

## UN-REDD Programme 2021 Semi-Annual Progress Update

### Introduction





The purpose of the following report is to provide a narrative update to the Executive Board of the UN-REDD Programme on implementation between 1 January and 30 June 2021. Overall, the Programme continues to demonstrate progress across its two major work streams – technical assistance and national programmes, with most planned outputs on track to be delivered by the end of 2021, despite the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 crisis. In the cases where delays have occurred, these challenges have been outlined in the progress overview below, along with the solutions that will ensure these programmes deliver in a timely manner.

### 2021 Programme Overview

The UN-REDD Programme delivered support across two modalities in the first half of 2021:



- i. Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation
- ii. Ongoing National Programmes, with associated technical assistance

The following report provides a progress overview by country for each type of support, based on a traffic light system. Green represents those areas in which all deliverables programmed for 2021 have been completed; blue indicates that the programme is on track in accordance with the agreed workplan and that deliverables will be completed by the end of 2021; yellow indicates that delays have been encountered; and red indicates that implementation has not yet started. In the case of a yellow or red result, further information is provided on the specific challenges causing the delay and solutions being put in place.


			
Completed	On-track	Delayed	Not started

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

The following abbreviations are used to designate the type of support: TA: Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation; and NP: National Programme.


Country or KM component	Type of support	Status	Highlights (including challenges & solutions where relevant)
<b>Country Support: Realising, rewarding and enhancing forest solutions (UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework, Outcomes 1-3)</b>			
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>TA</b>		<p>UN-REDD held discussions with the Government of Argentina during January-February 2021, to explore potential interest in technical assistance on climate finance. An initial scoping assessment of carbon markets opportunities was carried out, with a focus on ART/TREES, to inform discussions with the Argentina Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. A preliminary evaluation of key opportunities and gaps focused on the main carbon and safeguards requirements of TREES was shared with the government, including an assessment of the country's compliance/eligibility on carbon elements and safeguards, with a view to produce technical and policy recommendations and eventually draft a related expression of interest towards the ART/TREES certification scheme.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The Argentinian Government expressed initial interest in working together to prepare further scoping and evaluations of carbon market opportunities. However, they subsequently reported that due to timing, ongoing restructuring in the national Climate Change Cabinet, and the need to further define some key issues related to these new and emerging opportunities internationally, they were not ready to proceed with the work at the present time. The envisaged plan for 2021, geared towards ART/TREES compliance and carbon finance, has thus been put on hold, while the dialogue with the Government will continue to reassess this work for 2022.</p>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>NP</b>		<p>Restoration activities in the Araucania region have been successfully completed. Araucaria seeds (55 hectares) and seedlings with a mix of native species (40 hectares) were planted, completing 95 hectares in total.</p> <p>New forest management models were implemented as part of the ENCCRV. Four models will be completed in 2021, including actions on the territory and PES schemes. Lessons learned will be drafted in Q3. Dissemination and outreach on these models is complete. A closing seminar will be held in Q3 to present the main results of the NP.</p> <p>Design of the safeguards information system (SIS) finalized. Will be operational in an institutional platform in conjunction with the other MRV systems and applied to the third phase of the ENCCRV. The SIS includes active user profiles to ensure constant updating of the status of projects with regards to safeguards. Functional integration of the SIS with the Property Monitoring System (SSP) as part of the ENCCRV management platform has been completed.</p> <p>Improvements have been made to the SIS functions user interface, including: the environmental and social evaluation of projects; indicators and reports; and generation of the environmental and social management plan.</p> <p>The no-cost extension granted in 2020 for the implementation of the NP serves for adequate implementation in 2021. Activities are currently ongoing and are expected to finalize on time.</p>



