Forum (AFF), and the REDD+ Academy). It will also include climate and forest initiatives that are relevant to the UN-REDD Programme, funded through the MPTF, but managed independently by one of the UN-REDD agencies in close collaboration with the core UN-REDD Programme (e.g., AIM4F).

- **UN-REDD associated initiatives.** This will include instances where the UN-REDD Programme will be engaging in climate and forest initiatives that are relevant to the UN-REDD Programme, but funded outside of the MPTF, and implemented by the Agencies in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme. When UN-REDD funds are contributed to the effort (e.g., FAO-Japan Building Global Capacity on Halting Deforestation and Conversions from Agricultural Commodities, aka Big Chance), the expectation is that specific activities will be co-branded with our partners. In other instances, UN-REDD agency involvement in an initiative will not be considered a formal partnership with the UN-REDD Programme. Still, it will be leveraged to advance the overarching goal of halting deforestation by 2030.

External partnerships

Deepening strategic partnerships with key multilateral system partners that operate in the forest and climate space is a priority. This includes the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Climate Funds including the World Bank and GCF, Rio Conventions, FCLP, LEAF Coalition, as well as key UN system partnerships and beyond, such as the NDC Partnership.

With the Technical Assistance (TA) landscape becoming increasingly complex, it is also important to strengthen the coordination across TA providers in order to increase the traction and impact of support. The UN-REDD Programme proposes to serve as a catalyst of TA coordination on an as-needed and as-requested basis. Such coordination can occur at global, regional, and country levels, with an understanding that TA coordination at the country level is likely to be the most effective and impactful locus of such support. The purpose of TA coordination undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme is to optimize the value and impact of TA provided to countries from multiple sources. The ultimate goal of coordinated TA is to advance FOLU-based mitigation at scale and speed, and with environmental and social integrity. TA coordination undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme would not endorse, on behalf of governments, work plans of any third-party TA providers.

4.3 Funding Framework

A key objective for UN-REDD's funding framework will be to secure predictable, flexible, multi-year investments, in order to ensure that expectations with regard to the Programme's cost efficiency, its ability to service a critical portfolio of actions and geographies, and delivery capacity can be met. To deepen the Programme's impact and build funding resilience, it is important to continue to explore further diversification of the donor base.

UN-REDD operates under a set of conditions that determines how resources can be mobilised: it is a specialized initiative with a wide regional presence, and it is entrusted with a broad and multi-faceted mandate to develop, manage and implement complex programmes and approaches funded from a diverse range of donors.

Based on experience from previous budget cycles, the high case scenario of USD 300 million for the 2026-30 period would allow UN-REDD to service the full spectrum of geographies, themes and service lines, and also provide a critical de-risking function for public and private sector investment. The low case scenario of USD 50 million, would allow to continue with a reduced breadth and depth of technical assistance.

The funding framework will be further elaborated in the programming phase.

5.0   Annexes

Annex 1. List of Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
ART-TREES	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions' The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
CBR+	Community-based REDD+
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ER	Emission Reduction
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreements
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EUDR	EU Deforestation Regulation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCLP	Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, or Practices
KM	Knowledge Management
LEAF	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance Coalition
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MPG	Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
RBP	Result-Based Payment
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIS	Safeguards Information System
TOC	Theory of Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
VCM	Voluntary Carbon Markets
WFR	Warsaw Framework for REDD+

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