

## UN-REDD Programme - Seventh Executive Board Meeting (EB7)

Update on UN-REDD progress and future  
17 October 2023

### Agenda and Background

#### 1. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The meeting will provide an overall update on progress since the UN-REDD Executive Board meeting last year, including 2023 highlights and an outlook on UN-REDD Programme 2024 direction and beyond.

The meeting will extend over a total duration of 1h45 minutes given the short window connecting Board representatives in a wide array of time zones ranging from Guatemala and Mexico on one end, to Seoul and Tokyo on the other end.

Specifically, the meeting will present and discuss the following topics: (1) progress to date, including 2023 highlights, given an enlarged donor base with Korea and the UK having joined the Programme; and (2) looking forward to 2024 and beyond, as per the annotated agenda below. The meeting will seek discussion and guidance from the Executive Board around these topics – the questions presented in the sections below will help guide the discussion.

#### 2. AGENDA

30 mins	Logging in (starts at 13:30 CET). Official start of the meeting is 14:00 CET.
5 mins	Welcome and introduction from the Chair of the Board (Mr. Tim Clairs, Principal Policy & Technical Advisor, Climate & Forests, UNDP)
<u>Part 1</u>	<u>Progress to date</u>
10 mins	Presentation on cumulative UN-REDD progress, including 2023 highlights
30 mins	Feedback and discussion – <i>Anything else the Board wants to highlight as progress since the last EB meeting? Any further comment on the 2022 Annual Report and the 2023 Semi-annual Update? Feedback on how to make these more useful to Board members?</i>
10 mins	Wrap-up
<u>Part 2</u>	<u>Looking forward to 2024 and beyond</u>
10 mins	Presentation on UN-REDD outlook to 2024, including EB rotation
30 mins	Feedback and discussion – <i>Any comment on indicated focus of technical assistance and KM efforts in 2024? Any feedback on next steps to rotate EB representatives? Any views on strategic focus and resource mobilization for UN-REDD 2025-2030?</i>
5 mins	Wrap up
5 mins	Summary and concluding thoughts (Mr. Clairs)

### 3. BACKGROUND ON TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

#### **Part 1: Progress to date and 2023 highlights**

In the first part of this meeting, we will present an update on the overall progress of the Programme since the last Board meeting. Aligned with the growing momentum for forest sector climate action, the UN-REDD Programme is focused on supporting scaled-up international REDD+ implementation and the mobilization of finance.

This is underpinned by UN-REDD's robust approach to operational planning, exemplified by the annual workplan update process and reporting, Executive Board meetings and intersessional decisions. The annual update of the multi-year workplan conducted in Q4 each year aims to ensure the optimal deployment of Technical Assistance to countries in following year, so to consolidate ongoing processes and harness new opportunities. The process integrates the individual multiyear workplans produced for UN-REDD donors in the form of an integrated annual workplan for the Programme as a whole. It is a consultative process engaging country partners, international partners, and donor countries and their embassies, resulting in an inception report that reflects country needs as identified by the UN-REDD country teams and confirmed through dialogue with country and technical counterparts.

Results and progress are consolidated through semi-annual and annual reporting. The Semi-Annual Progress Update provides a narrative update to the Executive Board on implementation between 1 January and 30 June (see [2023 Semi Annual Progress Update](#)). In cases where delays have occurred, the report outlines challenges and solutions in place to ensure delivery. The UN-REDD Programme Annual Report provides narrative and financial information on progress, presenting the value and cumulative results of the Programme (see [UN-REDD 2022 Annual Report](#)). The report is structured to provide an overview of results, as well as zooming in on country and regional progress, demonstrating the breadth and depth of work on both readiness and implementation. It showcases "voices from the field" through impact stories, and making linkages to the SDGs, serving as both a communication and technical tool.

This reporting process provides optimal transparency, accountability, and information sharing, complemented by opportunities to explore strategic issues in more depth, as per recent Executive Board dialogues on finance and food systems in previous Board meetings.

Throughout the year since the last Board meeting, UN-REDD has continued to partner with forest countries in advancing their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to promote sustainable forest management. In 2023, UN-REDD is actively supporting 24 partner countries and four regions to implement REDD+ and increase the ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their NDCs, through policy advice, technical assistance, and knowledge management. Highlights of support to countries are presented below for each of the four outcomes of the [UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework](#).

The Programme has also enlarged the donor base, welcoming the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom as new donors to the Programme, as per intersessional approval of Workplans and Budgets (more detail to be presented during the latter part of the session). Such collaboration and partnerships are essential to support delivery at the pace and scale required, in line with the goal of UN-REDD to help realise forest solutions to the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and fostering carbon sequestration for at least 5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

#### **Progress and Results: Cumulative Highlights**

**Outcome 1 Forest solutions realized:** UN-REDD provided technical support to countries to advance the implementation and financing of REDD+ related policies. Notably, this has included greater emphasis on addressing the agriculture forest linkages and anticipation of the impacts of emerging regulation to ensure deforestation-free trade in agricultural products, an area of increasing demand for support from UN-REDD member countries.