	TA	<p>● Emission Reductions assessment will be done once the forest carbon monitoring milestone is available. Consultations on Emission Reductions and legal tenure have been conducted and the report assessment will be completed at the beginning of August.</p> <p>Technical calls were carried out with national counterparts to share experiences and considerations regarding the engagement on voluntary carbon markets.</p> <p>Technical inputs under development will inform the financial optimization strategy to be drafted in the second half of 2021.</p> <p>Initial assessment of safeguards conformance for ART-TREES indicators was carried out and shared with the country focal points who reviewed the assessment. Additional inputs may be included to complement the safeguards assessment in collaboration with country focal points and stakeholders.</p>
Colombia	TA	<p>● A summary report of virtual work sessions between government authorities and indigenous peoples was developed and presented. These sessions enable the conditions for the creation of the National Indigenous Environmental Commission (Comisión Nacional Ambiental Indígena or CNAI).</p> <p>Technical assistance was provided and technical inputs were generated for the Construction of a National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reservations.</p> <p>Community forestry efforts have advanced ensuring coordination across efforts by other agencies and agreeing on next steps for continued support to local efforts.</p> <p>A protocol to monitor restoration has been jointly formulated with IDEAM, GGGI and UN-REDD.</p> <p>A draft ART/TREES Concept note was elaborated, including work on the carbon elements and an initial safeguards assessment of TREES requirements. The analysis reviewed information and gathered inputs on how the country has addressed and respected the safeguards, as evidence of conformance with TREES safeguards indicators, potential gaps in information have been identified as well.</p> <p>On the support to financing and Finagro (The Fund for the Financing of the Agricultural Sector), the UN-REDD team is acting as a technical counterpart for the products being developed by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), as Finagro does not have environmental and social safeguards specialists and is still closing gaps in its Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation process. With UN-REDD support, Finagro approved their Environmental and Social Policy.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The Covid-19 pandemic limited gatherings, so the sessions between government authorities and indigenous peoples were limited. As a response measure, capacities were created and platforms were generated to develop virtual sessions, which allowed the continuity of the participation and dialogue agenda. Records of the</p>

		<p>working sessions were kept and summaries, recordings, and a list of participants were presented to both government authorities and IPs.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19 and social conflicts, there is limited advancement on IPs / Government agenda. In response, continued communication and dialogue with government authorities and IP Leaders have been carried out, to maintain key topics (CNAI, Implementation of FCPF project, JDI, Restoration strategy). It is expected to reactivate agendas by mid-2021.</p> <p>The main challenge is for the Government of Colombia to move forward with the development of the necessary information and actions for the implementation of TREES. The TA and Safeguards team is working so that Colombia has an advanced proposal that can be presented at COP26 and established as a country commitment.</p> <p>The main challenge to the support to Finagro has to do with the speed of changes in the implementation of their environmental and social management system. The commitments it has made to the GCF, the National Designated Authority and cooperating agencies are the main considerations that may accelerate the process, which should be ready by the end of 2021.</p>
<p><b>Costa Rica</b></p>	<p><b>TA</b></p>	<p> Progress has been made on outcome 2 with the design and implementation of a diversified strategy to access REDD+ Results-Based payments from both market and non-market sources, including notably: the finalization of an LOI with Emergent; the preparation of a proposal in the context of the LEAF call for proposals; the recruitment of a validation and verification body for ART/TREES validation and verification; and the preparation of a TREES registration document and initial monitoring report (note that delays with the finalization of TREES documentation are due to delays in approving TREES 2.0, which is beyond the control of UN-REDD or the Government of Costa Rica. Costa Rica seeks to be the first country in the world to generate TREES units).</p> <p>Costa Rica has shared its experiences with performance-based finance for REDD+ and with accessing carbon markets. Costa Rica has actively participated in the Global Knowledge Exchange for Latin American countries online on 4-5 May 2021 focused on the REDD+ Results-based Payment (RBP) Pilot Program of the GCF. Initial discussions have taken place on methods for the monitoring of non-carbon benefits for RBPs under the FCPF Carbon Fund.</p> <p>As for carbon markets, the main lesson shared is that the price offered must reflect the costs of ER generation for such schemes to be sustainable. The robust legal framework that underpins ERs generated in Costa Rica provides a high degree of respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and farmers. This involves significant transaction costs for the government of Costa Rica and this approach does not seem replicable in most other countries.</p> <p>Work on other outcomes is slightly delayed in light of the priority given to FCPF and LEAF processes.</p>



