

UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2024 Integrated Work Plan

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1. Introduction

UN-REDD has been supporting countries with REDD+ implementation and increasing ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their NDCs, both through policy advice, technical assistance and knowledge management.

Looking to the 2030 horizon, the goal of UN-REDD is to help realise forest solutions to the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and fostering carbon sequestration for at least 5 GtCO₂e per year.

Within the scope of this ambition, the UN-REDD Results Framework for the period 2021-2025 turns around four inter-related outcomes: (1) Realising forest solutions; (2) Rewarding forest solutions; (3) Enhancing forest solutions; and (4) Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions.

This 2024 integrated workplan builds on the individual work plans produced for the different UN-REDD donors (Norway, Switzerland, UK, and Korea), as follows:

- Norway contribution: UN-REDD 2022-2025 Technical Assistance (TA) Multiyear Plan and UN-REDD 2024 Technical Assistance Workplan and Budget, which were approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board (EB) on 26 October 2021 and 27 December 2023 respectively
- UK contribution: UN-REDD 2023-2025 TA Workplan and Budget, approved by the EB on 14 July 2023
- Switzerland contribution: UN-REDD 2022-2024 ASEAN Social Forestry TA for REDD+ Implementation, approved by the EB on 17 January 2022; and UN-REDD 2023-2025 African Forest Forum (AFF) Strengthening REDD+ implementation in Africa, approved by the Board on 14 July 2023
- Republic of Korea contribution: UN-REDD 2023-2027 TA for REDD+ Implementation: REDD+ Academy 3.0, approved by the EB on 31 August 2023

The 2024 workplanning process was conducted in the last quarter of 2023/January 2024 with the aim to calibrate the optimal deployment of technical assistance to countries in 2024, so to consolidate ongoing processes and harness new avenues.

This integrated workplan provides a snapshot of the UN-REDD country focus, global communications and knowledge management and core delivery in 2024.

Overall, the UN-REDD activities in 2024 will continue to contribute to advance a number of strategic commitments of the forest and climate agenda:

- Implementing policies and investments for forest solutions, including cross-sectoral approaches and multi-stakeholder processes, particularly in the agricultural and rural-development sectors
- Supporting countries to continuously improve their forest monitoring and MRV systems, in order to ensure high-integrity of REDD+ action and financing, and be able to meet requirements of evolving jurisdictional standards for REDD+ results, such as notably ART/TREES
- Supporting countries to assess and access climate and carbon finance, both upfront for implementation of their forest solutions as well as for their forest results (REDD+)
- Promote social inclusion and gender equality in forest policies and associated climate finance, with a specific focus on indigenous peoples and local communities
- Assist countries to build the necessary support regulations and institutional arrangements to ensure the environmental integrity of the mix of carbon finance options they choose to deploy, ensuring environmental integrity and social equity

- Assist forested countries in the Global South and relevant stakeholders to explore and enhance private sector investments, including through LEAF
- Support countries monitor and enhance the forest components of their NDCs

The report is structured to provide information by country and global communications and knowledge management areas. Each country section follows a similar format, presenting:

- strategic context: intended as an updated assessment from 2023 inception and earlier briefs.
- country engagement: describing the consultations held and their outcomes.
- 2023 workplan: consisting of a table with description of key deliverables mapped against the UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework outcomes.

The content for each country section varies depending on where the country stands, hence the varying level of detail provided.

2. Country Support

The following profiles provide details on the support anticipated to the current UN-REDD TA priority countries and regions during 2024, in 22 countries and one region as follows:

Argentina, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos PDR, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia; and the ASEAN region.

2.1. Argentina

Strategic context

Argentina has been advancing in its efforts to reduce GHG emissions from a historic peak in 2007 of 424 MtCO_{2e}, to 366 MtCO_{2e} emitted in 2018, according to the 4th BUR. This progress has advanced the country significantly towards meeting its unconditional NDC target of 349 MtCO_{2e} by 2030. The technical review of the REDD+ Technical Annex, which sent to the UNFCCC in January 2023, confirmed an additional 101 MtCO_{2e} of avoided emissions between 2017-2018. However, Argentina is still, awaiting financing opportunities to translate those results into additional results-based finance.

Argentina published a National Strategy for the Use of Carbon Markets in November 2023 (MAyDS Resolution 385/2023), which will serve as a roadmap for developing strategic activities for carbon markets. This Strategy outlines the national roadmap to consider carbon markets and a framework for their implementation in the national territory. This roadmap will help to define needs related to technical and policy issues related to ensuring environmental integrity on carbon accounting, assurance that safeguards will be addressed and respected at that all scales and maintaining adequate incentives for all relevant stakeholders.

The Green Climate Fund REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs) project continues to be implemented, strengthening policy coordination capacities across Provinces and the federal government, including Federal Environmental Committee, which coordinates actions across environmental agencies nationally, and the Livestock and Forestry Management Committee, which includes both agricultural and environmental authorities and establishes the reinforced technical standards for livestock production to be supported under this project. Moving forward, these coordination spaces will play a key role in raising ambition and enhance climate action.

Country engagement

Ongoing planning processes have been taking place with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), including the Forest Directorate and the Climate Change Directorate, over 2023. This included a mission in March 2023, as well as a number of thematic calls and follow up with MAyDS teams. Based on technical needs and priorities identified by current administration officials in discussion with the interagency UN-REDD team, an indicative workplan has been developed. There is currently a presidential election process ongoing, with government change to take place in December 2023. This is likely to have an impact on the delivery of Technical Assistance during 2024, with some delays expected. UN-REDD will be working closely with the government to help transfer the knowledge base and activities developed with the previous administration to new authorities, and to align the workplan as needed to new priorities. The workplan will be reviewed and validated once the new authorities are in place.

Workplan

The main TA focus areas for 2023 are described below:

- Enable Argentina to meet the emerging requirements of results-based financing windows, both market and non-market.
- Inform the development of the National Strategy on Carbon Markets, particularly in relation to technical options to maintain environmental integrity, safeguards compliance, and adequate benefit sharing arrangements across scales. Specifically, technical inputs would be provided on options and experiences in other countries, including institutional arrangements and mechanisms for implementation.
- Continue to support efforts to assess implications and options to address emerging due diligence requirements related to deforestation-free agricultural and forestry products, including through sharing and enhancing knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices (livestock, agroforestry, community forestry) and cutting-edge tools on due diligence in agriculture supply chains.
- Support updating of key elements of the Warsaw Framework, including the safeguards information system and summary of safeguards information.
- Support incoming government on technical aspects related to REDD+, including through engaging Argentina in selected knowledge exchanges.

Outcome/ Output as per UN-REDD Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Tools to raise awareness and due diligence approaches to address deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains	FAO	Piloting of OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Due Diligence and Deforestation in Agricultural Supply Chains with 1-2 companies (per country) in key supply chains impacting forests (complementary thematic and country TA).
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Needs assessment undertaken and related technical advice provided to continue to strengthen the quality of REDD+ emission reductions and related environmental integrity and nesting options to inform	FAO	

	the national strategy on carbon markets.		
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Capacity-building and inputs for updating safeguards instruments in accordance with the UNFCCC safeguards requirements.	UNEP	<p>1) Capacity-building for updating the SIS according to the state of implementation the national REDD+ strategy, aligned with the UNFCCC safeguards requirements</p> <p>2) Short document with recommendations for updating the national SIS.</p> <p>3) Advice, contributions and review of documents for the preparation of the Second Safeguards Summary of Information.</p>
2.1 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Assessment of opportunities for accessing REDD+ climate financing	UNEP and FAO	Through this activity UN-REDD will support the country in an analysis of the impact of most recent UNFCCC decisions and will connect specific MAyDS as well as GNCC representative with key experts on climate finance. This will include a analysis of potential implications from provincial initiatives (e.g., Chaco or Misiones) and nesting requirements, as well as analysis of potential opportunities under Art. 6 and as related to the National Carbon Markets Initiative Opportunities for women, and women’s access to REDD+ climate finance will be considered.

These activities will be complemented by other knowledge management (KM) and regional activities in which Argentina will participate, including, at least one regional / bilateral exchange, for example on selected priority topics selected by the KM working group (e.g. REDD+ nesting approaches, forest management with integrated livestock, community-based agroforestry, and climate financing opportunities, including safeguards, benefit distribution and carbon rights aspects, jurisdictional approaches, including benefit distribution and carbon rights aspects, and exchanges between provinces and/or countries).¹

In addition, this will include continued capacity strengthening on safeguards to MAyDS personnel through the UN-REDD LAC Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity.

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¹ The deliverable indicated could be captured either under UN-REDD RF outcome 1 or 4. Final decision will be taken when refining the overall UN-REDD workplan document, with no impact on the activities agreed with Argentina.

2.2. Bolivia

Strategic context

Bolivia has included relevant objectives in the forest sector as part of its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period 2021-2030, presented to the UNFCCC in April 2022. This NDC includes a target of reducing deforestation to 80%, compared to its baseline for the period 2016-2020 (262,178 hectares annually) by 2030, and a 100% reduction within protected areas. Other key objectives include reducing forest fires by 60% below the baseline and increasing forest cover by 1 million hectares, both by 2030. Additionally, the NDC states Bolivia's commitment to double sustainable production volumes of timber and non-timber forest resources. Altogether, these goals seek to foster the progressive increase of the value of forests through the restoration and protection of environmental functions, contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change, preserve wetland ecosystems, achieve land degradation neutrality, and increase sustainable agricultural productivity while guaranteeing legal security in land tenure through with inclusive and gender perspectives. Accordingly, UN-REDD's technical assistance will ensure alignment with Bolivia's overarching territorial management approach to achieve all its forest-related objectives and goals under the Paris Agreement in a comprehensive manner, including through result-based on cooperation approaches, and geared at planning and implementing joint mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change, ultimately contributing to the improvement of systems and livelihoods, resilience and poverty reduction, primarily of highly vulnerable populations.

More recently, and noting that about half of Bolivia's NDC objectives are conditional to international support in the form of financing, technology transfer and capacity building, under the administration of President Luis Arce, and through the leadership of the Office of the Secretary General of the Vice Presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia with the support of UNDP, Bolivia submitted a Proposal to the LEAF Coalition in September 2022, with a view to accessing to international results-based cooperation. Bolivia's proposed accounting area under its LEAF proposal is subnational, including two jurisdictions: Department of Pando in the north of the country, and the Indigenous Territory of Charagua, in the south. With approximately 95% of its surface covered by tropical forests and flooded forests, Pando is home of 6.1 million hectares of the most carbon-dense forests in Bolivia. The Charagua indigenous territory is a Guaraní autonomous indigenous government, constituted and enabled by the Plurinational Constitution of Bolivia from 2017, which grants self-government and autonomy rights for originary indigenous peasants, in relation to ancestral and consuetudinary territory, culture, history, language, and self-determined governance and legal, political, social and economic self-led institutions.

During 2023, Bolivia submitted a proposed Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. These actions have received the support of the international cooperation, mobilizing resources so that Bolivia can move towards compliance with its climate commitments associated with forests and have access to financing for results-based cooperation.

Country engagement

As part of UN-REDD's resource mobilization efforts for further TA until 2025, additional funding has been secured from the British government, which will allow to expand UN-REDD's portfolio and technical assistance. This includes technical assistance support for Bolivia through two windows: the of UN-REDD technical assistance and through Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests (AIM4Forests), a dedicated programme specialized in forest monitoring issues. In this context, the UN-REDD programme, through FAO, seeks to complement Bolivia's efforts to consolidate, implement, monitor, and report on forest solutions under results-based cooperation, in a way that contributes to its NDC objectives

On the other hand, complementary and under the broader umbrella of the UN-REDD Programme, AIM4Forests, a five-year program aimed at supporting forest monitoring based in modern surveillance technologies and technical innovation, as well as the use of spatial data and remote sensing. In this context, seeks to support strategic assessments of the national forest monitoring system that enable the integration of national forest resource monitoring and management systems, as well as to facilitate the alignment, innovation, and deployment of high-integrity data sets to overcome MRV methodological challenges, including through the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest surveillance.

During the second half of 2023, FAO team, at both global, regional, and national level, has started coordination with the national government through its LEAF Focal Point under the Vice Presidency, as well as with UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Embassy in La Paz. Inception face-to-face discussions with both the Vice Presidency's delegate, the representative of UK's Embassy in La Paz, and the focal point for UNDP Bolivia were possible in the context of the Regional Forum on Forests and Climate Finance, hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and UNDP in late August 2023, focusing on the overall scope and objectives of UN-REDD's technical assistance, including through AIM4Forests, for the period 2023-2024. Further discussions and preliminary identification of TA priorities were held with the government and key partners in the last trimester of 2023, including face-to-face discussions with the Vice Presidency in the context of FAO and UNEP's side events in the margins of the Climate Week LAC, between 23 – 25 October 2023 in Panama City. Virtual coordination efforts with key partners in a step-wise approach to TA planning and delivery continued , and an in person mission is being considered for early February 2024.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Deliverable 1.1.1 Multi criteria analysis on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and recommendations on optimal policies and measures that inform Bolivia's national strategy / action or implementation plan in the context of results-based cooperation.	FAO	
	Deliverable 1.1.2. Analytical inputs and draft proposal for a financial sustainability strategy for the ENCCRV and the sectoral NDC commitments	FAO	
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Deliverable 1.4.1. Technical backstopping to conduct technical and functional assessments of Bolivia's forest monitoring and GHG reporting systems in relation to relevant results-based cooperation standards and initiatives and recommendations in relation to areas for further improvement.	FAO	
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+	Deliverable 4.1. Support Bolivia's engagement in regional south-south exchanges with a focus on forest finance and environmental integrity, including with	FAO	

implementation is captured	a view to foster the participation of indigenous peoples in climate actions and results-based cooperation.		
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2.3. Cambodia

Strategic context

The Royal Government of Cambodia’s (RGC) updated Nationally Determined Contribution 2020 (NDC 2020) sets an ambitious target to cut overall greenhouse gas emission by 42% by 2030. Building on its work in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, the main mitigation efforts by 2030 will be derived from the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector where it will achieve a 50% reduction of historical emissions (76.3 million tCO₂e) from deforestation. In the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN) submitted in December 2021, the FOLU sector is expected to achieve carbon neutrality from 2031 onwards and net zero-deforestation by 2045. The LTS4CN also pointed to the FOLU sector to provide a net carbon sink of 50 megaton CO₂e by 2050. As such, it is expected be the main sector to offset emissions from energy, agriculture, IPPU and waste sectors. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the lead ministry for NDC and LTS4CN, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) provides important contribution and coordination for the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector.

Country engagement

On-going engagement regarding the progress of this workplan is taking place with and through the REDD+ Secretariat under MoE and with MAFF. At the technical level, FAO and UNDP have prepared a summary report from a technical retreat, dated 9 – 10 May 2023, on the FOLU sector which identified key entry points for UN engagement in the coming years.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	<p><u>Piloting of the Nested Framework</u></p> <p>Operational Guidelines for REDD+ such as monitoring and reporting, operational procedures, safeguard management and revenue sharing for the nested framework are reviewed and updated based on lessons from piloting in selected districts and provinces.</p> <p>Institutional arrangements:</p> <p>2.1 Assessment of existing institutional arrangement, with special reference to information and financial flow, overlap and gaps, inter-institutional interfaces at national and provincial levels for the early and full implementation of the nested system.</p>	UNDP	UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs to operational guidelines for REDD+ and Guidelines on monitoring and reporting; and UN-REDD ASEAN Social Forestry project for the commune role in nested framework.

	<p>2.2 A list of recommendations on institutional arrangement requirements at national and provincial levels for the early and full implementation of the Nested System (information and financial flow, overlap and gaps, inter-institutional interfaces) identified.</p> <p>2.3 Lessons learnt briefs and slide decks for the RGC to showcase its experiences with the nested framework.</p> <p>2.4 Communes' role in nested framework strengthened through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and awareness raising at commune level - Identify the scope of collaboration between project and commune levels for better integration in operationalization of nested framework. <p>Registry and Safeguards Management</p> <p>National REDD+ database registry enhanced through developing registration processes/procedures and establishing templates according to eligibility conditions.</p> <p>Detailed methods and guidance documents on project-level safeguards management developed to provide information and enhance the information collection process linked with Sol.</p>		
<p>1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems</p>	<p><u>Monitoring and tracking of NDC and LTS4CN implementation</u></p> <p>Development of the infrastructure and operationalization of the MIS system within MAFF (FA and DPS) and GDNPA/MOE supported.</p> <p>SOP for gathering information necessary for GHG inventory for FOLU sector.</p> <p>QA/QC mechanism/procedure to ensure the quality of data reporting by national and sub-national government department developed.</p> <p>Capacity of the MIS administrators and agency focal points on reporting protocol and data standards MAFF (FA and DPS) and GDNPA/MOE built.</p> <p>Harmonized data collection process, sharing mechanism national to sub-national and across relevant sub-sectors/departments of MOE and MAFF and existing systems.</p>	<p>FAO</p>	
	<p><u>Degradation</u></p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>Degradation work arrangement:</p>

	<p>An official national definition of forest degradation through a participatory and multistakeholder consultative process. Operational methodology for detecting and monitoring forest degradation. In-house capacity to fully integrate emissions from forest degradation in future documents, proposals, and reporting as needed. Degradation maps.</p>		<p>FAO leads national taskforce (Forest Degradation work) while actively engage UNDP through the process as core partner. UNDP will coordinate with FAO on the definition of forest degradation and the proposed forest degradation methodology, work which is currently supported by MoE/DGIS and funded through Climate Promise, with a specific focus on protected areas. FAO and UNDP work together in testing different approaches/tools, capacity development, explore integration into NFMS, CEMIS, FRMIS (in synergy with 3R project and Climate Promise) FAO support integration of forest degradation emissions in measurement and reporting as needed.</p>
	<p><u>Emission Factors</u> QC/QA on the new EF for Shorea siamensis species. Integrate new result from Shorea siamensis species and new species to improve the EF of the Deciduous Forest. Improved mixed-species allometric equations. QA of NFI measurement 70 clusters (210 plots) of upland forest in SrePok Wildlife Sanctuary conducted by GDEKI/MOE. Update national EF based on recent field inventories (from partial NFI and Projects) team.</p>	FAO	
	<p><u>Various-scale Monitoring</u> Capacity developed on measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification at various scales. FRMIS for local-scale monitoring enhanced. NFMS for local-scale monitoring enhanced. FRMIS established and NFMS updated with the integration of recent developments and local-scale monitoring on CFs and CPAs' actions.</p>	FAO	<p>Local scale monitoring FAO supports activity data development from CFs and CPAs of targeted areas of CASFor. UNDP provide support in database development and management or others and integration with CEMIS.</p>
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors	<p><u>Revenue Management through ESF</u> 1. A multi-level governance structure for the ESF to manage and disburse the proceeds with a specific REDD+ window developed.</p>	UNDP	UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs on the draft guidance note on the use of proceeds.