- 2023 Highlights: exploration of investment mechanisms (Indonesia) and smallholder business incubation (DRC; Lower Mekong sub-region); ongoing piloting implementation of the due diligence guidance on deforestation-free coffee in Colombia and expanding to others (including LMR); advancing frameworks for the analysis on the cost-effectiveness of REDD actions. In Zambia, UN-REDD is supporting climate action at the local level, including through the assessment of community groups, forest value chains and rural finance, including exploration of the climate-forest-water nexus. In Ecuador, UN-REDD is supporting the consolidation of commercial agreements with international companies, strengthening local producers' capacities, and the commercialization on international markets of their deforestation-free products, as well as efforts to shared lessons on its deforestation-free national certification scheme with Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and Viet Nam, among others.

Under this outcome, the core Warsaw Framework elements of REDD+ are being strengthened, particularly to include elements to enhance their environmental integrity in the broadest sense (i.e. including, but not limited to, carbon accounting). With UN-REDD support, countries have been able to advance in their technical and policy options to “nest” overlapping initiatives at different scales into a coherent accounting, implementation, rights and benefit sharing frameworks.

- 2023 Highlights: seven countries progressed with summaries of safeguards information<sup>1</sup>; four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean supported in generation of high-quality and accurate emission data<sup>2</sup>, including MRV options for nesting<sup>3</sup> and assessment of forest degradation.

**Outcome 2 Forest solutions rewarded:** UN-REDD has made progress towards mobilizing results-based financing (RBF) for REDD+. In particular, support has been linked to RBF from the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition. In addition, technical requirements for enhanced integrity results has been combined with analysis of the financing options to inform Lao PDR and PNG on how best to advance with accessing RBF. Support has also been provided in Peru to meet its commitments under the Joint Declaration of Intent with Norway, Germany, UK and USA. A roadmap to access climate finance from voluntary carbon markets in alignment with the NDC has also been prepared for Peru. Technical assistance to Uganda, to draft a national results-based finance strategy, continues. More recently, Programme support has also addressed needs related to LEAF Coalition Emission Reduction Purchasing Agreements, as well as facilitating stakeholder consultations on these transactions.

- 2023 highlights: specific actions to assist countries become eligible for RBF from the LEAF Coalition with technical assistance on ART-TREES conformity targeting the front-runner LEAF countries – Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal and Viet Nam. In total, 15 countries<sup>4</sup> have been supported to assess and comply with ART-TREES requirements and eight<sup>5</sup> of them have progressed with ART-TREES registration.

**Outcome 3 Forest solutions enhanced:** UN-REDD has been supporting countries to integrate and enhance LULUCF sector actions relating to REDD+ to increase the ambition in their new or updated

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<sup>1</sup> Ghana, Nepal (Ghana 2nd SOI, Nepal 1st SOI, expected to be completed by end of 2023), Chile, PNG, RoC, Viet Nam, Zambia (to be continued and finalized in 2024)

<sup>2</sup> Strengthening the generation of high-quality and accurate emission data from deforestation (Colombia, Mexico, Peru), and forest degradation (Ecuador, Peru) have been supported,

<sup>3</sup> Construction of robust MRV systems for nesting (Colombia, Peru).

<sup>4</sup> Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, PNG, Peru, Republic of Congo, Viet Nam, Uganda.

<sup>5</sup> Ecuador, DRC, Ghana, Nepal, PNG, Peru, Uganda, Viet Nam.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This includes support for the inclusion of enhanced or new targets or commitments including or relevant to the forest sector, improvements in institutional coordination to support submissions of new or updated NDCs, and increasingly, technical advice on securing finance to implement enhanced NDC mitigation actions in the forest sector.

- 2023 Highlights: Specific support provided in 10 countries<sup>6</sup>. In Chile, DRC, and Viet Nam, the Programme technically assisted to establish multi-sectoral strategies to finance enhanced forest-sector NDC implementation, from public and private sources, including carbon markets. And, in Indonesia, UN-REDD technically assisted enhancement of NDC and FOLU Net-Sink Operational plan through forest and peatland restoration and improved mapping and monitoring.

**Outcome 4 Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions:** UN-REDD continued work on generating, exchanging and applying knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation to accelerate climate action. Thematically, UN-REDD focused on three knowledge management priorities in 2023: REDD+ finance, social inclusion, and the agriculture-forest nexus. The Programme was particularly active with knowledge exchanges and trainings at global and regional levels. Collective political and societal support for forest-based climate solutions increased through knowledge-based advocacy events, including UN-REDD participation at the World Forestry Congress and regional Climate Weeks. The Programme continued to support partner countries in integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment principles within REDD+ action.