Côte d'Ivoire	TA	<p>● Carry-over 2020: on-going work with the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory (sampling grid, land cover classification system, response design adopted, collection planned for August).</p> <p>Outcome 1: In relation to monitoring and reporting, Planet data was inserted in the GHG inventory and in the validation of the 2015-2020 deforestation and degradation map; the GHG inventory systematic grid has been adapted to produce statistically fit data for the PRE and PROMIRE; and, data collection is on-going for activity data finalization.</p> <p>Following the completion of the jurisdictional strategies for sustainable farming and forest conservation/restoration in the regions of Cavally and Belier, UN-REDD supported a political dialogue process for their appropriation, institutional anchoring and dissemination at national and international levels, including their consideration for the NDCs under review. This included a national workshop with political leaders from the mentioned two regions, representatives of the private sector of the cocoa industry, civil society organizations and national government structures. Several communication channels were used to disseminate the achievements, experiences and lessons learned of these two pioneer jurisdictions for sustainable land and forest management, including audiovisual products and Internet materials (e.g. UN-REDD Newsletter). In addition, UN-REDD is promoting synergies and exchanges with different international partners, such as the EU and IDH, to harness the implementation of such jurisdictional strategies.</p> <p>The Government of Cote d'Ivoire has elaborated a 'white paper' which highlights the country's commitment to combat deforestation and achieve sustainable cocoa production. This policy paper is under improvement through a consultation process led by the KPMW cabinet. UN-REDD is providing advisory support to the Agroforestry Working Group, which has a major focus on the cocoa-forest nexus.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Several consultation meetings held in Q1 and Q2 with SEP-REDD on ART/TREES opportunities and potential options for LEAF, on-going process to examine what options (jurisdiction and period) could be relevant for vintage emissions under ART-TREES in 2021. A business case study on assessing timber value chains to be finalised in Q3.</p> <p>Outcome 3: UN-REDD has provided technical assistance on several climate and carbon policy initiatives. For instance, UN-REDD advised on the development of a national policy on the management of carbon credit units. In addition, UN-REDD agencies continued helping government to coordinate the comprehensive NDC review process the country is undertaking with several national and international partners, including the land and forest sector. A high-level political dialogue on the NDCs was held in July 2021 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The final NDC document is expected in August 2021 for submission to the UNFCCC, ahead of the COP-26. UN-REDD intends to continue providing coordination and technical support throughout.</p> <p>Progress made on populating the SIS with information. Safeguards information was gathered from different institutions and projects, and compiled and validated.</p>
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<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Joint CAFI/UNREDD support was provided to the task force on LEAF for the submission of a HFLD proposal in July.</p> <p>UN-REDD provided advisory support to the implementation of four CAFI-funded programmes: Land Use Reform Programme, Energy Programme, Civil Society Capacity Building Programme, and Oriental Province Integrated REDD+ Programme. A programme progress report was produced for each programme at their respective stage of implementation, highlighting among others the key results achieved, major constraints, programme bright spots actions, and potential TA needed for enhancing implementation.</p> <p>UN-REDD supported the forest integrity review analysis of the CAFI portfolio in DRC, which assessed that the extent of the CAFI portfolio, as presently designed, is likely to protect the large remaining intact forests in the Congo Basin forests region.</p>
<b>Ecuador</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Substantial progress has been made on all outcomes, with outcomes 1 and 2 nearing completion. This progress was reflected in the submission of a proposal by Ecuador in the context of the LEAF Coalition call for proposal for July 30th. The development of this proposal was actively supported by UN-REDD and based on the deliverable agreed under the UN-REDD Programme.</p> <p>Progress will continue towards the end of the year and will be reflected in the preparation of a TREES concept note as well as with thorough support for the negotiation of an agreement with Emergent in the context of LEAF.</p>
<b>Gabon</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Initial discussions took place between UN-REDD, the Government of Gabon and CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative) to support safeguards activities for compliance to Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) / The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) and potential submission of a TREES concept note by the end of 2021. Currently, UN-REDD is waiting signal from the Government of Gabon to launch these activities.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The Government and CAFI expressed initial interest in UN-REDD to. Ongoing discussions, between Government and CAFI, are taking place to support TREES compliance- related activities, with a view to Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) proposal submission as a HFLD Supplier. These discussions have taken immediate priority for Government over quarter two.</p>
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>National activity data has been collected and support has been provided in its analysis. Classification protocol (QA/QC) is being revised and made compliant with TREES requirements, impact of the revised sample size is also being explored.</p> <p>Gap assessment of TREES safeguard indicators was performed and included as areas for capacity building in LEAF proposal. Scale for LEAF proposal was established beyond GCFRP landscape. Safeguards web portal still needs to be</p>