<p>assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time</p>	<p>2. A cross-ministerial digital system for national-scale revenue management developed in consultation with broad stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>3. Detailed revenue management procedures and templates for all sources of funds received including REDD+ revenues developed.</p> <p>4. Draft guidance note on the use of proceeds.</p>		
	<p><u>Support to NDC implementation</u></p> <p>1. A report which contains a review and recommended enhancement of existing system(s) such as CEMIS with necessary modification to track indicators under REDD+.</p> <p>2. Assessment and operational options to strengthen MoE-led community-based management of Community Protected Areas (CPAs).</p>	<p>UNDP</p>	<p>For no. 1, UNDP will coordinate with FAO for inputs in line with existing FAO activities (UN-REDD TA under Results Framework 1.4 and other parallel projects).</p> <p>For no. 2, for taking the NDC and LTS as baseline document, a new REDD+ indicator list has been developed by the REDD+ secretariat in consultation with National Technical Working Group on MRV. The new tracking system will be designed to generate data/information on those indicators to help reporting and progresses made in line with NDC and LTS.</p> <p>On No.2, Government and UN-REDD agencies are still discussing the approach.</p> <p>This work will be closely coordinated with FAO who will manage the overall technical harmonization across Results Framework 1.4.</p>

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2.4. Chile

Strategic context

Chile remains a front-runner country on climate action and ambition. Since 2013 Chile's National Forest Corporation (CONAF) has been leading REDD+ readiness and implementation, through its REDD+

strategy – the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). A public policy instrument geared at achieving both adaptation and mitigation objectives, the ENCCRV is already in full implementation after the successful launch and entry in operation of its Benefit Sharing Plan (SDB) in the second half of 2022. With UN-REDD’s technical backstopping, earlier this year, Chile submitted an updated Forest Emissions Reference Level to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for technical assessment, which includes six additional regions and methodological improvements, in a stepwise approach toward national level accounting. As a result of the technical assessment process, CONAF submitted a modified FREL proposal in the second half of 2023, and the development of a Technical Annex to Chile’s Biennial Update Report under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement has been prioritized for 2024.

The ENCCRV seeks to reduce the vulnerability to climate change and the risk of land degradation while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from degradation and deforestation by 20% by 2025 from 2001-2013 levels, through the management of vegetation resources in at least 264,000 hectares between 2017 and 2025. With a planning horizon of nine years, the ENCCRV plays a key role in the achievement of Chile’s sectoral commitments under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In 2020, Chile submitted a more ambitious NDC which emphasizes the synergies between mitigation and adaptation actions in the forest sector. Under an integration component, the NDC establishes the following contributions: the sustainable management and recovery of 200,000 ha of native forests, representing GHG captures of around 0.9 to 1.2 MtCO₂eq annually by 2030, afforestation of 200,000 ha, least of which at 100,000 hectares will comprise permanent forest cover, with at least 70,000 ha of native species, representing captures of between 3.0 and 3.4 MtCO₂eq annually by 2030, and reducing emissions in the forestry sector associated with degradation and deforestation of the native forest by 25%, with respect to average emissions in the period 2001-2013. In addition to this, Chile's NDC states its commitment to develop by 2021 a National Plan for the Restoration of Landscapes, with the objective to include 1,000,000 ha of highly vulnerable ecosystems under restoration processes at a landscape scale.

Chile accessed results-based finance under the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) REDD-plus pilot programme for the results achieved at the subnational level in the period 2014-2016, for a total of USD 63,607,552. Led by CONAF and implemented with the support of FAO as a GCF Accredited Entity (AE), the +Bosques project directly contributes to the NDC’s sectoral goals through the implementation of direct measures of action (MDA) of the ENCCRV in six regions prone to the increased occurrence and magnitude of wildfires (Maule, Ñuble, Biobio, Araucanía, Los Rios, and Los Lagos), with a target area of 25,540 ha. During the first semester of 2023 CONAF undertook an in-depth assessment of pilot site intervention projects and early implementation of its BSP supported by +Bosques, which resulted in a diversity of lessons learned including in terms of real implementation costs and cost efficiency and effectiveness of selected MDAs. All of these will be instrumental to inform the design of a strategy for the financial sustainability of the ENCCRV, and ultimately for the achievement of Chile’s sectoral NDC commitments. Accordingly, ongoing UN-REDD technical backstopping through FAO and UNEP to support CONAF in the revision of its Finance Strategy for the ENCCRV, originally conceived during the first half of 2023, will carry over through 2024, including through dedicated expertise to undertake analytical assessments from both a financial, legal, and institutional perspective with a view to providing recommendations for a financial and resource mobilization strategy that enables CONAF to achieve its sectoral NDC commitments.

Since 2021, Chile has a fully operational Safeguards Information System (SIS) which has been built through a fit-for-purpose safeguards approach conceived to enable Chile to address, respect and demonstrate compliance with relevant safeguards policy frameworks and reporting requirements, according to its current reporting commitments in relation REDD+ financing. With UN-REDD’s support through UNEP, the SIS was further improved during 2022 and a Second Summary of Information on Safeguards (SOI) has been under preparation during 2023. Similarly, Chile’s National Forest Monitoring

System and overall GHG measuring, monitoring and reporting systems are fully operational and geared at producing consistent GHG estimations for the LULUCF sector to meet multiple reporting commitments, including the National GHG Inventory, the Biennial Transparency Report under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement, and REDD+ reports in the context of results-based financing.

The Climate Change Framework Law No. 21,455/2022, enacted in 2022, regulates the use of standards for the generation of certificates of emission reductions or captures of GHG (ER) by projects in Chilean territory. To date, ownership rights over ERs has been interpreted in the context of access and reinvestment of results-based financing through *collaboration agreements*, which are legal instruments governing rights over future ERs to be achieved when implementing small-scale site intervention projects under the ENCCRV's BSP. However, ownership over ERs achieved in the context of forest carbon projects and results-based financing through voluntary carbon markets is something yet to be further defined and regulated. By the end of 2023, Chile will continue to work on legislative advancements both in the context of an on-going constitutional process as well as in the development of regulations under the Climate Change Framework Law and the green tax, led by the Ministry of the Environment. Moreover, by the end of 2023, with the support of The Nature Conservancy through Climate Focus, CONAF expects to consolidate a draft approach and associated accounting rules to enable the integration of forest carbon projects under the voluntary carbon market as part of the national GHG LULUCF accounting. This process will continue to be consolidated in 2024, with UN-REDD's technical support through FAO.

Country engagement

During the first semester of 2023, UNEP provided technical backstopping to CONAF in the development of its SOI and the preparation of its Second Summary of Information, as well as for improving the SIS compliance indicators and accessibility. By the last half of the year, UN-REDD's TA via UNEP has been geared at strengthening the multi-stakeholder accessibility to CONAF's BSP through the ENCCRV Platform. In addition to this, with UN-REDD's support through its Working Group on REDD+ Safeguards and Integrity for LAC, CONAF's Safeguards Team has been actively engaged in a series of regional exchanges facilitated by UNEP throughout the year.

Between 26 June and 04 July, FAO conducted a hybrid UN-REDD / GCF RBP country mission which included a series of in-person meetings with CONAF, which allowed for technical discussions in relation to the overall TA through FAO to ensure a coherent TA support. Strategic direction and priorities for the second half of 2023 - including with a 2024 horizon- were further confirmed by CONAF during an interagency virtual coordination meeting later in July. Overarching 2024 strategic priorities, and on-going and carry over 2023 priority activities, for both FAO and UNEP's teams are detailed in Section 3 below.

As part of this mid-year planning exercise, CONAF, FAO and UNEP have confirmed availability for an in-person interagency mission, to be organized on the week of January 29th, 2024, back-to-back to a FAO in-person mission in the context of the GCF RBP project on the previous week. Moreover, a dedicated MRV / FAO mission was conducted during the second half of October 2023, with the objective of presenting and assessing technical requirements and practical considerations under available RBP financing sources, and preliminarily identifying functional, technical and institutional capacities and needs to further strengthen Chile's forest monitoring and MRV and ensure environmental integrity while transitioning to a consistent monitoring and reporting of LULUCF GHGs under the BTR.

On the other hand, as aforementioned, building on the lessons learned from the implementation of CONAF's BSP with the support of the +Bosques project and FAO as its Accredited and Implementing Entity, follow up discussions between CONAF, FAO and UNEP resulted in agreed terms of reference for a climate finance expert who will support CONAF in the consolidation of an integrated financing approach to guarantee the long-term effectiveness and financial sustainability of the ENCCRV,

including long-term agreements and public-private collaboration that promote interventions integrated landscape projects and mobilize co-financing, ultimately contributing to the implementation of the sectoral NDC. In addition to this, discussions between CONAF and FAO during the last quarter of 2024 have informed the development of terms of reference to recruit a legal consultant to prepare a legal diagnosis and regulatory proposals and / or recommendations, considering the implications of article 6.2. and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement for the country, to enable the registration and transfer of mitigation results (or RE units) at the national and international level (ITMOs) under both regulated and voluntary carbon markets in support of the implementation of the ENCCRV and the sectoral NDC. Both consultants are currently being recruited via FAO, with contracts to be operative during the first semester of 2024, and which ultimately seek to contribute to Chile’s resource mobilization strategy to achieve its sectoral NDC commitments.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs	Deliverable 1.1.1 Analytical inputs and draft proposal for a financial sustainability strategy for the ENCCRV and the sectoral NDC commitments	FAO (TA lead and dedicated support) / UNEP (dedicated TA backstopping)	UNEP’s support will focus on technical review and inputs to the Strategy, including consideration of innovative financial mechanisms such as debt for climate and nature swaps.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Deliverable 1.4.1. Chile’s functional, technical, and institutional capacities strengthened to consistently report under a diversity of international commitments and results-based financing opportunities while ensuring environmental integrity in implementing and reporting on Chile’s NDC sectoral commitments: REDD+ Technical Annex to Chile’s BTR	FAO	
	Deliverable 1.4.2. Chile’s functional, technical, and institutional capacities strengthened to consistently report under a diversity of international commitments and results-based financing opportunities while ensuring environmental integrity in implementing and reporting on Chile’s NDC sectoral commitments: REDD+ Technical Annex to Chile’s BTR	FAO	
	Deliverable 1.4.3 Chile’s functional, technical, and institutional capacities strengthened: Fit-for-purpose Montecarlo tool and estimations completed for all activities and	FAO	

	transitions, as per Chile's most recent FREL.		
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Deliverable 1.5.1. Feedback document on strengthening the Safeguards Information System (SIS) with a focus on the gender approach.	UNEP	
	Deliverable 1.5.2. Guidelines and insights document on safeguards harmonization in REDD+ nested approaches	UNEP	
	Deliverable 1.5.3. Guidelines document for identifying/strengthening multiple benefits information and impact from the SDB	UNEP	
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Deliverable 2.2.1. Report on legal diagnosis and regulatory proposal taking into account the implications of article 6.2. and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement for the country, in order to institutionalize the relevant processes to facilitate the registration and transfer of mitigation results (or ER units) at the national and international level (ITMOs) in order to facilitate access to regulated and voluntary carbon markets in support of the implementation of the ENCCRV and the sectoral NDC	FAO	UNEP will provide inputs and backstopping as relevant, consistent with deliverable 2.2.3.
	Deliverable 2.2.2. Strategic and recommendations policy document that defines up to date policy, legal and institutional framework relevant to the ENCCRV and sectoral NDC, including regulatory solutions, with a view to facilitate and regulate direct participation of projects results-based forest carbon finance, while ensuring environmental integrity in the achievement, monitoring and reporting of the sectoral NDC commitments.	FAO	
	Deliverable 2.2.3 Feedback and insights document on safeguards requirements from ART/TREES, and other prioritized RBP financing sources	UNEP	In alignment / consistent with FAO's 2.2.1 and 2.2.2
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Deliverable 3.1.1 Monitoring, accounting and reporting roadmap to facilitate CONAF's transition for REDD+ MRV to the Enhanced Transparency Framework.	FAO	

	Deliverable 3.1.2 Technical and methodological framework document that establishes monitoring, accounting and reporting procedures and milestones in relation to Chile's international and financing commitments, and to facilitate the integration of forest carbon finance projects' result, while ensuring environmental integrity in the achievement, monitoring and reporting of the sectoral NDC commitments.	FAO	
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured	Deliverable 4.1.1 Support Chile's engagement in regional south-south exchanges with a focus on forest financing and environmental integrity, including with a view to foster the participation of indigenous peoples in climate actions through a new forest management model.	FAO / UNEP	

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2.5. Colombia

Strategic context

The Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management (EICDGB): "Forests Territories of Life", was published in 2018 and corresponds to the country's National Strategy for the Reduction of Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENREDD+). This Strategy has been the starting point since 2018 for the UN-REDD TA in Colombia. More recently, the new National Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo - PND in Spanish) (Law 2294 of 2023) establishes measures with the halt of deforestation, forest concessions to peasant communities, provisions on the GHG reduction/removal accounting system and the mitigation monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system at the national level; sectoral baselines; as well as the conditions, criteria and requirements for the validation and verification of GHG mitigation initiatives, and the requirements applicable to GHG programs or carbon standards, many of these in the context of Conflict Termination and the Building of a Stable and Lasting Peace.

Among the national government's agreements with Indigenous Peoples, related to the PND, is the formulation and implementation of 13 Indigenous Plans related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience; protection, conservation, and restoration of strategic areas of special environmental importance; the Ten-Year National Plan for the Biodiversity of Indigenous Peoples; the Plan for Training and Socio-Environmental Participation of Indigenous Peoples, Community Environmental Monitoring; Protection of traditional knowledge systems; and regulation of the REDD+ mechanism and carbon rights, among others, all while guaranteeing the fundamental right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

On the other hand, the tax reform (Law 2277 of 2022) established the specific allocation of 80% of the carbon tax revenue to the management of coastal erosion; reducing deforestation and monitoring it; among other measures, prioritizing PDET municipalities with the presence of illicit economies, to bring incentives to conservation. In addition, it creates the Fund for Sustainability and Climate Resilience (Fonsurec), as an autonomous heritage, attached to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development that will manage, among others, 80% of the resources from the collection of the National Carbon Tax. Subsequently, with Decree 1648 of 2023, the name changes and the governing and

administrative bodies of the now called Fund for Life and Biodiversity are regulated, as well as the mechanisms for the entry, administration and execution of the resources that comprise it. This fund is the government's commitment to implement the deforestation containment plan, the restoration plan and actions aimed at territorial planning around water. All of these elements have a direct link with the National REDD+ Strategy and require broad participation from all actors, and like the REDD+ and PSA mechanism, they will be the subject of prior consultation with Indigenous Peoples.

Country engagement

The UN-REDD TA aligns with the Country Programme Framework (Marco Programático de País - MPP in Spanish), in terms of Better Production and Better Environment through green innovation, agrifood systems that mitigate the effects of climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture, respectively. In this context, and in that of the EICDGB/ENREDD+, at the request of the Ministry of Environment, in 2023, the UN-REDD TA focused on strengthening aspects of policy, MRV, Social and Environmental Safeguards and participation that required this support. Progress in this regard can be consulted at the following link. Subsequently, and after taking stock of what has been achieved in 2023 and what is required for 2024 and 2025, the need to continue the national dialogues on REDD+ initiated in 2023 and to consolidate the governance of the national strategy within the ministry has been identified; update the National REDD+ Strategy (Forests Territories of Life) defining its action plan to 2026. In addition, it is necessary to update the Amazon Vision Program as an umbrella for all REDD+ interventions in the region and to support the government in the agreement of indigenous plans for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the indigenous ten-year biodiversity plan, and the free and informed prior consultation of the REDD+ mechanism, developed as part of the pre-consultation of a process to strengthen the capacities of the communities in the territories.

Regarding the implementation of the safeguards, it is necessary to strengthen the internal committee of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the implementation of the intersectoral working group, to support regulations associated to safeguards, and to help address cases of rights violations, or where conflicts have arisen as a result of the implementation of REDD+ initiatives, mainly associated to voluntary market projects. The need for legal support has been identified for addressing these safeguards-related activities.