- 2023 highlights on south-south knowledge exchange events: three regional knowledge exchanges with an overarching focus on climate (results-based) finance, but also covering other topics such as safeguards and social inclusion. An exchange on nesting approaches was facilitated between Cambodia and Kenya. The Regional Forum on Climate Finance and Forests was developed in Costa Rica, succeeding in reinvigorating south-south exchange on achievements and lessons learned in Latin America for results-based payments and forest finance initiatives. A follow up exchange will take place in October during the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW). In West Africa, UN-REDD is supporting the organization of the workshop “Community-based Forestry in West Africa: The Way Forward” (upcoming Oct 2023).
- 2023 highlights on capacity building: the Indigenous Peoples & Climate Finance Capacity Building and Dialogue programme designed, consulted and initiated. A new community of practice launched on safeguards and integrity for LAC, which brings together UN-REDD and country experts working on safeguards in the region; and, a webinar series was organized on voluntary carbon markets for gender and women's organizations.
- 2023 highlights on knowledge products include: a white paper on pricing of forest carbon; a comparative study on carbon rights in the context of jurisdictional REDD+ (with case studies from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin-America); information briefs on implementation of free, prior, informed consent, grievance redress mechanisms, gender, and full and effective participation of IP & LCs in benefit sharing in and voluntary carbon markets (with case studies from Cote d'Ivoire and Republic of Congo); guidance for governments to implement NDCs on aligning short-term land sector actions with long-term climate goals.

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<sup>6</sup> Cambodia, Chile, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia.

- 2023 highlights on the high-level advocacy campaign: Forest Dialogues - on elevating supply side ambition and demand signal for high-integrity forest-based mitigation – were prepared in side events at the Amazon Summit, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America climate weeks and CoP28. The #SaveForestsNow communications campaign and climate action video series, featuring Indonesia, Brazil and DRC, is ongoing.

### 2023 Highlights from specific initiatives

- **ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative.** 32 Social Forestry Value Chains analyzed for their commercial potential (20 NTFPs 12 timber)<sup>7</sup>. An estimate of potential climate mitigation contributions resulting from existing social forestry interventions in each of the three pilot countries commenced. Continuous dialogue and exchange with ASEAN Secretariat was ensured.
- **Strengthening REDD+ implementation in Africa.** A new regional partnership with Africa Forest Forum was launched focused on capacity building through knowledge management. A high-level side event on results-based finance and access to carbon markets was held at Africa Climate Week, Nairobi. Knowledge exchange and learning has been maintained by a community of practice through periodic webinars. Piloting the analytical framework on land use and forest policy coherence in one country.
- **REDD+ Academy 3.0:** The reboot of the REDD+ practitioners' curriculum and associated training, is progressing through the revision of learning journals, delivery of learning labs and associated south-south knowledge exchange events. The priority topic for 2023 has been results-based finance.
- **Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region.** The China behavioural change campaign was launched, targeting the root causes of illegal logging. The Sustainable Forest Trade Incubation Platform is nurturing 70 enterprises focused on sustainable forest trade<sup>8</sup>. The finance flows for Timber and Rubber were mapped to assess deforestation risk. All five countries in the initiative were supported to assess and strengthen social and environmental monitoring systems. Critical exchanges were convened on decoupling of agricultural commodities and deforestation. This included south-south dialogues on jurisdictional and commodity approaches and enhancing knowledge on deforestation free market regulations.

### *Questions for feedback and discussion by the Board:*

- *Anything else the Board might want to highlight as progress since the last EB meeting?*
- *Any further comment on the UN-REDD 2022 Annual Report and the 2023 Semi-Annual Update, how progress is presented, and ways to improve and make these reports useful to Board members?*

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<sup>7</sup> Value chains - include honey, wooden poles, bamboo handicraft, teak furniture, ecotourism, teak log and sawn timber, rubber, teak, etc. Six high-potential value chains per country will be selected for further analysis at the enterprise level.

<sup>8</sup> Sustainable Forest Trade Incubation - has supported a diverse group of early-stage businesses embracing nature-positive models across sectors: Timber, Ecotourism, Conservation, Agriculture, and NTFPs (especially in Thailand and Viet Nam).

## **Part 2: Looking forward to 2024 and beyond**

In addition to diversifying its funding base and securing sufficient income to proceed with core technical assistance and knowledge management functions, in 2023, the UN-REDD Programme also passed the mid-point of its current period of operations. Consequently, 2024, will see an enhanced and accelerated delivery as the Programme strives to make its contribution to the to the mid-decade outcomes – [1 gigatonne CO<sub>2</sub>e, USD 5 billion of results-based finance and 15 enhanced NDCs](#).