			populated. Detailed estimates of expected volume of carbon credits is delivered both for TREES submission (2017-2021) as well as LEAF proposal (2022-2026). LEAF proposal drafting assistance provided.
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>TA</b>		<p>1.1 Developed plan for sample-based assessment of mangrove deforestation and degradation using high-resolution satellite imagery and in discussion with Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to conduct the assessment in Q3.</p> <p>1.2 UN-REDD collaborated with the World Bank to provide technical inputs for two Executive Director's Regulations for the Indonesian Environment Fund: Guidelines for REDD+ funds disbursement (enacted) as well as Guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards framework (will be enacted soon).</p> <p>1.3. Memoranda of Understanding signed with two provincial government in Sumatra to implement Integrated Fire Management through a cluster system. A regional action plan on forest and wildfire prevention is being finalized for Sumatra and Kalimantan.</p> <p>1.4 An inception report of cluster prototype implementation is being finalized for basis to formulate Government of Indonesia's strategic plan for wildfire prevention.</p> <p>1.5 An agreement has been established with a leading Indonesian bank's investment venture to bring large-scale impact investment to Indonesia.</p> <p>3.1 Support for the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation roadmap is on-going in consonance with UNDP's Climate Promise support.</p> <p>3.2 Continue Fire Danger Rating System work from 2020 and review of fire EFs and draft reports prepared. Good discussions with Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) on combining their mangrove plot data with FAO satellite data for improved activity to improve emission estimates. Supporting NASA fire project Post-doctorate student to use hi-res satellite data for Indonesian analysis and sharing info with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Peat-fire project.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The rapidly deteriorating COVID-19 situation in Indonesia led to a Presidential declaration of national disaster in April and imposed emergency measures in July, which has limited meetings to online only and reduced ability to progress some activities. 2.1 &amp; 2.2. The draft Presidential Regulation on Economic Value of Carbon is finalized but not yet signed. Consequently, there is minimal progress with corresponding support to the MoEF in developing market and non-market-based instruments for the forestry sector. UN-REDD will fully engage with planned interventions when the draft regulation is signed. 3.2 Changes in staff of Director General of Climate Change in MoEF and difficulties with communication and meetings, due to COVID-19, have slowed progress. Plans are in place to</p>


			accelerate delivery in the second half of 2021, pandemic conditions permitting. NASA project post-doctorate delayed and fieldwork not possible.
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>TA</b>		<p>Outcome 1: Support has been provided to strengthen the national safeguards system, with a focus on updating the SIS and developing the second summary of information on safeguards. This included review and inputs on proposed SIS updates; discussions of possible content for the summary of information update, including state-scale information and information to respond to requirements of different potential REDD+ financing sources, such as ART / TREES.</p> <p>On monitoring, work is ongoing to provide technical inputs to the revised FREL submission and the draft Technical Annex along with the testing of various regionalized algorithms to improve the detection of change and drivers of change.</p> <p>On REDD+ finance, ART/TREES &amp; LEAF: In concert with the GCF-TF project, UN-REDD supported a number of states in understanding the opportunities and requirements of the emerging carbon markets for forest solutions, notably the ART/TREES scheme and the LEAF Coalition. As a result, three states started to work on their prospects for jurisdictional-type carbon markets: Jalisco, Quintana Roo and Tabasco. At the time of this report, some were drafting their initial proposals.</p> <p>UN-REDD offered federal and state stakeholders with insights on how to access carbon markets while the country is still developing its national policy on carbon rights and transactions, as well as regulations on benefit-sharing arrangements. Some dialogues were held to explore options, including potential opportunities opened by ART/TREES and LEAF.</p> <p>On deforestation-free commodities: UN-REDD provided technical advice to CONAFOR to define priority commodities for deforestation-free production and trade. This advisory work resulted in the determination of the candelilla shrub and the mahogany tree as the two productive species to engage in removing from deforestation practices, and promoting partnerships with the company L'Oreal and the international treaty CITES, respectively.</p> <p>UN-REDD also advised three jurisdictions on current practices to remove deforestation from agricultural and productive practices. They were Jalisco, Quintana Roo and Yucatan, linking the effort with their prospects to engage in carbon markets for REDD+.</p> <p>On charcoal, the TA team is verifying and analyzing the information provided by CONAFOR, considering the high environmental impacts, low remuneration, and illegality in this value chain.</p>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>TA</b>		<p>Activities are continuing as remote work and in synergy with the UN-REDD Technical Assistance on Myanmar Mangroves initiative.</p> <p>The core of the activities is focused on remote sensing work and analysis and is carried out by a UN-REDD international consultant. The stated objective (Strengthen Myanmar's existing NFMS through specific supporting activities) is being carried out in synergy with the Mangroves TA, specifically under Output 2 (methodologies and approaches for the</p>