On the other hand, there is the need to overcome the technical challenges for compliance with the European Union regulation for deforestation-free agricultural chains, among which is the application of due diligence for the country's largest export products (coffee, cocoa and others), which merits a manager who dynamizes and accelerates the process and provides technical support for the country to comply with the new global regulatory framework for agricultural supply chains. Finally, in terms of MRV, 9 priorities are highlighted that are detailed in the table of the work plan, and related to the built of new FREL, REDD+ Technical Annex submission, accounting and nesting, technical and regulatory adjustments to national regulations, continue support for the estimation and monitoring of processes such as forest degradation, restoration, and the monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management within the framework of REDD+. Consultations were held with the Ministry of Environment (within the framework of the climate week in Panama), and initial meetings with IDEAM. A joint meeting to validate and prioritize activities is expected to take place during the week of December 18, 2023. All of this must be addressed in a comprehensive manner by supporting the updating and coordination of the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI).

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their	1.1.1 Multi-stakeholder dialogues at	FAO	The first quarter of 2024 will be implemented with FAO's 2023 resource balance. If the dialogues

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	national, regional and territorial levels to improve the environmental and social integrity of carbon markets.		need to be extended until November 2024, additional resources should be managed or covered by JDI modality 1 resources. FAO can facilitate and systematize technical roundtables and dialogues with multiple actors until December. UNEP will support with technical assistance to develop programs and approaches to the dialogues. UNDP will support the methodological development of the workshops and contribute to the systematization process.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	1.1.2 National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+) updated to 2026.	FAO	FAO will facilitate and systematize institutional workshops to update the ENREDD+ indicators to 2026 during the first quarter of 2024, seeking their articulation with the update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan UNDP will support the methodological development of the workshops and contribute to the systematization process. Support from UNEP will focus on the technical review and inputs to the updating of the strategy.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	1.1.3 Technical inputs for updating the ENREDD+ financial strategy	UNEP	UNEP will provide considerations on innovative financial mechanisms such as the debt-for-climate and nature swap
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	1.1.4 Updated ENREDD+ Financial Strategy	FAO	Based on the evaluation of ENREDD's financial strategy and the technical recommendations for its updating, FAO will support the updating of the financial strategy.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	1.1.5. Report on NDC progress based on REDD+ pre-feasibility analysis in PDET territories	UNDP	UNDP will generate reports on the results of progress in compliance with the NDC derived from the pre-feasibility analysis of the Natural Paz project.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	1.1.6 ENREDD+ technical coordination mechanisms institutionalized within the MinAmbiente and with the MinAgriculture.	FAO	
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programs to deliver their	1.1.7 Document with recommendations and advice for the prior consultation	FAO	

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	process of the REDD+ mechanism.		
1.3 Ensuring deforestation-free commodity supply chains	Training modules and Colombia-specific technical annex for the implementation of the OECD/FAO Due Diligence Manual.	FAO/UNDP	<p>Based on the results of the due diligence pilot of the OECD and FAO Manual for coffee, FAO will develop training for companies and information on due diligence applicable to Colombia, facilitating attention to the risk of deforestation in business practices in the sector. Improving the management systems of these companies may also contribute to their readiness to comply with European Union regulations for zero-deforestation agricultural products.</p> <p>UNDP will generate exchanges between countries to promote LLS and KM based on the pilot implementation of deforestation-free production under the EUDR.</p> <p>UNDP will support the generation of a pilot process in Coffee to support the development of a deforestation-free strategy for the Colombian Coffee Federation (NaturalPaz Project)</p>
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	FREL submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2024, and start of the feedback and review process with international technical experts.	FAO	The FREL will be finalized in January 2024, with review by the Ministry of Environment. The country has already informed the UNFCCC that it will submit it for review later this month. The review process may take between 3-6 months
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Technical annex for REDD+ prepared.	FAO	In line with the provisions of the 2023 FREL roadmap, and with the compliance agreements for the approval of the Proyecto GCF-Vision Amazonia
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Technical support for the activation and operation of RENARE, and data analysis carried out	FAO	During 2023, UN-REDD provided technical support to IDEAM for the management and evolutionary maintenance of the MRV subsystems prioritized by IDEAM for the AFOLU sector and its REDD+ component in RENARE, as well as the tests that were carried out to operationalize the 3rd phase of RENARE and the generation of the Technical User Guide of this registry. In 2024, the support and analysis of the information that is updated must

			continue once RENARE is reactivated
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Technical adjustments and launch of the FREL Zoning Guide publication to determine the maximum mitigation potential of REDD+ initiatives undertaken.	FAO	During 2022 and 2023, the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM in conjunction with GIZ formulated the guide, which is not yet public and requires technical adjustments based on the results of the accounting dialogues held in 2023 and supported by UN-REDD
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Technical roundtables to quantify mitigation results through REDD+ carried out.	FAO	Derived from the first phase of the national dialogues convened in 2023 by MinAmbiente with the UN-REDD. They must be made up of delegates from the Ministry of Environment, IDEAM (SMBByC and RENARE), REDD+ programs and projects (maximum 10 people)
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Procedure for homologation of REDD+ results between national REDD+ programs and REDD+ projects of the voluntary market carried out.	FAO	It could be annexed to the FREL Zoning Guide to determine the maximum mitigation potential of REDD+ initiatives
1.4 Enabling policy-relevant, high-quality inputs for emission reductions	Institutional Anchoring of the Proposal for Monitoring Conservation and Community Forestry Agreements.		It will depend on the prioritization by the Ministry of Environment of this issue.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Technical and legal advice to support the regulation of aspects related to REDD+ safeguards.	UNEP	UNEP support will focus on technical assistance and inputs and include the hiring of a consultant focused on legal issues and safeguards; including support to address complaints and promote conflict resolution. The possibility of adding support on benefits-sharing will be evaluated.
2.1 Access to results-based payments for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Colombia is making progress in meeting the requirements to access the JIU results-based payments. The government strengthens its capacity to establish virtuous cycles of high-quality mitigation outcomes	FAO	Integrating the capabilities of the three agencies JDI resources for capacity building, participation, communication, and knowledge management.

	and access to payments. Modality 1 of the JIU contributes to consolidating the governance of the EICDGB and strengthening capacities in the territories for the coexistence of public and private REDD+ initiatives		
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	1.1.5. Report on NDC progress based on REDD+ pre-feasibility analysis in PDET territories	UNDP	UNDP will generate reports on the results of progress in compliance with the NDC derived from the analysis of the projects in the environment portfolio, including Natural Paz, Climate Promise, BESNET, among others.

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2.6. Costa Rica

Strategic context

Costa Rica has historically been a global leader in forest conservation and environmental finance, starting with a groundbreaking forest law adopted in 1995, which pioneered a scheme of payment for environmental services. These achievements are internationally recognized.

Costa Rica's NDC commits to an absolute maximum of 9.11 MtCO₂e net emissions by 2030 including all gases and all sectors covered by the National GHG Inventory submitted to the UNFCCC. This ambitious goal is consistent with the trajectory of the National Decarbonization Plan, the Long-Term Strategy presented by Costa Rica in 2019, which seeks net-zero emissions in 2050, consistent with the 1.5 °C trajectory. Independent evaluations show how Costa Rica's commitments are the most ambitious of any developing tropical forest country (see <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries>).

The National REDD+ Strategy is one of the policies and plans fully embedded in Costa Rica's NDC. Costa Rica's participation in initiatives such as LEAF is an objective of the National REDD+ Strategy's Policy 3 Incentives for Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management, which, among other actions, establishes the need to expand the coverage of economic incentives and flexibility mechanisms for the conservation, regeneration, and management of forests.

Reaching this ambitious target relies on the country's ability to maintain and further expand its PES programme. Over the last 5 years the PES program has been fully funded by the national carbon-tax and water fee, and minimal contribution of the national private sector. However, in the current economic downturn international resources are of enormous importance to further consolidate the gains of the last 25 years of effective implementation. Furthermore, the national PES programme will be an important mechanism to transfer needed cash resources directly to impoverished groups to support the COVID-19 recovery phase. In fact, the Costa Rica PES scheme is the only existing government cash transfer programme that directly targets indigenous people.

The country is currently seeking international partners to finance its results and contribute to this ambitious goal. 100% of the resources that Costa Rica will access through REDD+ result-based payments will support the implementation of the NDC.

Costa Rica is already engaged in REDD+ Results-Based Payment Initiatives from both market and non-market sources.

First, in late 2020 the country signed an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for up to 12MtCO₂ or USD 65M. A first monitoring report was submitted in June 2021 followed by a validation and verification concluded in September 2022, that led to the issuance and transfer of 3.28 million tons of carbon emissions during 2018 and 2019 worth \$16.4 million. In this context Costa Rica also provided a groundbreaking report on the non-carbon benefits of the implementation of the FCPF ER Programme with support from UN-REDD. This has now become the global standard for reporting on non-carbon benefits at a jurisdictional scale.

Second, Costa Rica received approval from the Green Climate Fund for a USD 54M REDD+ Results-Based payment proposal to the GCF for the emission reductions achieved in 2014 and 2015. Roughly 90% of the proceeds from the GCF have been used to support the National Payment for Environmental Services Programme and the National Forest Fire Prevention and Management Programme. I

In July 2021, Costa Rica submitted a proposal to Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition, an ambitious new public-private initiative supported by the US, UK and Norway as well as major corporations such as Amazon, Airbnb, Mckinsey, Boston Consulting Group, amongst others. This initiative aims to kick-off what is expected to become one of the largest ever public-private efforts to help protect tropical forests by purchasing high quality carbon credits from tropical country national or subnational governments. Those credits will be certified under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES) under the "Architecture for REDD+ Transactions" (ART) Program, which have been created with the support of the Norwegian Government's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Costa Rica signed a Letter of Intent at COP26 and a Memorandum of Understanding at COP27 becoming one of the first jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. During 2022, great progress was made in supporting Costa Rica in meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under the "The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES). The TREES Registration document (2017-2021) and the first TREES Monitoring report (2017-2019) were developed and successfully submitted to the ART Secretariat, reviewed and cleared. Legal technical advice was provided to Costa Rica to activate a Registry account for TREES document submissions to the ART secretariat. Also, support was given to ensure the Validation and Verification Body (VVB), Aster Global, was hired and conducted the validation and verification process during 2023. Furthermore, Costa Rica has engaged in discussion for the sale of TREES credits to buyers outside of the LEAF coalition for earlier vintages from 2017 and has signed another LOI with Emergent for this purpose. The country has designated FUNBAM as the Financial Intermediary for the proceeds coming from the sale of the 2017 TREES credits that are expected to be issued in 2024. Costa Rica is now seeking buyers for remaining REDD+ results certified under the TREES standard which are expected to be issued in 2024.

The development of the REDD+ Strategy in Costa Rica included consultations with Indigenous Peoples (IP) in the country. Since 2008, FONAFIFO has held a dialogue with leaders of the 24 Indigenous Territories of Costa Rica. In 2011, the national consultation process began, which included three stages: information (2011-2014), pre-consultation (2014-2017), and consultation. Currently, there is a national process of preparation of the Forest and Territorial Environmental Plan (PAFT) as one of the requests from the IP coming out of the previous consultation process. The PAFTs are the vehicles to address the risks identified in the activities implemented in the National REDD+ Strategy, including the participation of Indigenous Territories under the PES Programme. The PAFTs will establish how indigenous peoples will implement the actions identified as priorities within the Indigenous Territory,

the benefit sharing of the climate resources, and the transparency and accountability of these resources. Costa Rica is also using this national process of development of the PAFT to share information and consult with IP on potential sources of climate finance that the country is seeking to access, such as the voluntary carbon markets through the sale of TREES credits. In 2023, payments to indigenous territories took place, opening a pathway for inclusive, rights-based REDD+ payments.

The priority for the 2025 horizon is for Costa Rica to consolidate its position as the world leader in the niche market for the highest integrity carbon credits. This involves not only the generation of the highest integrity carbon credits using the TREES standard, but also finding the highest integrity buyers, which are willing to pay to be associated with a country that provides the highest NDC ambitions, compliance with the San Jose Principles, significant and demonstrable non-carbon benefits and the highest level of respect for local resource rights holders as it engages in carbon markets.

All TREES readiness efforts have so far been financed by Costa Rica with results-based payments resources received from the GCF, but the country requires additional technical support from UN-REDD in order to move forward in its dealing with Emergent, both outside and inside the LEAF coalition.

Country engagement

The National REDD+ Secretariat has scoped the objectives and key milestones on REDD+ performance finance, building on the notable advancements in the GCF programme for RBPs/REDD+ and the registration under the TREES standard and the ERPA negotiations on recent years. UNDP – as the UN-REDD agency leading the international technical assistance in Costa Rica – has been regularly participating in, and contributing to these national planning efforts. An update is presented below.

It is important to note that the country disposes of a detailed workplan to implement its diversified financial strategy to access and implement REDD+ result-based payments from both market and non-market sources, thus including GCF, FCPF, VERRA, ART/TREES and LEAF. The UN-REDD technical assistance that the Government requested and that is outlined below fits this broader strategic and implementation pathway.

In this pathway for REDD+ performance finance, Costa Rica faces four main challenges, related to the national ambition to uphold the highest environmental integrity in any carbon payment and transaction, as follows:

- Costa Rica is open to participate in carbon markets as part of its NDC implementation plan but will require any buyer to display the same high level of environmental integrity. This implies that any transaction with Costa Rica must adhere to the San Jose Principles for High Ambition and Integrity in International Carbon Markets. Costa Rica considers that these principles should be applied to voluntary market transactions which makes it very challenging to find buyers.
- Costa Rica faces important challenges in terms of collecting clear proof of ownership of ERs. The country is undertaking an expensive and time-consuming process through which rural landowners cede their rights to the government in exchange for payments. With payments received from the GCF for results achieved in 2014 and 2015, Costa Rica is working to fill these gaps. As a key challenge for Costa Rica to generate TREES units is the demonstration of proof of ownership over emission reductions.
- Costa Rica faces also significant challenges negotiating a sale price of the REDD+ credits that could cover the real cost of protecting the forests. Experience shows that the costs of forest conservation in Costa Rica in the long run are higher than the income that can expect from the sale of credits at the current price levels under carbon markets.
- Finally, Costa Rica wants to provide evidence of the generation of the significant non-carbon benefits associate with the implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy. They are benefits

for local communities, biodiversity, and water resources, etc., and must be carefully monitored and reported.

Workplan

In 2024, the UN-REDD support to Costa Rica will aim at successfully concluding a first Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with Emergent to transact TREES units for emission reductions generated in 2017 and prepare the way for accessing LEAF performance finance from 2021 onwards. These milestones will require TA on a broad set of technical matters, including MRV, REDD+ safeguards, and legal compliance.

This technical assistance has been discussed with the REDD Secretariat through some bilateral meetings.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Inputs to the analysis and reporting of Non-Carbon Benefits (NCB) in REDD+ actions and finance	UNEP	This work will build on the first reporting of NCB to the FCPF Carbon Fund in 2021, and the second report in development for submission in early 2022. It will also include recommendations for how this can feed into reporting on safeguards, and for wider climate finance opportunities and commitments. There will be consideration about the use of new datasets, such as on forest fires.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Support the validation and verification process of the first crediting period (2017-2021) to issue the first set of TREES credits, and the development of the registration document of the second crediting period (2022-2026).	UNDP	Accompany the validation of the first registration document (2017-2021) and verification process of the monitoring document (2017-2020) undertaken by the VVB Aster Global ensuring technical comments are addressed and stakeholders (especially indigenous peoples and women) are engaged. Also, support will be provided for the development of the 2021 monitoring report, and the development of the second registration document (2022-2026) including data on carbon soil according to the TREES standard.
	Support Government preparing an ERPA with Emergent	UNDP	

Finally, UNEP will provide Costa Rica with knowledge and information on innovative financing sources to better connect emission reductions with biodiversity, on the basis of a new concept on “financial vehicles” that is being devised (if then Costa Rica deems the initiative feasible for the country, a pilot could be considered).

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2.7. Côte d’Ivoire

Strategic context

Côte d’Ivoire has fulfilled the REDD+ readiness phase, completing each of the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (UNFCCC) and is currently exploring different way to capture additional climate

finance for the implementation of its REDD+ National strategy and zero deforestation strategy. In this regard, the country is committed to complete all necessary tools at national and subnational levels.

The 2024 workplan is going to support the continuation and finalization of some activities initiated in 2023. The national objective includes the mobilization of climate finance, with an approach to be identified and refined in 2024 depending on the potential emissions reduction results currently under assessment. In fact, the country is updating its FREL with the support of PROMIRE, a GCF-funded project, and plans to submit the updated version of the document in the beginning of 2024.

Country engagement

Consultations with the government counterparts started in November 2023 with the SEP-REDD+ and its team members.

Final clearance to the workplan is foreseen by the REDD+ Permanent Secretary, after consideration of the content of the workplan by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable development.