The Programme is currently engaged in the annual 2024 work planning update exercise and will provide an updated draft work plan for the Board’s perusal early next year. Although details of specific deliverables for specific countries cannot be shared at this juncture, some key strategic directions for 2024 can clearly be identified for the country technical assistance portfolio, global and regional knowledge management, and overarching advocacy campaigns.

Following from 2023, the geographical scope of the technical assistance will continue promote Increasing efforts of additional partner countries (e.g. Bolivia and Ethiopia) advancing elements of the REDD+ Warsaw framework and promoting ER achievements, yet, at the same time intensify efforts to support front-runner countries (e.g. Ecuador and Ghana) to be eligible for large-scale (i.e. jurisdictional), high-integrity results-based finance. In 2024, the Programme will also further explore interest and opportunities for Brazil to join as a partner country.

As front-runner countries start to secure jurisdictional transactions, under Outcome 1 – forest solutions realised – the Programme will also boost longer term strengthening of technical and institutional capacities to innovate and implement policies and measures to address divers of deforestation. This includes supporting governments and stakeholders navigating changing regulatory landscape of land-use and agrifood system transformation as key part of the solution, enhancing the complementarities between the food and forest sectors. Complementing this will be the development of mechanisms and strategies to access upfront private and public investments in these actions to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation.

Upfront investments, in cash and capacities, will continue to be complemented, under Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded - by efforts to help countries access results-based finance, from both private (e.g. the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance Coalition) and public (e.g. the Green Climate Fund) sources. The Programme will continue to focus on advancing and broadening the LEAF pipeline through supporting countries meet the standards and requirements of the Coalition.

Enhanced ambition and accelerated implementation of forest and land-use sector NDC components under Outcome 3 – forest solutions enhanced – will continue in 2024. In terms of enhanced ambition, there will be a focus on supporting countries to prepare for their 2025 NDC updates. In particular, there will be assessment related to NDC trajectories available to countries for consideration during the enhancement process. On the implementation side, country-specific technical assistance will focus on turning mitigation targets into fully-financed climate action on the ground, embedded into coordinated national policy frameworks.

A strategic focus for Outcome 4 - connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions – in 2024 will be the ongoing high-level advocacy campaign to build consensus between demand and supply on forest carbon price and requirements for high-integrity emissions reductions. While south-south knowledge exchange will be elevated to the next level through new initiatives launched at the end of 2023: Africa Forest Forum partnership and the REDD+ Academy 3.0.

Looking beyond 2024, strategizing for the second half of the decade will be a priority to achieve the 2023 goal - forest’s mitigation contribution to the Paris Agreement is fully realised. This will be complemented by a renewed resource mobilisation effort and a continued expansion of the donor base for 2026 to 2030. Lastly, the Programme looks to refresh this Board’s membership with the reactivation of the Executive Board rotation mechanism to continue benefitting from all constituencies’ contributions to UN-REDD’s success all the way to the crucial CoP30!

Questions for feedback and discussion by the Board:

- Any feedback on the priorities for 2024? What are the strategic priorities for UN-REDD, 2025-2030?

#### 4. PARTICIPANTS

Region/ Constituency	EB Member	EB Alternate
<b>Africa</b>	Madagascar: Ms. Lovakanto Ravelomanana, Mr Rijatahiana Haingomanantsoa	Ghana: Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>	Nepal: Mr. Nabaraj Pudasaini, Mr. Shankar Adhikari	Indonesia: Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi
<b>LAC</b>	Colombia: Ms. María Teresa Becerra, Mr. Jerson Leonardo Gonzalez Umaña	Chile: Ms. Constanza Troppa
<b>Programme Donors</b>	Norway: Mr. Leif-John Fosse, Ms. Vania Dietrichson	Rep of Korea: Ms. Woori Lee, Mr. Soo-hwan Kim
	Switzerland: Mr. Keith Anderson, Mr. Pierre-André Cordey	Japan: Ms. Ayumi Ono
	UK: Ms. Lindsay Mansfield, Ms. Fiona Stringer	European Commission: Mr. Patrice Moussy (tbc)
<b>UN Agencies</b>	UNDP: Mr. Tim Clairs (EB Chair)	FAO, UNEP, Secretariat
	<b>Permanent Observer</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>IPs</b>	IP-LAC: Ms. Dolores (Lola) Cabnal, RMIB-LAC	IP Africa: Mr. Joseph Itongwa, REPALEF (tbc)
<b>CSOs</b>	LAC: Mr. Gustavo Sánchez Valle, Red MOCAF	Asia-Pacific: Mr. David Ganz, RECOFTC