			<p>mapping of mangroves ecosystems, including mangrove biome satellite based, mangrove degradation map, probability map and accuracy assessment).</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> In-country situation due to the <i>coup d'état</i> of 1st February 2021 forced a revised approach with no engagement with the Government.</p>
	<b>Mangroves TA</b>		<p>Activities are continuing in line with the adapted framework as updated in light of in-country situation. Although protests and demonstrations have become sporadic and subsided to a smaller scale, civil resistance to the military government has become more violent in certain geographical locations and less predictable. Selected and adapted activities continue in line with the UNCT guidance for engagement. Highlights of progress are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Progress and work on-going under Output 2 (analysis of field data, mangrove biome mapping, methodology and accuracy assessment)</li> <li>•Finalization of briefing paper on “Subnational REDD+ planning and implementation in Asia – a review of country cases” will be published as UN-REDD brief paper</li> <li>•ToRs developed and Service provider(s) identified for activities 4.2-4.3 (Community Forests and Community Forest Enterprises established in Delta Region)</li> <li>•A meeting was organized between Head of Forestry Department, Karen National Union (KNU) and UNDP on the 23rd May 2021. KNU confirmed their interest in REDD+ Action Plan and promised to initiate work as soon as security situation allows. UNDP is finalizing the Ethnic Armed Group Engagement Strategy based on UNCT guidance. The Interagency Working Group will refer to it as a basis for any further plan and activity.</li> <li>•ToR for Output 4, activities 4.1 and 4.3 Community Forests, Community Forest Enterprises, Community Protected Areas and awareness raising of mangroves importance was developed and is undergoing review. Scoping of potential implementing partner is ongoing.</li> <li>•Detailed concept note developed through inter-agency coordination for output 1.3 and 2.4, including revised scope, deliverables, implementation arrangements and timelines.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> In-country situation forced a revision of the feasible activities. An adapted activity framework is now guiding implementation</p>
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	<b>TA</b>		<p>Outcome 2: Work is ongoing to access carbon finance through leading carbon standards, notably ART/TREES. Support has been provided to assess capacity gaps and needs for support as necessary to meet ART/TREES requirements, to estimate of the ART /TREES expected volumes of ERs, and to summarize safeguards information and processes currently available in the PNG for adherence to the safeguards requirements of the ART/TREES standard.</p>