Workplan

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Evaluation of the REDD+ National Strategy implementation status, through technical, institutional, socio-economic evaluation.	FAO	Continuation of 2023 activity
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Information and knowledge sharing on land tenure legislation (support to communication on the law and applicable procedures for land securization)	FAO	In collaboration with AFOR, and as per the results of the update of national knowledge on VGGT
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Technical assistance provided for the refinement of the methodology for a potential jurisdictional approach	FAO	Continuing support for the development of the jurisdictional approach
1.3 Ensuring deforestation-free commodity supply chain	Establishment of a national zero-deforestation platform and technical exchange on the actions and results of zero-deforestation projects within the platform.	FAO	
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with	Provide technical support for the institutionalization of the SNSF by assisting in the drafting of a legal text governing the SNSF's operation, in close collaboration with national authorities. (continuation of actions undertaken in 2023)	FAO	Continuing activity on the strengthening of MRV institutional arrangement

policy-relevant monitoring systems			
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Clarification of socio-economic factors influencing land-use change (and linked to quantitative analysis of activity data) and identification of local factors influencing behavioral change towards zero-deforestation practices (cocoa sector, with field experience), including cost elements (investment required).	FAO	Strengthened analysis of the drivers of deforestation to better inform priorities for future investments (analysis also to inform the update of the national investment framework)
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Provide technical support on legal issues at national level relating to BR and carbon rights aspects and contribute to the development of the framework document guiding the development of carbon rights legislation. (Continuation of actions initiated in 2023)	FAO	Continuing support on the definition of a potential jurisdictional approach, in case of existing and usable ER Continuing activity on the definition of Carbon right

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2.8. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Strategic context

The 2024 workplan for UN REDD TA for DRC builds upon the country's continuous confirmed interest in pursuing the route to accessing Results-based payment from the LEAF Coalition. The UN-REDD Programme will continue to provide support to the country in 2024, specifically in terms of: i) the completion of the TREES registration documents (on safeguards, carbon rights, and on MRV elements and ER data) for the Tshuapa province, ii) strengthening capacity for applying and reporting of safeguards, and supporting stakeholder engagement meetings; iii) implementation of a pilot project aiming at supporting local small entrepreneurs to develop bankable projects that contribute to emissions reduction in the country. In addition, support to the country will include the hiring² of additional personnel to coordinate UN-REDD technical assistance in the country, particularly in terms of safeguards at both the level of Tshuapa province and at the national level, but also to support the government in ensuring good coordination of different initiatives on specific topics related to REDD+ between stakeholders in the country.

Country engagement

During the first half of 2023, communication between the UN-REDD team and the Fonds national REDD+ (FONAREDD) encountered difficulties, notably due to a restructuring (which is still ongoing) that saw the team reduced to three people.

Two UN-REDD visits took place in October 2023 to resume collaboration with the government and clarify whether the country still considers UN-REDD technical assistance to be relevant to the country's needs and, if so, to discuss ways of better aligning UN-REDD technical assistance with the country's REDD+ priorities and perspectives. The first visit during the first week of October provided an opportunity for exchanges with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the FONAREDD team, the FAO and UNDP teams, the UN Resident Coordinator and the Norwegian Embassy, while the second visit (which took place during the last week of October) was mainly aimed

² If the Government agrees

at participating in a workshop on carbon markets that brought together all stakeholders involved in the field.

The main outcomes from those in-country visits include the following: i) the Government³ considers the UN-REDD support, especially towards the ART TREES registration essential to advance its REDD+ agenda and ultimately access results-based payment; however, it had to make some internal adjustments prior to continuing the endeavor and strengthen collaboration. Many initiatives related to Carbon markets are being undertaken by various stakeholders in the country, but they are isolated and uncoordinated. The Government is establishing a national authority to regulate carbon markets (ARMCa⁴): the initiative is led by the MEDD's Advisor on Climate Change. iii) Having one personnel based in the country to ensure proper follow-up of UN-REDD Technical assistance would be very helpful to the government counterpart. iv) Progress has also been made in terms of the regulatory framework in the country; of most importance are three texts: the signing of Ordinance-Law no. 23/007 of March 03, 2023, amending and supplementing Law no. 11/009 of July 09, 2011 and completing the revision of the 2011 Environment Act; an organic decree issued by the Prime Minister establishing the Carbon Market Regulatory Authority (via decree no. 23/22 of June 14, 2023) and the interministerial order Finance/MEDD (Arrêté 06/120 du 15 September 2023) to establish a distribution key of monetary benefits from the carbon market. Feedback from the civil society shared during the carbon market workshop (23-24 October 2023), and particularly the IP and LC emphasized the lack of proper consultation and inclusion of the CSO and IP/LC along the process leading up to the establishment of the three texts mentioned above.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
	REDD+ Technical Assistance coordinator in place	UNEP	The person will ensure proper follow-up of the overall UN-REDD TA in DRC, and will support the National REDD+ Focal point and FONAREDD in other REDD+ related matters requiring specific coordination in DRC (anchor to be discussed with UNDP, FAO and government)
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Effective support to implementation of the FONAREDD portfolio under UNDP lead: land policy reform; clean energy transition; REDD+ Integrated Development Program in the former Orientale Province	UNDP	The FONAREDD portfolio is key for the national REDD+ agenda and NDC implementation. TA from UN-REDD will serve to enhance implementation, while enhancing ambition in the LULUCF component of the NDCs.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and	Technical needs identified for the strengthening of the MRV at jurisdictional	FAO	Identification of needs for MRV in Tshuapa province

³ From discussion with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)

⁴ Autorité de Régulation du Marché Carbone

accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	level, in the framework of the nesting approach		
	Analysis of the national context for institutionalizing of the NFMS	FAO	Study on the NFMS context aiming the identification of needs for the institutionalizing of the NFMS
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Specific strengthening needs of the SIS website and database will be assessed, and a roadmap for continued improvement will be developed	UNEP	Based on an assessment of how the current system works.
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	ART TREES registration document finalized	UNEP & FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update of ER data in the Tshuapa province ART-TREES submission (FAO) - Report detailing influencing elements and parameters for the design of a national benefits sharing mechanism benefiting to local community members and indigenous people: Study/analysis based on benefits sharing mechanism. (FAO) - Capacity strengthened on safeguards at national and subnational level (focus Tshuapa Province) to address and respect safeguards, linked to national reporting and report to ART TREES. This will involve Filling the gaps from the TREES safeguards assessment work conducted in 2023. Registration documents encompass safeguards inputs for TREES Registration Document and TREES monitoring report. Includes development of plans for conformance for safeguards outcome indicators, where needed, and support to implement initial TREES stakeholder engagement process (UNEP)
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Technical support on issues related to carbon rights in the ART-TREES submission and overall technical support in the ART-TREES submission	FAO	Update of the ART-TREES submission FAO and UNEP have been supporting the country to submit the first concept note in September 2022. With additional human resources to reinforce the team, support will continue to strengthen country capacity, including better understanding of the requirements and steps needed to advance with the process.

	Support to the final appraisal, inception and effective implementation of the FONAREDD programme on NDCs financing & carbon markets.	UNDP	CAFI is about to finance an ambitious programme on NDC financing & carbon markets capacities. The programme will strengthen the policy and institutional framework, as well as infrastructure on carbon markets and NDC. Specialised technical assistance has been identified by the country and requested for UNDP to support, as part of the NDC financing strategy process.
	Provide technical assistance to governmental agencies and national stakeholders for the operationalization of the new national authority on carbon markets.	UNDP	
	Available potential options for financing assessed and analyzed to allow the Government to make informed decision for the best option to adopt based on its context, capacity, risks, etc.	UNEP	UN-REDD support includes exploring financing options to attract the private sector. With strong emphasis on integrity on both sides, this may include providing technical support to the Government on carbon finance via different comms/KM tools (trainings, workshops, exchanges, etc.) but also, eventually, depending on the needs, may involve dialogues between DRC and corporate/bilateral buyers targeting integrity, fair price in transactions, among others.
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilised	Implementation of a business incubation programme focused on enterprises that place restoration/conservation/sustainable land use management at the heart of their business model	UNEP	The 12-month pilot will be completed during 2024 to support 50 SME to develop bankable projects that contribute to the reduction of emissions.
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	Assessment and outline of innovative and strategic financing mechanisms for NDC implementation, with a focus on the forest sector, and including financing pathways	UNDP	TA will be provided to develop a 'National strategy on climate change finance for NDC implementation' in synergy with the implementation of FONAREDD programme on NDC financing & carbon markets. The strategy will revolve around innovative and strategic financing mechanisms for NDC implementation (e.g., international investments, RBPs, green bonds, carbon markets, debt-for-climate swaps). This will

	under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.		help align policy reforms and field investments supported by FONAREDD with the implementation of the NDC, as well as foster linkages with international financing streams such as carbon markets and performance-based climate finance.
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed, and communicated to accelerate climate action.	Info brief on the right of local communities and indigenous peoples on forests launched	FAO	Webinar

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2.9. Ecuador

Strategic context

Ecuador has been an early partner to the UN-REDD Programme since 2011 and a leader in the UNFCCC framework for REDD+. Ecuador completed the REDD+ readiness process and fulfilled all the requirements to receive results-based payments for REDD+ as set out in the UNFCCC's Warsaw Framework for REDD+. In its 2016 BUR, Ecuador reported forest-based emission reductions of over 28 MtCO₂ from 2008-2014. In terms of political commitment under readiness (phase 1), Ecuador adopted a National REDD+ Action Plan (2016-2025) in full implementation and began its effectiveness evaluation in 2023, as input for its update for the period 2025-2030. In 2016, the GCF approved a USD 41 M grant for financing its implementation, the first time that the GCF approved a REDD+ phase 2 project grant for REDD+, which totals USD 84 M when included in co-finance. This grant was successfully implemented and brought significant accomplishments and progress through PROAmazonía⁵ Programme, finalized in November 2023.

In terms of REDD+ performance finance (phase 3), in 2019, Ecuador signed an agreement with the KfW REM, where the governments of Germany and Norway provided 11M Euro and 50 M USD, respectively, in results-based payments for the reduction of emissions from deforestation from 2015 to 2019. The REM Ecuador Programme is currently under implementation. A complementary agreement covering 2020-2021 was reached with Norway. In 2019, Ecuador also received approval for USD 18.5 M in funds from the international community (GCF) in Results-Based Payments (RBPs) for REDD+ from the GCF with UNDP as an Accredited Entity for results achieved in 2014. The Project of RBPs is being implemented and has already supported progress. This progressive cycle resulted in an enhanced NDC, with a significant focus on forests, developed through an inclusive process (ensuring full and active participation of IPS and LCS and gender balance) and submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019. The NDC in the LULUCF sector, built on the National REDD+ Action Plan goals, sets a reduction in gross emissions by at least 20 % by 2025 compared to FREL 2000- 2008. Ecuador's unconditional NDC target for the LULUCF sector is a reduction of 4% of GHG emissions compared to Ecuador's UNFCCC forest reference level by 2025. The conditional NDC target for the LULUCF sector foresees an additional 16% reduction

⁵ <https://www.proamazonia.org/>

of GHG emissions, dependent on the provision of international financial support. NDC is the first step toward a long-term commitment where the Government of Ecuador has set a national target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 (Executive Decree 059 – 2021).

In 2021, following the NDC review process under the UNDP Climate Promise initiative, Ecuador mapped financial REDD+ options with UN-REDD technical assistance: UNDP assisted with a national analysis of NDC/LULUCF/REDD+ finance linkages and opportunities, which included feasibility for ART/TREES; while FAO and UNEP supported with forest & carbon monitoring dimensions and safeguards elements, respectively, for ART/TREES compliance. After the US climate summit, UN-REDD support was readjusted to harness the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition, helping Ecuador to prepare and submit a proposal to LEAF in July 2021. Ecuador's proposal completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of independent technical experts from the LEAF Coalition. On the road to the Glasgow climate conference, Ecuador pursued intensively the LEAF pathway, managing to sign a Letter of Intent with Emergent (LEAF's trader) during the conference, thus becoming part of the first wave of jurisdictions entering ERs purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. During 2022, Ecuador signed memorandums of agreement (MOA) with Emergent outlining the following steps and putting in place a clear roadmap and timetable for the signing of binding Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) of ART/TREES vintage period (2017-2021) by the end of 2023. The country has also launched a participatory process (gender balance and social inclusion) to build a benefit-sharing plan to inform the distribution of benefits resulting from future ERs purchases. During 2021, UN-REDD also actively supported Ecuador in developing and submitting a concept note to achieve certification under the "REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard" (TREES). This concept note was registered under the "Architecture for REDD+ Transactions" (ART) Programme. The country has advanced with actions for addressing ART/TREES requirements and has moved into the registration stage under TREES in 2023 for the vintage period (2017-2021). UN-REDD supported the quality control of existing data collected for REM agreement on deforestation and adapted for forest degradation by the MAATE and the quality assurance of the estimations developed by an independent consultant. On the other hand, the country made progress on an enhanced methodology for data collection of forest degradation with UN-REDD support for the 2022-2026 period, which was applied by a consultancy contracted under Euroclicama funds with the quality assurance of UN-REDD.

In 2021, UN-REDD helped Ecuador advance the national deforestation-free export brand ("Ecuador Premium & Sustainable"), particularly by supporting the signing of the inter-institutional agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Environment and the Directorate for the regulation and control of agriculture and animal health to coordinate, regulate, and promote sustainable and deforestation-free production in Ecuador. In 2022, the deforestation-free certification was launched at the national level and presented at COP27. Between 2022 and 2023, Ecuador exported to Europe 2 containers of 17 tons each of organic, sustainable, deforestation-free Coffee to Italian Coffee roster Lavazza⁶ and two containers of 7 tons each of cocoa, certified as deforestation-free, to the Belgium company Silva-cacao⁷. In addition, other commodities have been included in the national sustainable deforestation-free initiative, such as livestock (meat and dairy), timber, and non-timber projects. Nationally recognized brands such as Pacari⁸ and Sweet&Coffee⁹ have presented interest in collaborating and actively participating in this initiative and promoting a more robust and balanced commercial chain promoting sustainable products.

At the international level, UN-REDD promoted the participation of Ecuador to present and share progress and lessons learned on REDD+ implementation and finance, including at the UN-REDD knowledge workshop in Costa Rica that took place in mid-2023. Ecuador was active in virtual

⁶ <https://www.lavazza.es/es/blend-for-better/ecuador>

⁷ <https://silva-cacao.com/>

⁸ <https://www.clubdelchocolate.com/brand-info/274-pacari>

⁹ <https://www.sweetandcoffee.com.ec/>

knowledge and outreach platforms, such as South–South exchange related to deforestation-free production and EUDR (Vietnam, Colombia, México, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Colombia) In addition, Ecuador has been invited to share its experiences in several forums on sustainable production, such as the European Coffee Association and UESPA workshop, the LAC Climate Week in Panama, and the International Trade Center workshop on EUDR. Additionally, Ecuador was an active member of the UN-REDD Programme's Safeguards and Integrity Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN-REDD Programme in 2023, in which the country shared its experience in updating its Safeguards Information System (SIS)¹⁰.

In 2024, Ecuador must work both to implement and update its REDD + Action Plan and its NDC since both aim at 2025, promoting it deforestation-free and Zero Carbon Programs. Also, it will be a priority to support the country in fulfilling its commitments under Paris and start developing the post-2025 REDD+ action plan and their second NDC.

Based on progress with the NDCs and REDD+ results, Ecuador will continue to scope and access performance-based finance for REDD+, including international schemes of results-based payments and carbon finance under the UNFCCC, such as the GCF/RBPs programme, ART/TREES, REM and LEAF. In 2025, the country would wish to have a regular flow of performance-based finance from the international arena to match their sustained REDD+ progress and achievements, all in compliance with the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC monitoring requirements, international social & environmental safeguards, and high-integrity carbon approaches. In addition, Ecuador, a major commodity export country, aims to get the national sustainable deforestation-free trade initiative fully established and functional by 2025. This is one of the key REDD+ objectives of the national Government, with the ministries of agriculture, environment, and foreign trade working closely with local producers (including IPS organizations) and the international market. This requires establishing an integrated approach that connects domestic agricultural policies, national financial arrangements (both public and private sectors), foreign trade partnerships, and international finance for REDD+. Finally, the government plans to develop a national forestry strategy, which should link to the REDD+ action plan for strengthening sustainable forest management, conservation, and forest restoration activities. In addition, Ecuador's finance sector looks forward to promoting a more sustainable and resilient economy that can facilitate the transition from the agricultural sector to sustainable deforestation-free production (e.g., Finance product developed by BanEcuador¹¹, with the support of UNDP to promote green credit lines).

Country engagement

In 2024, the UN-REDD support to Ecuador will focus on meeting the TREES requirements to achieve certification under ART/TREES and access financial resources through LEAF for emission reductions for 2022-2026, including support to negotiations of an ERPA with Emergent. To fulfill TREES requirements and advance into the registration stage, UN-REDD will provide TA on critical aspects of MRV, safeguards, social inclusion, verification process and legal compliance, including benefit sharing. On the other hand, a key challenge for Ecuador to access ART/TREES is the inclusion of carbon emissions from forest degradation, which will continue with the work and capacity-building initiated in 2022. In addition, with regards to decoupling agricultural production/trade and deforestation, TA is likely needed to help the country design and deploy new credit lines for deforestation-free producers with public banks, coupled with TA on a certification & traceability system to ensure that production essential commodities in the Amazon region are compliant with REDD+ objectives. Support will be provided to promote commercial agreements between local producers and national and international companies, as well as to generate the necessary capacities to comply with new international regulations and market tendencies (organic, sustainable, social equity, deforestation-free). In addition,

¹⁰ <https://www.un-redd.org/multi-media-stories/updates-and-improvements-safeguards-information-system-sis-lessons-learned-and>

¹¹ https://www.proamazonia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Cata%CC%81logo-Finanzas_compressed.pdf

TA will be provided to continue the work on the Ecuador Zero Carbon program and start the development of the post-2025 REDD+ Action Plan and second NDC.

Workplan

Outcome/Output As per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead Agency	Brief observations
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated.	Lessons learned and experiences with National REDD+ Action Plan and PROAmazonía considered in new forestry strategy.	FAO /UNDP	PROAmazonia experiences. Mapping the opportunities on REDD+ funds to be included in the investment plan of the forestry strategy
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	<p>Support the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains through the implementation of the national deforestation-free distinctive, including the signature/follow-up and compliance arrangements of commercial agreements with national and international companies and the development and implementation of the traceability system for deforestation-free production.</p> <p>Support the active participation of the finance sector in the development of financial tools targeted to promote a more sustainable and resilient economy.</p>	UNDP/FAO	<p>To continue the assistance provided in the past year by PNUD, the 2024 TA will focus on the consolidation of deforestation-free supply chains for Coffee, cocoa, and palm oil by developing and implementing the national strategy (local producers, including IPs organizations and capacities, will be strengthened, the national certification of def – free will be executed and commercial agreement will be signed). FAO’s assistance will include the linkage of national certification with the European Union regulation of commodities associated with deforestation and forest degradation and training on the steps related to the due diligence of supply chains.</p> <p>Assist national financial institutions (private and public) in generating financial context and the development and/or improvement of financial instruments to promote sustainable deforestation-free production.</p>
1.4 Countries are enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions, and emissions reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Inputs for updating the reference level according to the UNFCCC requirements	FAO	Continue the technical assistance on enhancing the estimations on forest degradation to update the reference level to the UNFCCC.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored, and reported throughout the	<p>Legal support on REDD+ and safeguards provided.</p> <p>Fourth Summary of Safeguards Information advanced.</p>	UNEP Led, support by UNDP and FAO	Continue the safeguards-related assistance on the Ecuador Zero Carbon Program, as well as on decrees or legal advice to advance with ART-TREES and LEAF, and agreements, policies and regulations associated to climate change, REDD+ and safeguards. The support on

implementation of REDD+ actions.			these subjects has started in 2022. In 2024, this support will be strengthened by the recruitment of a local legal expert with expertise in safeguards. UNEP will support MAATE in monitoring and quality assurance. Technical and legal advice and inputs provided for the elaboration of the country's fourth summary of information, considering reporting needs for ART-TREES second crediting period and linked to a potential ERPA with LEAF.
Output 2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Support the development and compliance of the registration document and the first monitoring report to be submitted to the ART Secretariat	UNDP, UNEP, FAO	Overall technical assistance from the three agencies will be provided. Assistance in developing the monitoring and registration report with inputs from FAO on carbon
	ART-TREES Validation and Verification process advanced	UNDP, UNEP, FAO	Advice and direct assistance will be provided to accompany the Ministry MAATE through the validation and verification stage for the first crediting period under ART-TREES (2017-2021)
	Improved SOPs and quality assurance documentation of emissions estimates from forest degradation	FAO	Continue the technical assistance on quality control and quality assurance on deforestation and forest degradation estimations and following up on improvements on emission factors for forest degradation.

Regarding country-level knowledge management, Ecuador will participate in bilateral or multilateral exchanges and in the UN-REDD Programme's Safeguards and Integrity Working Group for LAC to explore opportunities for bilateral or multilateral discussions on key topics (e.g., series webinars on social safeguards, finance, RBP, ART/TREES /LEAF, sustainable and deforestation-free production, and others). Also, continue to support sustainable and deforestation-free supply chain exchanges led by UNDP (Vietnam, Mexico, Colombia, and Costa Rica) promoting bilateral or multilateral discussions on sustainable production and commercialization, focusing on new international regulations and market demands on deforestation-free production. Finally, UN-REDD will facilitate bringing all the lessons learned on REDD+ finance, TREES certification, and LEAF engagement between countries. By actively participating in these initiatives and implementing these considerations, Ecuador can contribute to a global dialogue on sustainable development, learn from others, and share its own experiences, ultimately fostering a more resilient and environmentally conscious economy.

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2.10. Ethiopia

Strategic context

Ethiopia's REDD+ Strategy was finalized and published in June 2018 and is considered as a framework for "providing information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities". The REDD+ Program is embedded within the

national Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, which aims to key greenhouse gas emissions low and build climate resilience while achieving middle-income status by 2025.

The NFMS has made important progress but with key support needed for its completion. Emissions from forest degradation and removals from A/R projects are the elements that are currently being strengthened within the NFMS. In its efforts to enhance capacities and technical standards, Ethiopia identified the need to strengthen and make NFM/MRV system fully functional and to enhance the MRV capacity to implement and monitor REDD+ activities.

The country is progressing in this direction and building on phase 1 through the Norwegian funded “National REDD+ MRV Capacity Consolidation and Strengthening”, the project aims at (i) strengthening institutional arrangements for the NFMS at national and regional levels to improve uptake of forest statistics with Ethiopia’s greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and Statistics Bureau and (ii) improving their existing NFMS so that it includes updated activity data and emission factors on forest remaining forests and improved assessment and monitoring of forest gain. The project also aims to expand MRV labs in Gambella, Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray.

As with 2023, the financial envelop proposed for 2024 herewith is aimed at complementing the current MRV support by providing much needed resources for underbudgeted fieldwork related to the NFI and related to ground data collection for assessing emissions due to forest degradation. Furthermore, the financial support will serve to reinforce reporting requirements under ART-TREES and how these fit within a larger REDD+ environment in Ethiopia with both project scale and region-scale ongoing initiatives. With regards to support of ART TREES documentation, this can be envisioned under UN-REDD 2024 support in provided emission reductions are found.

Country engagement

Through the MRV phase 2 project Chief Technical Advisor, discussions were held with Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) counterparts during the last months of 2023 as well as with UNEP and UNDP UN-REDD colleagues. EFD counterparts agreed that the contributions would be best applied to strengthening fieldwork components of the ongoing MRV support because funds were underbudgeted and plans to add degradation plots to the fieldwork were developed in 2023, increasing an already stretched budget.

Although 2023’s UN-REDD support was supposed to address the development of a potential LEAF component, this activity has been put on hold for the time being because country counterparts are not convinced that this would best fit their needs. Senior management at EFD has yet to give the green light on this support and therefore it has been identified that more general support to understanding the implications of ART TREES requirements on Ethiopian reporting processes would make the most sense. In particular, counterparts have mentioned their need for better understanding of nesting REDD+ initiatives.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission	Support generation of high-quality data through increased number of field measurements, including in areas of probable degradation (as indicated from GLAD/RADD alerts)	FAO	This support will continue with the 2023 UN-REDD support to the field data collection efforts intended to assess biomass in degraded areas. These “degradation” plots have been identified through RADD/GLAD alerts and are integrated into the ongoing national forest inventory.

reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Introduce field crews (regional and national) to Open Foris Arena and Arena Mobile: <i>Facilitate countries' access to cost-efficient technical solutions for enhancing accessibility, transparency and robustness of forest data and information through the Open Foris initiative (openforis.org) for catalyzing forest-based approaches to climate mitigation</i>	FAO	This support aims to introduce next generation improvements to Open Foris, Arena. Arena and Arena Mobile will be introduced to Ethiopian counterparts at EFD and will be seamlessly integrated into the current data collection efforts using Collect and Collect Mobile.
	Support to carbon accounting, specifically the calculation of an ART-TREES crediting level with associated documentation and standard operating procedures.	FAO	In the case of emission reductions, TA will focus on the preparation of documentation for a TREES registration document including SOPs and annex material.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Demystification of ART TREES <i>Facilitate awareness of reporting requirements under ART-TREES and how these fit within larger REDD+ environment in Ethiopia through two workshops</i>	FAO	This support will aim to reinforce country counterpart understanding of ART-TREES requirements, including advice on nesting various REDD+ initiatives

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2.11. Ghana

Strategic context

Ghana's place in the world stage with regards to climate and forests is well recognized.

Ghana has significantly advanced in implementing its REDD+ strategy, which was developed and adopted in 2017, just after the Paris Agreement was concluded. Ghana has currently two REDD+ investment programmes under implementation, with distinctive regional and ecozone approaches: The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project (GSLERP). The GCFRP is the first REDD+ program to be developed in Ghana. It is jointly coordinated by the Forestry Commission – through its Climate Change Directorate and the National REDD+ Secretariat – and the Ghana Cocoa Board. The GCFRP is financed by the Carbon Fund through a REDD+ performance-based finance modality. GSLERP is funded by the Green Climate Fund.

In June 2019, Ghana signed two Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (ERPAs) with the World Bank as a Trustee for the Carbon Fund (Tranches A & B). In April 2020, the World Bank declared all conditions of effectiveness to the ERPAs to have been fulfilled and USD 1.3 million as upfront advance payment was received in September 2020 to support Program implementation. The Benefit Sharing Plan, which gives guidance on the sharing of Carbon Benefits has been finalized and disclosed. The BSP has provided Ghana with very useful experience on what is required for benefit sharing to inform its engagement other carbon market opportunities. Recently a governance mechanism with multi-stakeholder membership, to oversee and monitor the BSP has been set up at the national level.

Ghana submitted its First Monitoring Report to the Carbon Fund in 2021 with results for the second half of 2019, the validation and verification was successfully concluded in August 2022. At the end of January 2023, Ghana received its first Emission Reduction payment of USD 4,862,280 from the Forest

Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund for emission reductions of 972,456 tons of carbon emissions (tCO₂eq), for the first monitoring period (June to December 2019), achieved by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing carbon removals through afforestation and reforestation in Ghana's Cocoa Forest landscape.

Ghana submitted a Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) proposal in 2021 and was selected as one of five countries to sign a Letter of Intent with Emergent, making it the first African country to do so. Supported by UN-REDD, with FAO and UNEP in the lead, the LEAF proposal covers a jurisdictional areas of 10 Southwestern regions on the Togo Plateau, the Transitional Zone and parts of the Coastal Zone. A Letter of Intent was negotiated and signed with Emergent – the LEAF financial representative – during the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021. LEAF uses the ART/TREES Standard. Ghana has joined ART/TREES and UN-REDD has been supporting Ghana to meet the requirements of the Standard and to access RBPs from the LEAF coalition. The country has reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation against the 2005-2014 reference level and calculations have indicated that Ghana has also reduced emissions against a TREES-compliant crediting level.

Ghana submitted its first summary of information to the UNFCCC describing the country's overall approach to safeguards implementation. At the national level efforts are being undertaken to strengthen capacity. A Safeguards Information System (SIS) web platform has been developed - www.reddsis.fcghana.org. Work is on-going to define Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs) and these indicators will feed into the SIS. Ghana envisages to continue improving its SIS over time as new information comes in from different areas.

27 countries and the European Union launched the Forest Climate Leaders' Platform (FCLP) to follow-up the package of announcements at COP26 in Glasgow. Ghana plays a prominent role in this Platform.

On 15th of December 2022, a significant milestone was achieved by the Government, with the Cabinet's approval of Ghana's International Carbon Market and Non-market approaches Framework. The framework provides concrete regulatory and operational guidance to stakeholders for engaging in Article 6.2 Cooperative approaches, Article 6.4 mechanisms, and the voluntary carbon market in Ghana.

Achievements during 2023:

- After concept note submission to the ART Secretariat, Ghana has submitted its Registration Document and Monitoring Report to the ART Secretariat in November 2023.
- A stakeholder engagement and benefit sharing expert has been hired and is hosted by the Forestry Commission to advance arrangements under LEAF in the context of the Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA) and other requirements.
- An ERPA between LEAF and the Government of Ghana signed in December 2023 and UNDP appointed as the Financial Intermediary (final confirmation pending)
- Other partners engaged with FC and UNDP have completed a full feasibility study for a large scale mitigation programme in three ecozones designated in the national REDD+ Strategy.

Country engagement

In 2024, Ghana aims to continue and capitalize on this policy and investment progress and realize access to climate finance, including through the voluntary carbon market and the LEAF coalition through Jurisdictional REDD+. Discussions have been on-going with Government colleagues in the Forestry Commission.

The draft plan is presented below, and is under finalization between UN-REDD and the Government of Ghana. UN-REDD has been already providing Ghana with technical assistance on TREES and LEAF since 2021, and this will continue during 2024.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED			
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	TREES verification and validation process advanced	All	Support will focus on verification & validation process including provision of responses and inputs on safeguards in response to comments provided by the ART Secretariat as part of this process.
	An assessment framework to classify the costs of REDD+ at jurisdictional level is piloted in Ghana	FAO	Conduct REDD+ cost-effective analysis and adjust the analytical framework based on the findings and insights shared from Ghana. This initiative is being implemented through the Japan/MAFF funded BiG-CHANCE project. Financial support is requested from UN-REDD TA to cover one month of a national consultant's time.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Technical capacity development on Monte Carlo uncertainty assessment for TREES is facilitated	FAO	Preparation and implementation of a training on Monte Carlo simulation for estimating forest emission reductions to meet TREES eligibility requirements.
	The overall quality of Emission Factors for the TREES standard has improved	FAO	Initiate the collection of plot measurements with a specific focus on savannah areas within the context of a broader National Forest Inventory (NFI).
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Capacity strengthened for applying and reporting of safeguards	UNEP	Building up on the ongoing work under the current agreement, including second SOI finalization, and meetings to strengthen capacities on safeguards implementation and reporting.
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Benefit sharing plan developed and submitted to Emergent	UNDP	Support for in-house expertise in the Forestry Commission on the benefit sharing arrangements under LEAF, and stakeholder engagement on activities and use of proceeds.
	Project document and PBP agreement produced.	UNDP	Support the engagement between Emergent as the Intermediary for the LEAF Coalition and Ghana to access results-based payments. Acting as Financial Intermediary for the LEAF, UNDP will support the requirements for funds to be channeled to Ghana once the ERPA with Emergent is signed. This includes preparation of the project document, setting up the PBP agreement, associated indicators and evaluation framework with fiduciary, safeguard and benefit sharing requirements

2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Strengthen and operationalize the regulatory framework related to NFMS and carbon trading in order to facilitate the country access to carbon markets in support of its REDD+ strategy and sectoral NDC.	FAO	<p>(i) Analyse and assess the needs and gaps related to data accessibility procedures and their use by the different entities mandated to implement forest monitoring tasks, with a focus on the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories, MRV for REDD+ and NDC (institutional, legal and process implications). Contribute to the drafting or revision of a proposal regulating the institutional/regulatory arrangements of the MRV/NFMS, which includes (i) the management model defining the roles and functions of the institutional entities involved in the NFMS and the necessary institutional arrangements, as well as (ii) an information sharing protocol and (iii) the description of the national and international reporting process.</p> <p>(ii) Review and analyse the current legal framework focused on carbon finance/trading with emphasis on the forestry sector, identifying relevant rules and existing gaps, in order to establish the relevant institutional arrangements that are needed to facilitate the registration and transfer of mitigation results (or ERs units) at national and international level (ITMOs), as prescribed by the decisions implementing Article 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>Prepare a report containing the results of the legal analysis, recommendations and draft a proposal for legal solutions/regulatory adjustments to operationalize the market and carbon finance mechanisms, as needed.</p>
2.3 Private-sector Forest carbon investments mobilized	National dialogue on results based finance (jurisdictional initiatives, Voluntary Carbon Markets, etc.) and upfront finance undertaken	UNEP	UN-REDD support includes exploring financing options to attract upfront private sector finance and RBF. With strong emphasis on integrity on both sides, this may include providing technical support to the Government on carbon finance via different format (trainings, workshops, exchanges, etc.) but also, eventually, depending on the needs, may involve dialogues between Ghana and corporate/bilateral buyers targeting integrity, fair price in transactions.
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and	An assessment framework to analyze	FAO	Implement Forestry Public Expenditure Review (PER) and related policy coherence

land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	Forestry Public Expenditure Review (PER) on forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable use is piloted in Ghana.		analysis in Ghana, and hold the Validation workshop. This methodology was developed through a collaboration with FAO's Agrifood Economics Division (ESA)'s Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agriculture Policies Programme (MAFAP). This initiative is led by UN-REDD /AFF initiative. Financial support is requested from UN-REDD TA to cover one month of a national consultant's time.
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2.12. Indonesia

Strategic context

Indonesia is the country with the third largest tropical forest area in the world and has committed to the Paris Agreement by enhancing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target from 29% to 31.89% with its own capacity and from 41% to 43.20% with international support. The NDC states that the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector is forecast to emit 216 million tonnes CO₂e by 2030. Under the FOLU Net Sink Operational Plan, by 2030, the sector will be a net sink of 140 million tons of CO₂e, i.e., an increase in FOLU ambition of 356 million tonnes CO₂e. The FOLU Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan serves as the major and overarching priority for the government of Indonesia, in terms of its forest and climate policy. As such, all UN-REDD technical assistance in Indonesia makes a necessary and significant contribution to the delivery of the FOLU Net Sink Plan, particularly in terms of closing the funding gap to realise this ambitions plan.