			The Government has indicated interest to submit an expression of interest to a call for proposals from the LEAF Coalition, work is ongoing to draft a LEAF Expression of Interest.
<b>Peru</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Outcome 1: UN-REDD continues to support Peru in the implementation of the national safeguards roadmap, including finalizing a beta version of the SIS, and carrying out capacity-building sessions on the use of the system.</p> <p>Outcome 2: UN-REDD assisted MINAM with the development of the ART/TREES Concept Note, including a safeguards assessment and identification of potential gaps and ER scenarios.</p> <p>Highlights on outcome 3: Although the electoral process in early 2021 halted progress towards preparing an implementation plan for the new NDC, UN-REDD helped the country identify climate measures that can be prioritised for their role in the socio-economic recovery to the Covid-19 crisis, including the agriculture and forestry sectors.</p>
	<b>NP</b>	●	<p>The NP is almost complete. Final activities conducted in 2021 comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Support to the FREL has been provided. Peru submitted the FREL in February 2021 and UN REDD is providing technical support for TA process until September 2021.</li> <li>•The protocol to include Indigenous MRV has been completed and validated by MINAM and SERFOR.</li> <li>•Continued support has been provided on safeguards, including on review and strengthening of indicators, institutional arrangements, and reporting protocols for the SIS.</li> </ul> <p>The NP final evaluation is being conducted and is nearly complete, with an overall satisfactory rating by the independent consultants. The final report will be delivered at the end of September 2021.</p>
<b>Republic of the Congo</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Carry-over 2020: Joint GHG inventory with USFS finalized, data inserted to update the AFOLU data of the National Communication 3.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Inclusion of Congo for the L2 NICFI General partner program, Planet data to be used for FREL update Validation of the 2016-2018 and 2018-2020 data scheduled for Q3 and Q4</p> <p>Outcome 2: Study on tenure scheduled for Q3, in the framework of the newly adopted forest code</p> <p>Outcome 3: Several consultation meetings held to progress with the gap analysis against the ART/TREES2 requirements, in particular with HFLD modality. Support on-going to accompany the country towards a LEAF EoI submission in July and/or ART TREES concept note in December.</p>

<b>Uganda</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Outcome 1: The first Sol produced under FCPF support has been reviewed by UN-REDD for conformance. SIS development underway, aligned to ART/TREES requirements.</p> <p>Outcome 2: First estimates of expected volume of carbon credits are delivered for LEAF proposal (2022-2026). LEAF proposal drafting assistance is provided until July 30th. Ongoing work for estimating volume of carbon credits for potential TREES submission (2017-2021). Gap assessment of TREES safeguard indicators performed and included as areas for capacity building in LEAF proposal</p>
<b>Viet Nam</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Outcome 1: (1) The Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management through Deforestation-free Jurisdiction in Lam Dong and Dak Nong has recently commenced. Project activities that will produce documentation and implementation that are expected to enhance future provincial planning processes are underway; (3) Analysis of non-expansion means to increase smallholder livelihoods completed. Identified coffee intercropped with fruit and timber trees as viable alternative to coffee mono-cropping, diversifying income, accessing valuable markets and protecting from volatility in the global markets. Investor stakeholders will be informed to promote deforestation free commodities;</p> <p>Outcome 2: (6) In progress with support to government agency (VNFOREST) to formulate a submission to the LEAF 2021 Call for Proposals. The process will entail undertaking gap assessments for Viet Nam's REDD+ MRV, safeguards, legal arrangements etc. against the ART/TREES standard 2.0, and strategic recommendations as next steps.</p> <p>Carry-over 2020: A monitoring framework and web-based application of REDD+ implementation at national and provincial levels have been developed for handing over to the government agency.</p>
<b>Zambia</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>Outcome 1: The technical assessment of the FREL proceeds well. Activities for collecting activity data using the NICFI high-resolution dataset and for training on map production are planned for Q3 2021. Safeguards information has been gathered and compiled for Zambia's Safeguards Information System (SIS). This work engaged different country institutions and stakeholders that supported the process as information providers.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Several discussion sessions with senior staff of the Forestry Department were undertaken to scope carbon finance opportunities, especially with a view on LEAF.</p>
<b>Lower Mekong</b>	<b>TA</b>	●	<p>SFM and trade standards and tools - forest certification: Regional meeting convened on Multilateral Recognition Agreements through the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality and Phased approach to certification</p> <p>CITES requirements for listed timber species: Lao PDR progressing on non-detriment findings process. Legal acquisition findings (LAF) and CITES e-Permit trainings with 4 countries + China</p>