As part of their comprehensive strategy, Indonesia is actively working on a GHG mitigation policy framework and introduced supporting legislation to support and enable the policy implementation. These include:

- (I) Presidential Regulation 98/2021 on Implementation of Carbon Economic Value for Achieving Nationally Determined Contribution targets and Controlling GHG emissions in National Development;
- (II) Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry No. 21 of 2022 on the Implementation Procedure of Carbon Economic Value;
- (III) Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) No. 7/2023 concerning Procedures for Carbon Trading in the Forestry Sector;
- (IV) Circular Letter of the MoEF No. SE.5/MENLHK/SETJEN/PPI.3/5/2023 regarding Climate Action and Carbon Cooperation;
- (V) Regulation of the MoEF No. 70/2017 Concerning Procedures for Implementing REDD+;
- (VI) Draft regulation on carbon trading and (VII) a roadmap for implementation of forestry sector regulation is also in progress and expected to be approved soon.

Indonesia's legally based methodological standards, which underpin the country's forest carbon governance framework continue to be developed and are regularly updated and upgraded in accordance with Indonesia's legal measures.

Country engagement

Several consultations have taken place with key counterparts such as Director General (DG) Climate Change and DG Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership in MoEF, Indonesia Environment Fund (IEF), Coordinating Ministry of Investment and Marine (MARVES), Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK), Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM), and donors (UK and Norway embassies). A mission from 13-16/10/23 was done to finalise and socialize the work plan for 2024. Discussions were held with MoEF - including staff from DG Social Forestry, DG Climate Change (including the Director of Mitigation) - on the proposed key deliverables for 2024. The UN-REDD country team took on board MoEF feedback and revised the 2024 workplan as presented in this document.

Workplan

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/ programmes to deliver their NDCs	Policy, legal and operational documents for IEF reflect best international practices and standards, including among others, a review of IEF’s readiness as GCF Direct Access Accredited Entity, which may involve support for design of the funding instrument for REDD+ and review of potential REDD+ funding proposal submitted to IEF.	UNDP	Activities build on on-going support from the GCF REDD+ RBP project to support IEF’s ambitions to become a GCF Direct Access AE.
	Critical data and analysis on MRV, including under the transparency framework, for peatlands are generated to facilitate stakeholders in accessing finance for peatland restoration, management, conservation, and green economy.	FAO	This work will support and enable additional investment in Indonesia’s REDD+ work on peatlands in 2 provinces: Riau and Central Kalimantan.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	A validated spatial groundwater level (GWL) model, utilizing soil moisture mapping from remote sensing and field data in peatlands, improves national peatland restoration monitoring.	FAO	This GWL model will be developed in consultation with MoEF’s Peat Degradation Control (PKEG) Directorate and BRGM and other key stakeholders.
	Updated and refined GHG emission estimates from mangroves.	FAO	Engage with MoEF’s Rehabilitation of Inland Waters and Mangroves (PDASRH) Directorate to make use of high-resolution satellite imagery to identify more mangrove areas, then combine with recently published Emission Factors (EF) on Indonesian mangroves which includes below ground carbon.
	Improved fire risk management procedures for forest and peatlands landscape restoration (to be f).	FAO	This work is requested by BRGM, to accelerate and monitor actions on peatland fires.
	Remote sensing data and tools are introduced and tailored to the needs	FAO	Engagement and consultation with various units within MoEF’s (Climate

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
	of Indonesian agencies and stakeholders for a) spatially identifying and prioritizing areas for forest (outside peatlands) and mangrove restoration b) enhancing the accuracy of activity data.		Change Control (PPI), Inventory and Monitoring of Forest Resources (IPSDH), and PDASRH).
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Guidelines for enhanced safeguards reporting into the national SIS REDD+, including enhanced reporting capacity at the provincial level	UNEP	In ongoing consultation with Directorate of Climate Change Mitigation, MoEF 1 province supported in 2024

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) consultation processes between GoI and one or more international jurisdictional REDD+ standard(s) facilitated, including: a) a comparative assessment of sub-national baselines, using national and international standards developed; and b) emission reductions/enhanced removals volume estimate scenarios	UNEP	<p>Support the GoI to evaluate what may be needed to meet eligibility requirements for, and access to, RBPs from international transactions through MRA(s) by aligning national/international carbon standards, through a multi-stakeholder process.</p> <p>Initial discussion on MRA support has been carried out between UN-REDD and Director of GHG Inventory and MRV.</p> <p>The deliverable will be achieved through joint efforts between UNEP and FAO.</p> <p>Riau province has expressed interest in accessing RBPs, and receiving technical assistance to that end, and will a target province for the comparative assessment.</p> <p>In response to Riau's request for technical assistance, UNEP will lead on the overall coordination of the MRA work, with FAO contributing on the MRV side of the standard(s) assessment, as well as the emissions reduction quantitative scenarios.</p>
	Support jurisdictional-scale results-based payments by providing Technical Assistance to meet eligibility requirements for, and access RBPs from multiple sources, including national and international carbon trading.	UNEP	In response to Riau's request for technical assistance, UNEP will lead on the overall coordination of the 2.1 working with FAO, who will provide MRV inputs and legal assistance on carbon pricing.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Analytical framework provided on compatibility and interoperability of REDD+ implementation at different scales and administrative levels	UNEP	<p>Key objectives of this analytical framework include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current landscape of REDD+ projects, and their alignment with national or sub-national frameworks, evaluated. 2. Existing policies, regulations, accounting and monitoring frameworks reviewed to assess carbon pricing instruments and RBPs at different levels and scales 3. Gaps between existing practices and the desired modalities for effective implementation, of coordinated and harmonised REDD+ at jurisdictional level, identified. 4. Actionable recommendations provided to government to address existing gaps for coordinated and harmonised REDD+ at different scales and levels of implementation <p>Jointly implemented by UNEP with FAO.</p>
	Support implementation of Permen No. 21/2022 through the development of a cap limit for the FOLU sector.	UNDP	Activities build on on-going support through UNDP's Climate Promise initiative with MoEF.
	Support IEF to manage carbon market revenues through: (i) assessing the country's carbon market supply and demand, the potential revenue generated from the carbon market: primary through National Registry System (SRN) and secondary through the Indonesia Stock Exchange. (ii) developing an investment plan for IEF/carbon market revenues management.	UNDP	Funds are already transmitted, and work planned to commence in late 2023.
2.3 Private-sector forest carbon investments mobilized	A Climate and Resilience Fund (CRF), complete with ESG framework, is established and launched	UNEP	In response to IEF's request for technical assistance on the CRF, UNEP will lead this work, which includes development of a Environmental, Social and Governance framework for the Fund.

Outcome/ Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Support the development of a FOLU monitoring and evaluation mechanism at South and West Sumatera.	UNDP	Activities build on on-going support through UNDP's Climate Promise initiative with MoEF.
	Support for MoEF through capacity development in NDC requirements for UNFCCC reporting.	FAO	Support on the new reporting related to Article 6 under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Indonesia's Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) in 2024. (to be confirmed)

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2.13. Kenya

Strategic Context

Kenya's economy is vulnerable and already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change. It is estimated that climate-related disasters, such as droughts and floods create an economic liability of 3-5% of its gross domestic product every year¹². This is largely due to the climate-sensitive nature of the economy with the agriculture, water, forests, energy, tourism, and wildlife sectors being of utmost importance. Kenya's contribution to global GHG emissions is insignificant, estimated at less 0.1%. Nonetheless, Kenya has shown strong commitment to contribute global action to combat climate change.

Kenya submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in December 2020, which commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario of 143 MtCO₂eq. Total cost of implementing adaptation and mitigation actions is estimated at 62 billion USD. Compared to first NDC that was fully conditional to support, Kenya has committed to mobilize resources to meet 13% of the total cost of the updated NDC, with the remaining 87% requiring international support. 21% of the mitigation cost is intended from domestic sources, while 79% is subject to international support in the form of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

Kenya has embarked on REDD+ actions to drive transformational changes in its forest sector as a contribution to NDC implementation. With funding from the FCPF and technical support from UNDP, the main REDD+ elements have been put together, including a national REDD+ strategy, a comprehensive framework for safeguards, including the design of a safeguards information system, a functional multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building for REDD+ and a submission of National Forest Reference Level (FRL). In addition, Kenya has embarked on a program to improve the integrity of its national forest monitoring system (NFMS). Funded by UKPact and with technical support from the FAO, the Improving Measurement for Payments to Reduce Emissions and Strengthen Sinks (IMPRESS) project has helped Kenya to align its NFMS with the needs of novel climate standards such as ART/TREES and the VCS JNR. The enhanced national forest monitoring system has produced initial

¹² NDC, 2020

results suggesting that Kenya could qualify for results-based climate finance. An assessment, considering the reference period from 2016 to 2020 and an initial crediting period commencing in 2021, revealed an estimated 26% reduction in emissions for the year 2021. These findings, along with forthcoming results from 2022 (pending completion), contribute to a clearer understanding of Kenya's eligibility for climate finance related to forests. These insights will guide ongoing measurement, reporting, and verification activities in the foreseeable future.

With partners in the REDD+ space, including Conservation International, work has progressed on nesting guidelines for Kenya. Kenya has updated its Climate Change Act of 2016 to include provisions for carbon markets. Regulations to operationalise these provisions will be passed at the end of 2023 after a rigorous public consultation process.

The evolving policy framework on forests and land use, including *inter alia* the Forest Conservation and Management, Devolution, Community Land and Climate Change Acts and the Lands and Draft Forest Policy, ongoing work on Benefit Sharing and others, provide the overall vision, policies, measures, and actions to address deforestation, forest degradation and barriers to sustainable forest management in Kenya. A funding proposal was submitted to KOICA for implementation of policies in the forest sector (US \$10) and if successful, will begin in 2025.

Country Engagement

This workplan is based on ongoing REDD+ processes in the country, as well as on consultations with officials from relevant government agencies, and development partners. A meeting was convened on 16 November by the Director of Conservation in the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Forestry with all the various actors in the forest and climate space. Inputs provided from these interactions have informed the development of this workplan. Consultations have also been held between UN-REDD agencies (UNDP, FAO and UNEP) to define the foreseen activities. The proposed technical assistance will be jointly reviewed with the Ministry in December 2023.

Workplan

In 2024, UN-REDD will seek to continue to advance support to policy and action in the REDD+ sphere. This will involve working with the government to follow through with a coherent approach to catalyse the implementation of the forest component of the NDC in the forest and land use sector. Kenya is poised to actualise its commitments under the Paris Agreement but requires continued technical support to actualise the policy framework that the Government is setting up, including carbon market readiness for voluntary and compliance markets. The Government will submit a concept note to LEAF and UN-REDD will support the process for ART/TREES registration, including capacity building on carbon-market readiness and access, such as with regards to stakeholder engagement, carbon rights or use of REDD+ proceeds. UN-REDD support will also help Kenya to prepare the necessary documentation required for accessing available carbon finance.

The table below gives information about the proposed UN-REDD technical assistance activities in 2024 with agencies responsible for their implementation, all being aligned with the UN-REDD logical framework.

Outcome/Output (UN-REDD results framework)	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
OUTCOME 1. FOREST SOLUTIONS REALISED			

1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Discussion and formulation of an ecosystem restoration investment plan building on the initial development of the REDD+ Investment Plan (REDD+ IP)	UNDP	A REDD+ Investment Plan (REDD+ IP) draft zero was elaborated as part of the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project. Working closely with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and other relevant partners, TA (consultant and consultations) will support the finalization of the Ecosystem Restoration IP.
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, low-carbon forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement accelerated	Support to mature a jurisdictional REDD+ concept and mobilize resources to accelerate forest landscape restoration using the ecosystem restoration investment plan as a basis	UNDP	Stakeholder consultations will be required to identify the focus of the programme and project planning and development will be undertaken.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions, and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Support Kenya to finalize ART-TREES registration and backstop validation process. Organize two technical training sessions on forest change area estimation aligned with TREES v2 standards, including relevant training materials. Conduct capacity-building workshops to improve the technical expertise of key national stakeholders, including KFS, in the reporting of forest-related emissions and removals. Facilitate feedback collection from the REDD+ technical working group, encompassing the entire process, including both estimation and documentation phases	FAO	Under both IMPRESS and the UN-REDD 2023 support FAO has supported Kenya to improve its National Forest Monitoring System and prepare the required documents for ART-TREES registration. This activity will build on this process with FAO supporting the registration process as well as the initial validation procedures with the ART-TREES secretariate
Milestone outputs	<p>Technical Session 1 training materials on forest area change estimation and training report (March 2024)</p> <p>Technical Session 2 training materials on forest area change estimation and training report (June 2024)</p> <p>Compilation of comprehensive feedback from REDD+ Technical Working Group covering estimation and documentation phases (November 2024)</p>		
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and	Support the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry to submit Kenya's first	UNDP	A safeguard assessment is being conducted for this purpose and for the purpose of the submission of a concept note to ART/TREES by the

reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Summary of Information to UNFCCC Secretariat Consultations and agreement on the scope of the Sol Develop draft for stakeholder review and validation Final summary for Submission to UNFCCC		first quarter of 2024. 1 st Summary of Information to the UNFCCC by December 2024
OUTCOME 2. FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED			
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported, and verified REDD+ results.	Assess potential emission reductions and removals (ERRs) against a TREES crediting level by undertaking monitoring for the 2023 period. Improve the accuracy of estimates for forest change including mangroves for the whole period of interested 2013-2023 Calculate annual uncertainty of forest-related emission/removals for the period 2013-2023 Organize national consultation to present the REDD+ results.	FAO	Under the IMPRESS project and /UN-REDD funding in 2023 Kenya has created a TREES crediting level and has undertaken monitoring in 2021 and 2022. This activity will seek to include additional monitoring for the 2023 period and will also seek to refine removal estimates for the crediting period of interest.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Building on the regulations for carbon markets to be passed by the Government of Kenya, support development of specific guidelines for the forest sector.	UNDP	This will include stakeholder consultations and technical assistance. Work closely to support the Ministry of ECC&F to prepare a first draft. This work will be conducted with the community of practice that is convened by the Ministry and involves all the organisations and key initiatives working on climate and forests at the national level to set up enabling policy and institutional frameworks for engagement in high integrity carbon markets.
	Support Kenya to finalize ART-TREES registration. Organize two technical sessions to discuss implementation of the national programme aligned with the TREES v.2 Standard	UNDP	Kenya will soon submit a concept note to the ART Secretariat and will begin working on all the elements required for the Registration Document in close coordination with FAO.

	Conduct capacity-building workshops to improve the technical expertise of key national stakeholders, in engagement in a J-REDD programme. Facilitate feedback collection from the REDD+ technical working group		
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Support on legal aspects and title transfer in the context of ART/TREES	FAO	Past work under the IMPRESS and UN-REDD has provided support for enabling Kenya to participate in a carbon accounting standard at jurisdictional level, legal aspects on the title and possibility to transfer title on carbon credits were clarified. The current support will continue backstopping Kenya as they continue with their registration under ART-TREES
Milestone outputs	Monitoring for 2023 completed following the NFMS guidelines producing emissions estimates for relevant classes in Kenya Updated Carbon Calculation Database including uncertainties Kenya supported on legal aspects relating to title transfer in the context of ART/TREES		
OUTCOME 3. FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED			
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Kenya has established and submitted NDCs to the UNFCCC, this activity will seek to provide additional feedback to the Government of Kenya regarding the updating of NDC targets based on updated and improved data. Provide feedback for the update of NDC?	FAO	Technical support provided by FAO as part of IMPRESS and UN-REDD has resulted in updates regarding the mitigation potential of forests. Through facilitated discussions with the Government of Kenya updated mitigation potential of forests will be introduced to the NDCs
Milestone outputs	Updated estimates regarding forests and NDC targets presented to stakeholders in Kenya		
OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS			
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and communicated to accelerate climate action.	Develop technical materials and proceedings. Develop communication materials (leaflet, video etc.) Organize meetings workshops, consultations with national stakeholders to communicate the work that has been done	UNDP and FAO	Knowledge exchange activities will be planned in 2024 and the Kenyan experience will be shared with other UN-REDD countries. Two regional exchanges will be held on forest related accounting, monitoring and verification of emission reductions and removals, and a second one on finance and carbon markets in 2024.

2.14. Laos PDR

Strategic context

The Lao government’s plans and commitment for reducing deforestation and enhancing forest cover is a core strategy that has been reflected in past and present forestry strategies. It is also reaffirmed in Lao PDR’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of March 2021, which indicates REDD+’s role to contribute towards achievement of both the unconditional (1.1 mtCO₂ eq/ year) and conditional (45 MtCO₂ eq/ year) mitigation targets by 2030.

Lao PDR is a participant in the FCPF Carbon Fund (CF) for a sub-national project and expected to access its first Results-based Payments (RBPs) by early 2024. Lao PDR also submitted a concept note to the GCF for REDD+ results-based payments for the national scale, with JICA as the identified Accredited Entity, should the GCF move forward with this further. Lao PDR is also actively engaging with countries in potential forestry sector collaborative approaches under the Paris Agreement Article 6, as well as with private proponents under voluntary forest carbon markets.

Country engagement

The UN-REDD Programme has been active in Lao PDR and has provided support through the Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region initiative (2020-2023), as well as the Climate Change Mitigation through Social Forestry Actions in ASEAN Countries initiative. Under the UN-REDD TA, support was provided in developing a “Roadmap for Lao PDR to Engage with Forest Carbon Markets to Access REDD+ Results Based Finance” mostly focusing on jurisdictional results-based finance opportunities. The TA support provides policy options and advisory on the opportunities and risks for engagement in forest carbon projects under the voluntary market including guidance on nesting. A gap assessment was also conducted on Lao PDR’s carbon accounting methodology, against the ART/TREES standard, outlining potential areas further improvement, eyeing potential access to RBPs including from the LEAF coalition. A rapid assessment of Lao PDR’s available safeguards information against ART-TREES, GCF and Verra requirements was also conducted, as well as an initial review of the country’s proposed information structure for its Safeguards Information System (SIS).

UN-REDD support to Lao PDR is delivered jointly by FAO and UNEP with the Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) as the government counterpart. The UN-REDD Programme is in close communication with other key stakeholders including the UK Embassy, the EU delegation, Team Europe, REDD+ projects funded by JICA, GIZ and the UN Resident Coordinator, as well as relevant government ministries including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Department of Agriculture and Department of Planning and Cooperation under MAF. The support on accessing forest carbon markets is closely coordinated with the GGGI led initiative “Open and Sustainable Carbon Markets in Lao PDR (2023-2026)”.

Workplan ¹³

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead UN-REDD agency	Brief observations

¹³ The table excludes actions outside the scope of the UN-REDD TA such as the ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative, which is planned separately.

1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	MRV - Training on the basics of R, as a basis for conducting carbon accounting uncertainty assessments	FAO	In partnership with JICA's F-REDD2 project, and USFS
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	ART/TREES gap assessment, registration and monitoring documents advanced	UNEP	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	National safeguards information system (SIS) strengthened including integration of jurisdictional safeguards information	UNEP	
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	High level political dialogue on accessing REDD+ RBF and roadmap included in the national carbon decree/strategy	UNEP	Work closely together with FAO, GGGI, WB and RCO related to the national carbon decree/strategy
	Estimation of RBP potential – assessing jurisdictions and vintages based on existing forest carbon accounting data, applying the ART/TREES standard as the reference standard.	FAO	In partnership with JICA's F-REDD2 project
2.2 Market Transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Support on the engagement with projects and “nesting” within jurisdictional initiatives	FAO	Support the follow up from the 2023 TA, work under FAO to provide strategic level dialogue and options for engaging with VCM (and other) forest carbon projects. In close collaboration with UNEP's RBP roadmap.
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	Sharing of the Payment for Forest Eco-system Services (PFES) experience from Viet Nam, as a key policy and measure (PaM) and also a means to secure sustainable domestic finance for the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+.	FAO	Funds to support Viet Nam's work on this activity will be funded through the regional KM. Importantly, more analysis should be conducted in Viet Nam that may confirm the role of PFES as a key REDD+ PaMs its jurisdictional REDD+, and accessed RBPs so far.

			Such analysis may be enabled through the FAO A4F initiative (UK funded).
	Comparative analysis and knowledge sharing on forest carbon frameworks between Mekong countries	FAO	To be implemented in partnership with the Mekong Regional Land Governance (MRLG) initiative

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2.15. Mexico

Strategic context

Mexico has submitted its revised NDC in late 2020¹, reinforcing the role of the REDD+ National Strategy (ENAREDD+) to meet its zero net deforestation target by 2030 and contribute to its unconditional (-22%) and conditional (-36%) mitigation targets with respect to BAU. To achieve its climate targets, Mexico's Reformed Climate Change Law (2018) counts with several instruments, including a domestic emission trading scheme (which after a three-year pilot phase became fully operationalized in 2023) and the Special Programme on Climate Change (PECC) 2021-2024 with targets and actions, including on implementing the ENAREDD+ and reducing deforestation (30% gross deforestation by 2024 compared to 2018).

With regard to REDD+, Mexico has continued to improve its REDD+ efforts and achieved REDD+ readiness. The country has an advanced system on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) with the ability to assess the performance of the forest sector towards climate policy goals, including NDC. Also, Mexico is the first country in the world to have an operational REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS) and continues to update and refine its national safeguards system and approach. Mexico continues to work on a revised version of the SIS which will feed into a second summary of safeguards information (the first one was published in 2017). Limited public resources have made it more pressing for the country to access climate finance. A legal reform bill to the forest law was issued in 2022, enabling, among others, subnational entities to access financing mechanisms for reduced emissions from deforestation.¹ Aspects relating to the clarification of emissions reductions titling, to the regulation and operationalization are still to be published by the Environmental Ministry (SEMARNAT) in the corresponding by-laws and regulations. REDD+ initiatives at the subnational level are under way with two Mexican states (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) that have submitted proposals under the LEAF Coalition and with Quintana Roo submitting a concept note to the ART Secretariat in 2022. While awaiting legal clarity from the federal level, the two states continued working on the ART / TREES readiness in 2023. The Mexican government, with advice from UN-REDD, showed great interest in the second phase of the Green Climate Fund's REDD+ results-based payment programme and will continue assessing options and eligibility in 2024.

To meet its targets on low-carbon rural development and reduced deforestation, by 2025 Mexico would need to consolidate its nested approach, enabling jurisdictional action effectively nested at the national scale. The implementation of REDD+ strategies, based on enhancing the economic value of forests while eliminating the negative impact of agricultural subsidies and promoting deforestation-free production approaches, also needs to be consolidated.

During 2024, key activities include further strengthening the capacities and systems for effective forest monitoring and MRV, consolidating the multi-use monitoring system and establishing the basis for

high environmental integrity of forest sector emission reductions. Further advances on safeguards are expected, including continued strengthening of the updated SIS and the periodic collection, analysis and reporting of information on safeguards with a highlight of the second summary of information, to meet UNFCCC as well as other requirements. Access of high-integrity forest carbon finance will equally be part of the main work areas. Advancing to meet the UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ results-based payments will be part of the key activities to mobilize carbon finance from different sources.

Country Engagement

After changes in CONAFOR’s management in the first semester of 2023, the technical team at CONAFOR’s Unit for International Affairs and Financial Promotion remained stable and showed leadership in the process of planning and implementing the cooperation with UN-REDD. The UN-REDD agencies held joint planning sessions with CONAFOR during November and December 2023. The meetings had the double objectives of reviewing progress and, with a prioritized outlook, plan for the technical assistance in 2024.

Workplan

As overall context for the UN-REDD support to Mexico in 2024, CONAFOR and the UN-REDD agencies agreed to tailor the work areas towards access of forest finance. In view of focusing technical assistance on providing readiness support for international finance and considering CONAFOR’s priorities for 2024, the main focus areas will be access to international and domestic climate and forests finance, strengthening systems and operations on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of forest-based emissions as well as on social and environmental safeguards. Based on this rationale for overall support, a table of outputs and activities is presented below.

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	1.4.1. Generate capacities for early warning of deforestation, using tools of the SEPAL platform. 1.4.2. Plans for integrating aligned national and state MRV methodologies for GHG emissions in the forestry sector (in support of results-based payment initiatives), formulated and implemented. 1.4.3. Scope, quality and sustainability of forest monitoring system improved	FAO	Develop a training workshop, and follow up on implementations in pilot areas. Evaluate the potential of SEPAL's eSBAE algorithm to perform quality control of interpretation processes. Methodological support for the optimization of activity data estimation. Within the framework of the National Forest Inventory network, facilitate at least one exchange of experiences with countries in the region that have implemented community-based forest monitoring schemes.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout	1.5.1. Contributions and recommendations for updating the national Safeguards Information System (SIS), based on a standardized framework of	UNEP	1.5.1.1. Review, input and recommendations to SIS design document. 1.5.1.2. Support the CONAFOR safeguards team to develop a strategy for standardized safeguards reporting.

the implementation of REDD+ actions	safeguards and good practices in the region. 1.5.2. Identification and analysis of sources of funding for capacity building for safeguards compliance and reporting.		1.5.2.1. Recommendations and follow-up to access funding sources aimed at strengthening the national safeguards approach.
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	2.1.1 Assessment of options for accessing international climate and forest finance through financial incentives or payments for mitigation outcomes	UNDP	2.1.1.1 Support joint positioning on LAC priorities in discussions prior to the approval of the next phase of the GCF REDD+ Payment for Results Program and, in case of Board approval, technical assistance for the development of the Concept Note and strategic guidance for the development of the funding proposal (UNDP). 2.1.1.2 Capacity building on climate finance issues aligned with the NDC, the national legal and programmatic framework, and the national and international funding context (UNDP) 2.1.1.3 Support and advice to CONAFOR and SEMARNAT on climate finance issues, including voluntary carbon markets and activities related to the LEAF initiative in Mexican states (UNDP, UNEP, FAO).
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	4.1.1 Organization of an international exchange on climate finance through positive incentive programs and/or payment for REDD+ results (related to 2.1)	UNDP / UNEP /FAO	4.1.1.1 Facilitate the participation of the Mexican government in an international exchange with countries and/or jurisdictions that are involved in positive incentive programs, payment for results and/or carbon market initiatives in relation to REDD+, taking into account the issue of carbon rights and benefit sharing (UNDP, FAO, UNEP). 4.1.1.2 Facilitation of exchange with countries in the region for ongoing training on safeguards, within the framework of the UN-REDD Program Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity (UNEP).
	4.1.2 Participation in an exchange of information and experiences on the implementation and monitoring of chains of custody or traceability to determine deforestation-free products.	UNDP	Participación de CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, SADER en intercambios internacionales sobre productos libres de deforestación

2.16. Nepal

Strategic context

Nepal announced several new commitments during COP26, that confirm and further its second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which committed to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. These include commitments to remain cumulatively ‘net zero carbon’ from 2022-2045 and become carbon negative thereafter; halt deforestation and maintain 45% forest cover to by 2030; manage 50% of Terai and inner Terai Forest and 25% of middle hill and mountain forests through REDD+ initiatives; and ensure all vulnerable people are protected from climate change by 2030.

Active forest carbon financing mechanisms in Nepal include accessing results-based payments from the FCPF Carbon Fund and the LEAF Coalition. The Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA), signed with the FCPF Carbon Fund in 2021, covers a sub-national jurisdiction for the six years (2018 – 2024). Nepal is in the process of its first round monitoring, and aims to access its first results-based payments from the Carbon Fund in 2024. Nepal also has a Letter of Intent with Emergent for a jurisdictional project to access results-based payments under the LEAF Coalition, and aspires to sign an ERPA in 2024 for the jurisdictional project (2022 – 2026). The jurisdiction of the Carbon Fund ERPA forms part of the jurisdiction of the proposal to the LEAF Coalition, covering the Terai region of Nepal, where population and agricultural activities are concentrated, resulting in forest loss and significant threats to the natural resource base.

Country engagement

Since 2022, the UN-REDD Programme has been supporting Nepal, namely through the Ministry of Forestry and Environment (MOFE), in the provision of technical assistance towards registration and monitoring applying the ART/TREES standard, for its jurisdictional REDD+ programme for the LEAF Coalition. The overall government focal agency for this support is the REDD Implementation Center (REDD IC) under MOFE. The Forest Research and Training Center (FRTC) is another unit under MOFE of strategic importance for the UN-REDD support on carbon accounting. Significant progress has been made in 2023 towards the registration under TREES, but the full registration is expected only to be achieved in early 2024.

The UN-REDD Programme team for Nepal periodically reaches out to donors and partners in Nepal including Team Europe, the German Embassy, the World Bank, IUCN, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the UN Resident Coordinator system for progress updates and information sharing.

FAO also is engaged in a GCF project covering the Terai region (only marginally overlapping with the jurisdiction of the LEAF proposal) as accredited entity and co-implementing agency since 2020.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-	Domestic capacity building/ training on uncertainty assessments in carbon accounting	FAO	In partnership with Silva Carbon/USFS

quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Support to data integration for the national forest monitoring system (within the FRTC)	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	ART/TREES registration and monitoring documents finalized	UNEP	
	Safeguard Information System (SIS) strengthened, and information integrated, and first summary of information (Sol) finalized	UNEP	
	Inputs provided to finalize REDD+ FPIC guidance, LEAF benefit sharing plan and documentation on GRM	UNEP	
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	TREES 1st Monitoring Report - carbon accounting	FAO	In partnership with Silva Carbon/USFS
	REDD+ Strategy review, update and development - <i>including considerations for the role and engagement of private sector in REDD+ (e.g. opt-in procedures)</i>	FAO	In partnership with UNEP
	National Forest Information System (NFIS) training for subnational level data collection and uploading into database.	FAO	To be implemented with UNEP supporting the safeguards related information collection and monitoring
	Ongoing consultations for proposed LEAF Program, including FPIC with stakeholders & rights-holders	FAO	Continued implementation from 2023, through RECOFTC
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	REDD+ Finance guidance provided (including upfront finance and REDD+ RBF (as a vehicle to start/support the political dialogue)	UNEP	To be implemented with FAO under the REDD+ Strategy review
2.3 Private-sector forest carbon investments mobilized	Nesting (situational analysis) guidance provided as a vehicle to start/support the political dialogue)	UNEP	To be implemented with FAO

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2.17. Papua New Guinea

Strategic context

Papua New Guinea (PNG), as Small Island Developing State (SIDS), with a large area of remaining intact forest, and one of the richest levels of biodiversity, has been at the forefront of REDD+ since its inception. PNG is a high-forest/low-deforestation (HFLD) country with 78% forest cover. However, with high economic and population growth, the annual rates of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation have increased posing challenges, but since 2013 substantial efforts have been made to reverse this trend. As one of the first countries to initiate discussions on REDD+ within the context of international negotiations under the UNFCCC, at COP11 in 2005, the Government of PNG has been actively exploring approaches to incorporate climate change mitigation goals into forest and land use policy and practice for more than 15 years.

PNG has submitted an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in 2020 and developed a roadmap for NDC implementation of AFOLU sector in 2021 which outlines a 10-year strategy with a focus on implementing actions within the first five years. PNG has identified several REDD+ target interventions mostly related to effective system for governance, Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV), safeguards implementation, and financial management to ensure the success of REDD+ in the country.

In 2022, PNG focused on the development of overarching National REDD+ guidelines, as well as Benefit Sharing Distribution System (BSDS) Guidelines, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Guidelines, and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidelines. Recently, the country has also drafted, through a consultative process, the Climate Change (Carbon Market) Regulation 2023 and endorsement of this regulation is expected by the National Executive Council (NEC) early 2024. The UN-REDD TA will be aligned to the Government's NDC AFOLU Implementation Roadmap and provide strategic options to interact with forest carbon markets and access REDD+ results-based finance (RBF).

Country engagement

The PNG CCDA (Climate Change Development Authority) had a lockdown session in December to discuss ART TREES Registration and the workplan to complete registration document by June 2024. We have received the workplan and our support for Q1 and Q2 is built around this workplan. In addition, support is provided to update activity data, this work has been programmed through technical discussions that started under the TA in 2023.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Support to update Land use and land use change assessment (Data collection on deforestation, forest degradation and restoration areas up to 2022). And develop ART TREES compliant Emission Factors using existing data	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout	Safeguards Information System (SIS) updated, including integration of subnational information	UNEP	

the implementation of REDD+ actions	Second summary of information (SOI) finalised		
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Nested framework updated with consideration of VCS REDD+ consolidated framework	FAO	Jointly implemented with UNEP *Nested framework developed by end 2024 under GCF readiness funding
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	[alternative] REDD+ RBF climate finance options presented (as a vehicle to support the political dialogue)	UNEP	Jointly with FAO
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Finalization of ART TREES Registration Document, including (1) a Monitoring Plan, (2) safeguards sections and plan for conformance with outcome indicators (see 1,5) (3) a Plan for securing ownership rights of the ERs from local stakeholders and (4) a detailed description of the crediting level calculations.(5) monitoring report (for crediting period 2017-2021)	FAO	
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Assessment of NDC's mitigation actions in the forest and land use sectors conducted Support to operationalization of National REDD+ development and implementation guidelines provided	FAO	

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2.18. Peru

Strategic context

Peru has strong national commitments and policies in place on climate and forests, including in its [updated NDC report for 2021-2030](#). Peru's climate and forest policy is structured around the [Framework Law on Climate Change](#) (Law N° 30754) and its [regulation](#) (Supreme Decree N° 013-2019-MINAM), the [National Forests Conservation Programme for Climate Change Mitigation](#) (Forests Programme) (Decree Supreme N° 008-2010-MINAM), as well as its [National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change](#) (ENBCC) (Supreme Decree N° 007-2016-MINAM). The Framework Law on Climate Change's regulation states the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) is the responsible entity to identify and classify REDD+ actions in the framework of the ENBCC; measure LULUCF emissions and emissions reductions; manage and periodically update information on safeguards; manage and distribute REDD+ benefits payments; and design and implement the Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC). The regulation also establishes the National Registry for Mitigation Measures (RENAMI), which aims to avoid double counting and serves as a tool to keep track of all mitigation measures, whether destined for Peru's NDC or for international trade; this Registry is currently being finalized.

In line with this framework, all non-state actors that implement REDD+ actions must align efforts to achieve, issue and register UREs, consistent with the RENAMI. For REDD+ actions that opt for results-based payments or carbon markets, MINAM will allocate information based on the NREF, applying

methodologies and tools under development by MINAM. MINAM has been advancing with its nesting approach, which will be finalized in 2024.

A number of commitments and partnerships have been developed in support of REDD+ implementation in Peru. The [Joint Declaration of Intent](#) is an international cooperation agreement on REDD+, updated in May 2021, with endorsement from the governments of Germany, Norway, UK and the USA. This agreement includes performance finance for REDD+, under [ART](#) certification, which requires compliance with The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard ([TREES](#)). Peru also established an appropriate financial mechanism for REDD+ results-based payments. During COP27 Peru and Norway signed an agreement in which Norway committed to disburse USD 10 million through PROFONANPE (the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas)¹⁴, to continue supporting Peru with its efforts to halt deforestation.