		<p>Smallholders and community: Capacity Development Needs Assessment identified capacity gaps particularly in tenure, smallholder access to credits, lowering barriers to certification</p> <p>Financing for sustainable and legal forestry: Screening landscapes and stakeholders in 3 countries to identify sustainable investment opportunities among forest enterprises</p> <p>Engagement with Chinese investors and buyers: Direct dialogue with Chinese forestry sector investors in the LMR countries</p> <p>Near-real time monitoring of forests: Prototype of near real time monitoring under development. Testing of scripts, such as the use of radar imagery. National assessments and work plans developed on piloting of near real time monitoring</p> <p>Systems for tracking environmental and social impacts: National assessments and action plans for filling gaps/strengthening systems</p> <p>Analysis of relevant global and regional datasets and tools for understanding trends/impacts in the forest sector.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge Management: Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions (<a href="#">UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework, Outcome 4</a>)</b></p>		
<p><b>Output 4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation</b></p>	<p>TA</p>	<p> The REDD Resource Newsletter was produced and disseminated twice during the reporting period (in <a href="#">March</a> and <a href="#">June 2021</a>). Over 10,000 subscribers received knowledge and country-based lessons also via an additional thematic <a href="#">Roundup</a> newsletter.</p> <p>Four info briefs on safeguards, private sector, land use and gender have been produced in English and Spanish. An additional three on Forest Tenure, national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and forest data are being finalized. 2 briefs produced on safeguards information systems and summary of information in English, French and Spanish. Two technical papers – tenure rights (in <a href="#">EN</a>) and data institutionalization (in <a href="#">EN</a>, <a href="#">SP</a>, <a href="#">FR</a>)</p> <p>A virtual South-South exchange on results-based payments was held for the Latin American and Caribbean region. All key countries took part including Chile, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and Colombia. Preparations underway for the same for Asian and African regions.</p> <p>Open Tenure webinars (in <a href="#">EN</a>, <a href="#">ES</a> and <a href="#">FR</a>) delivered. A total of 140 climate and forestry professionals and experts from 50 countries participated.</p> <p>Social media growth targets were exceeded with a total of 62,650 followers on the Programme’s channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN-REDD Gender and REDD+ Info Brief (<a href="#">English</a> and <a href="#">Spanish</a>) finalized.</li> <li>• Collected and compiled <a href="#">UN-REDD Gender Marker</a> results for the 2020 TA programme.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the safeguards roundtable between ART Secretariat and UN-REDD provided guidance and suggestions for how a gender approach could be integrated into the ART-TREES safeguards guidance document.</li> <li>• Developed a social media campaign for International Women’s Day, highlighting efforts under UN-REDD showing vital role women play in the conservation of forests and REDD+.</li> <li>• Drawing on lessons from support to REDD+ countries over the past decade, a publication titled <i><u>Consideration for Integrating Nature-Based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions: Illustrating the Potential Through REDD+</u></i> was launched in March 2021, which describes crucial areas for policy makers to consider when seeking to enhance their NDCs and support NDC implementation through NBS.</li> <li>• Diverse tools and guidance were made available to countries to assist them compile, assess and connect diverse data and information on their forest solutions to the climate emergency, supporting their NDC reviews, LULUCF assessments, REDD+ progress and carbon market readiness for jurisdictional approaches.</li> <li>• Delivered the first phase of a <u>Global Knowledge Exchange on accessing and implementing results-based payments</u>, with a focus on Latin America (where most of these efforts have been pioneered) Thirty-five REDD+ experts from 10 LAC countries participated in a two-day exchange workshop (5-6 May) and three-week online discussion via the Sparkblue online collaboration platform, featuring lessons learned from Ecuador, Chile and Costa Rica (INSERT LINKS TO VIDEOS), as well as background materials focusing on <u>accessing RBPs from the GCF</u>, <u>combining sources of RBP finance</u>, and <u>on the ART Trees standard for RBPs</u>. Recommendations from participating countries were presented to the GCF to inform the development of second phase of its pilot RBP for REDD+ programme.</li> <li>• Supported South-South exchange on FPIC approaches and forest affairs between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Surinam.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions</u>: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, global, regional and national conferences on forests and climate were cancelled, postponed or held virtually. Physical UN-REDD events such as South-South exchanges continue to be impossible. This poses the risk of losing momentum on delivering against the Paris Agreement and forest goals. The temporary solution was a pivot to online webinars and conferences. The new digital approach allowed wider reach.</p>
<b>Output 4.2 Collective political and societal support to NbS</b>	<b>TA</b>	 <p>Play4Forests campaign was launched with the <u>landing page</u> live in nine languages.</p> <p>Two briefs on Building Back Better (BBB) produced and disseminated (Brief 1: <a href="https://bit.ly/3wZrE3N">https://bit.ly/3wZrE3N</a>; Brief 2: <a href="https://bit.ly/2TutYCb">https://bit.ly/2TutYCb</a>)</p> <p>FAO/UN-REDD event: EDD21 High-level panel event “<u>Forests are too precious to lose: halting deforestation and enhancing biodiversity</u>”</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighted vital role women play in the conservation of forests through the UN social media campaign for the International Day of Forests.</li> <li>• Developed a knowledge event on gender mainstreaming in forest climate finance, to inform the COP-26 process (event scheduled for Q3/2021, before the Glasgow CoP-26).</li> <li>• Contributions to the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (virtual), with a focus on channelling indigenous knowledge into national climate policy processes, like REDD+ investment plans and NDC reviews.</li> <li>• Collaboration with AIPP – the Asia indigenous peoples federation – on ensuring linkages between indigenous peoples and ongoing NDCs reviews in the countries of the region – the aim is to enhance NDCs with indigenous knowledge/policy insights, and to inform the works of the UNFCCC LCIP Platform.</li> <li>• UN-REDD continued supporting several countries to enhance the forest component of their NDCs, which were under intense review in the pathway to the Glasgow climate summit in late 2021 (e.g. Côte d’Ivoire, Honduras).</li> </ul> <p>Funding scoping for a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CBR+ continued.</p> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions:</u> The enduring pandemic isolation makes multistakeholder meetings and fora difficult, with digital means insufficient to ensure political and inclusive processes qualitative and successful. New carbon markets for forests through jurisdictional approaches are rapidly emerging, and many forest stakeholders (both institutional and grassroots level) feel insufficiently informed and engaged. UN-REDD shared stakeholder engagement approaches and guidance with the actors running the new carbon markets, so to help address this gap.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.3.</b>  <b>Digital cooperation and frontier technologies to accelerate and enhance NbS</b></p>	<p>TA</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARENA: The tool launched, related webinar organized, demo video developed and published on UN-REDD Youtube channel.</li> <li>• OpenForis: new site launched and promoted.</li> <li>• Knowledge products (articles, manuals) on ARENA and Open Foris published. More products and training sessions to be developed/organized by December 2021.</li> <li>• SEPAL support (including capacity development) was provided under other outcomes thanks to Level-2 licenses for UN-REDD applications at the country level.</li> <li>• Tool navigator to support planning and implementation of integrated landscape approaches to REDD+: Held internal brainstorming sessions with Regional Technical Experts and FAO Land and Water division on the product</li> </ul>

			<p>outcome and piloting potential. The beta version of the tool, as well as a quick guidance document and an infobrief will be ready by December 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compilation and assessment of lessons and approaches for the digital participation of indigenous peoples in policy/institutional processes in Colombia, which represents a pilot initiative of UN-REDD to scope best practice for inclusive digital participation of indigenous peoples and rural communities (final knowledge product underway).</li> <li>• Compiled and published <u>results</u> of the UN-REDD survey which explored the effect of COVID-19 on the participation of women and men in forest conservation and REDD+ and identified ways to further promote the equitable and active participation of women and men in the post-Covid era of co-operation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges and Solutions</u>: The Covid-19 crisis has inaugurated digital cooperation, which UN-REDD wishes to harness for forest solutions. However, the choice of digital means and methods is still under scoping, as well as which are the impacts and opportunities of digital cooperation on social inclusion. UN-REDD keeps testing pilot initiatives (e.g. in Colombia) and scoping best practices.</p>
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