With support from UNEP and FAO, MINAM developed and submitted a [TREES concept note](#) in December 2021, building on an assessment of the potential emissions reductions (ER) generated for the period 2017-2021, as well as an analysis of conformance with safeguards requirements. Advances are currently being made on the Registration document.

Country engagement

Over 2023 and early 2024, the UN-REDD Programme and MINAM have had a number of meetings and working sessions related to follow-up on the implementation of UN-REDD Technical Assistance (TA) for 2023, with discussion of planning for activities and priorities for 2024. This also included an interagency mission, with participation from the Norway Embassy in Lima as well as the FAO and UNDP country offices, in September 2023. There have been regular planning calls with MINAM, as well as coordination on UN-REDD support with the Norway Embassy in Peru, as well as with Nicfi, NORAD, GIZ, USAID and CIFOR, with continued engagement from the FAO and UNDP country offices. Engagement with the Resident Coordinator Office is under way.

Workplan

Advances in the ART-TREES process, particularly related to developing the registration document, have enabled further assessment of technical assistance requirements and identification of potential gaps, including in conducting the estimation of emissions reductions and removals from deforestation and degradation for 2020 and 2021. Assessment of needs related to participatory planning processes, including through dialogues with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, and piloting of the MIS and MAC, has also been carried out and informed work planning and priorities.

In the 2025 horizon, Peru has identified a number of strategic priorities to consolidate the national agenda on climate and forests. UN-REDD TA will be focused on supporting these priorities, with an overall focus on helping to access finance for verified emissions reductions results, with safeguards and participatory processes in place. This support will also focus on assistance to MINAM to help meet ART-TREES requirements, in line with the commitments under the JDI, and to potentially prepare a submission under LEAF or other results-based financing mechanisms.

A number of resource and capacity needs were identified together with MINAM, including:

- Review and updating of methodologies and data, and undertake estimations of emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) from deforestation and forest degradation for the period

¹⁴ Peru's Supreme Decree from 25 January 2022 declared the climate emergency of national interest (Supreme Decree No. 003-2022-MINAM), and established in its Article 3 "Priority actions for the climate emergency", which include MINAM designing "the process for the reception, administration, and distribution of benefits from various sources, national and/or international, that allows the implementation of the phases for Reduction of Emissions derived from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and entrusts PROFONANPE (the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas) with the administration of the funds derived from this process."

2012-2021, and including nesting scenarios and Monte Carlo analysis, and preparation of ART-TREES registration document and first monitoring report;

- Development of a nesting framework that allows reconciling multiples ERRs accounting approaches and scales under the ENBCC, supported by tools to regulate and register multiple REDD+ implementation scales under RENAMI;
- Piloting of national safeguards systems the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) to ensure it is operative and able to report information on the scale and with the detail needed to respond to ART-TREES requirements (and other requirements, as appropriate);

Development and facilitation of participatory processes and dissemination events with regional governments as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, to ensure there is broad participation and understanding for a national-level ART-TREES process, and potentially for other financing opportunities.

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	REDD+ nesting approach and arrangements included in a technical document as an input to the legal framework of RENAMI	FAO	This includes support for the consolidation of the nesting approach (UNEP and FAO), as well as for the pilot phase of the nesting allocation tool, based on the updated FREL submitted to the UNFCCC. The nesting approach will include support to the finalization and operation of the RENAMI, as well as a nesting allocation tool. UNEP will provide inputs and support on nesting approaches.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	MRV system strengthened	FAO	This includes technical assistance for strengthening the national forest MRV system and related UNFCCC GHG reporting. This also includes development of a proposal to make procedures more efficient and transparent to generate reports.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	Safeguards Information Module (MIS) piloted with testing/improvements and capacity building materials developed for the use of both systems; summary of safeguards information (for 2020-2023); and legal analyses and guidelines on safeguards developed	UNEP	This will also include the hiring of safeguards and legal specialists.

2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results	Design and implementation of climate finance strategy	UNDP	This will include support to the design of the climate finance strategy (EFMCC), including review of draft documents and approaches for public consultation (UNEP, UNDP). This will also include support for the implementation of the EFMCC, including for the design and conceptualization of the guarantee fund for Indigenous peoples and support for the conceptualization of a climate fund for Indigenous women (UNEP will also support this activity). This support will include assessment of options, strategic issues and requirements to access results-based payments opportunities and jurisdictional carbon markets for the forestry sector, aligned with NDC objectives and Article 6 provisions.
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	ART/TREES registration document finalized and submitted	FAO	This includes technical assistance on safeguards (UNEP), as well as on carbon elements (related to the estimation of ER potential and associated uncertainties) and legal aspects related to ERs (supported by FAO). Information on ERs from degradation, biomass after deforestation, and an uncertainty assessment will be developed with MINAM, as well as reviewing the standard operating procedures. This also includes review of Guidelines linked to REDD+ in the context of the Regulation of the Climate Change Law (RLMCC) in Peru (FAO).
	Guidelines on high-integrity forest carbon principles supported	UNDP	Support the development of best-practice guidelines for Indigenous peoples and local communities as well as other relevant stakeholders around principles of high-integrity initiatives (UNDP in collaboration with Climate Focus - subject to MINAM endorsement).

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2.19. Republic of Congo

Strategic context

The 2024 workplan is guided by the first results of the on-going evaluation of the REDD+ National Strategy started in 2023. It is also based on country submission of his interest to LEAF initiative, aiming the mobilization of funds from potential emission reduction under the HFLD modality. Following the confirmation of its interest and the validation by LEAF of the document, the Republic of Congo has started to reflect on the technical content of the concept-note, which is going to receive UN-REDD programme support for its development.

The UN-REDD Programme will provide complementary support in 2024 with the focus on the continuation of its support for evaluation of the implementation of the REDD+ National strategy to better identify country priority for the future request for climate finance, the establishment of the safeguards summary of information, the technical assistance for the development of the LEAF concept-note and the strengthening of enabling actions around this action, and the continued technical support on land tenure issue through the use of Open Tenure.

Country engagement

Consultation with the government counterparts started in November 2023 with the REDD+ National Coordinator. Final clearance of the workplan is foreseen by the REDD+ National coordinator, after consideration of the content of the workplan by the Ministry of Forest Economy.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Evaluation of the REDD+ National Strategy implementation status, through technical, institutional, socio-economic evaluation. Assessment of the remaining needs for its implementation, considering the different investments already attracted by the country (validated report)	FAO	Several REDD+ related activities have been implemented in RoC, thanks to the commitment of funders, such as GCF, CAFI, AFD, etc. A state of art in terms of REDD+ implementation and the identification of the country priority is foreseen 5 years after the validation of the country REDD+ National Strategy. This part of the activity is the finalization of the work already started in 2023 and under implementation.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans/programmes to deliver their NDCs.	Use of Open Tenure in 1-2 pilot villages to complement efforts to secure land tenure rights for beneficiaries of agroforestry technical support.	FAO	As a result, communities will build consensus on usage rights (<i>droits d'occupation</i>) and individual rightsholders will be provided with documentation of their claims. There will be an emphasis on recognizing women's land rights through joint titling
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	National capacity strengthened on MNV data collection and reporting, as per UNFCCC reporting requirements	FAO	Field work for data collection and training
1.5 Safeguards addresses, respected,	Elaboration of the first Safeguards Summary of Information and	UNEP	Activity launched in 2023

monitored and reported	technical advice until submission of the document to UNFCCC		
1.5 Safeguards addresses, respected, monitored and reported	National FPIC guidance developed in partnership with other institutions, and taking stock of the field experiences gained through the implementation of FPIC projects guidelines	FAO	To be confirmed
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	Concept-note submitted to LEAF by the republic of Congo - Follow-up of the country submission to LEAF initiative and technical support provided for the update of the country submission	FAO	FAO and UNEP have been supporting the country to submit the country's response to the LEAF expressing their interest in September 2022. Support will continue to be provided to strengthen country capacity, including better understanding of the requirements and steps needed to advance with the LEAF process.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	In line with country priorities, provide technical legal backstopping to facilitate the operationalization of the existing legal framework related to carbon rights and benefit-sharing aspects in the context of ART-TREES standard.	FAO	Issues of legal framework related to carbon rights and transfer of titles need to be addressed and require additional resources. This technical support is the continuation of the support provided in 2023.
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Legal review and legal analysis of forest related legislation and support drafting processes as needed, especially in the framework of the definition and strengthening of carbon rights	FAO	To be confirmed, as per country needs, and in relation to the LEAF submission
4.1 Knowledge related to the change of scale. REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and communicated to accelerate climate action	Summary – Recommendations from the evaluation of the REDD+ national strategy, for policy makers	FAO	Publication of the summary which is the results of the evaluation of the REDD+ national strategy implementation status.

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2.20. Uganda

Context

The 2024 workplan for UN REDD TA to Uganda builds upon the progress during 2023; and on country's continuous interest in accessing Results-based payment options by ensuring compliance with ART TREES requirements. The UN-REDD Programme will continue to provide support in 2024 with particular focus on the following: i) the completion of the TREES registration documents (on safeguards and on MRV elements, including activity data assessment from sample-based measures), ii) in strengthening capacity for applying and reporting of safeguards; iii) AFOLU Mitigation Policies and Measures of the Updated NDC, iv) on carbon markets framework, including the regulations and guidelines for Art. 6 and VCM that has been developed is now being reviewed by the National Task force and consultations being held with the wider stakeholders. Last but not least, depending on the

outcome of the GCF Board meeting in March 2024, if decision is achieved regarding the opening of the GCF RBF replenishment window, UN-REDD will provide support to the country in its effort to access this funding opportunity linked to RBP of previous years.

Country engagement

Consultation with the government counterparts started in September 2023, during the Africa Climate week in Nairobi, and continued during the UN-REDD mission in November which involved different departments of the Ministry of Water and Environment (the Forestry Sector Support Department where the REDD+ Secretariat is anchored, the department of environmental support which is hosting and maintaining the SIS, the Climate Change department, the National Forestry Authority, the National Environment Management Authority), other Ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, animal industry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral development, the Ministry of Lands housing and urban development, and Ministry of gender, labor and social development, the UK embassy in Kampala, as well as other stakeholders from the private sector and the civil society, namely the New Forest Company, Ecotrust. Sessions with UNDP and FAO teams in the country also took place during the mission.

Some of the key findings during the November mission include the following: i) the Forest policy revision underway to integrate Climate Change and REDD+ dimensions; ii) the country, via its REDD+ Secretariat, has a clear perspective on what needs to be done to make REDD+ implementable, and eligible for funding; however, needs support to move the agenda forward. iii) Cross-sectoral discussions/collaboration works well in the country, as indicated by the presence and active participation of 8 sectors in the Policy Dialogue organized under the AFF project and the Ugandan Government, including the key sectors related to the main drivers of deforestation; iv) the implementation of the current UN-REDD technical support to strengthen safeguards processes in Uganda is progressing well despite some delay.

In terms of priorities, Uganda will: i) pursue the process to be ART TREES-ready and will assess options for potential buyers, including but not limited to LEAF. However, capacity building is needed at all levels and in all aspects of the ART TREES Standard. ii) accelerate implementation of REDD+ in the country after a four-year hiatus since the end of the REDD+ readiness phase. iii) adjust responsibilities and mandate for the different departments within the MWE to address the different aspects of REDD+ and properly implement the REDD+ strategy. iv) strengthen national and district-level REDD+ institutional and organizational arrangements, especially at 4 water management zones (Lake Albert basin, Lake Kyoga basin, Lake Victoria basin and Upper Nile basin); and v) prioritize work on nesting, which is very important for the Government to account for all the small-scale REDD+ initiatives already being implemented and the larger scale ones that are in the pipeline for implementation.

The 2024 workplan with inputs from all UN-REDD agencies was also discussed with the Government during the mission and this version already integrates their input.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
	REDD+ Technical Assistance hired to help coordinate REDD+ efforts by the Uganda REDD+ Secretariat	UNDP	The person will support the National REDD+ Secretariat Focal point to ensure follow-up of overall UN-REDD TA and in advancing the overall REDD+ agenda in Uganda.
1.1 Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment	A pipeline of forest programmes developed and engagement with partners and potential financiers to	UNDP	Project information notes have been prepared for Kyoga and Albertine and additional technical work was undertaken. Initial action plans were developed, to be further discussed with

plans/programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	contribute to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, including a project on afforestation, reducing pressure on forests through alternatives to wood fuel and efficient biomass energy production.		stakeholders and validated. Connections with REDD+ Strategy and the NDC will also be made. This work will be coordinated with FAO who are working on baselines and the NFMS. The activities envisaged are to revisit actions plans and associated available material developed for the Kyoga and Albertine Rift Water Management Zones and align to updated NDC and REDD+ Strategy. Conduct two regional stakeholder consultations and one national consultation. To further advance implementation of the REDD+ Strategy, a roadmap to develop investment programmes in these two jurisdictions will be developed after the initial stakeholder consultations and update of current documents.
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Final report of the public expenditure analysis on forestry in Uganda	FAO	The pilot implementation of the forestry public expenditure analysis methodology took place in Uganda in 2023. A validation workshop was conducted, and the updated results, featuring a more detailed analysis of policy coherence, will be integrated to create the final report of the findings.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems.	Activity data estimates	FAO	A new set of activity data at the national level will be developed. All the methodologies, and quality control processes, among others, will be documented for the 4 priority Water Management Zones (feasibility to be explored once the results at national level are out).
	ART-TREES crediting level calculated with associated documentation and standard operating procedures.		Gaps that were identified during the TREES Gap assessment in March 2023 will be addressed. The following sub-activities are expected: (i) finalize AD and EF data collection and convert them into emission estimates, (ii) calculate an ART-TREES compliant crediting level, (iii) prepare documentation for a TREES registration document (sections 10 and 11) including SOPs and annex material.
	A draft of an updated FRL for UNFCCC submission		Since there is a new set of activity data and other MRV information, a new updated FREL report (including other activities than deforestation) will be drafted along with an updated technical annex if resources and timing (vs BTR submission) allow.
	Framework for nesting work in the country is in place	FAO	Building on what AIM4Forests is already planning to cover, FAO will lead on this, in close collaboration with UNEP on safeguards matters and UNDP for the Registry.
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Capacity strengthened for applying and reporting of safeguards, and SIS database and data sharing protocols developed	UNEP	Based on the needs assessment and recommendations started in 2023, implement further capacity building for strengthening the application and reporting of safeguards. including engagement of subnational stakeholders.

			Specific strengthening of the SIS website and database, hosted by the Environmental Support Department at the MWE & data sharing protocols will be undertaken
2.1 Results-based payments accessed for measured, reported and verified REDD+ results.	TREES registration documents finalized	UNEP & FAO	<p>Safeguards input to comply with ART TREES and LEAF requirements. The main support for 2024 will continue what was undertaken in 2023. More specifically, inputs and feedback from country stakeholders integrated in TREES registration document and final documents developed.</p> <p>This includes technical assistance on carbon elements (related to the estimation of ER potential and associated uncertainties) and associated sections.</p> <p>TREES monitoring report drafting will start in 2024</p>
	Technical inputs for the funding proposal document provided (depending on the GCF Board Meeting outcomes on Result-based payment).	FAO	<p>FAO will follow the GCF discussions evolutions and will keep Uganda's government updated. Depending on the GCF decisions next year, FAO will provide technical input to develop a Funding proposal document since it is a priority for the country.</p> <p>The funding proposal will be drafted with FAO funding, not UN-REDD</p>
2.2 Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated.	Targeted capacity building to enable integration of forest/REDD elements into carbon market regulations and guidelines.	UNDP	<p>The Ministry of Water and Environment is setting up its carbon market mechanism framework to enable Uganda to benefit from the voluntary market and cooperation arrangements under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to leverage international climate financing to deliver commitments in the Country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The draft carbon markets framework including the regulations and guidelines for Art. 6 and VCM have been developed and is currently being internally reviewed by the National Task force and consultations being held with the wider stakeholders.</p> <p>Discussions will need to be held on how forest-related issues will be integrated into the regulations and guidelines and the need for specific schedules.</p>
	Build capacity of national stakeholders on the application of standards including the ART TREES for REDD+ and VCM projects	UNDP	<p>There are several standards being employed by different stakeholders in carbon project development. Support capacity building on different requirements for standards used in carbon transactions and support capacity building of negotiation teams engaging in carbon transactions.</p> <p>Since there are many aspects to be considered for the standard, UNDP leads but in close collaboration/coordination with UNEP and FAO.</p>

			Taskforce needs to continuously be engaged to understand LEAF and ART TREES work.
	Updated roadmap, and targeted capacity building, for RBF developed via multistakeholder national dialogues on RBF (jurisdictional initiatives, VCM, etc.)	All	UN-REDD support includes exploring financing options to attract the private sector and non-state actors in RBF. With strong emphasis on integrity on both sides, this may include providing technical support to the Government on carbon finance via different format (trainings, workshops, exchanges, etc.) but also, eventually, depending on the needs, may involve dialogues between Uganda and corporate/bilateral buyers targeting integrity, fair price in transactions, among others. Also, capacity building support will be undertaken after regulation is out. Conduct a series of national dialogues with private sector interested players and non-state actors on RBPs and carbon markets. UNEP and UNDP will coordinate to optimize this support. This will be carried out in conjunction with the work to develop a pipeline for NDC implementation in the forest sector.
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time.	Alignment of national MRV system with the forest monitoring system. REDD+ Registry developed to enhance data collection, monitoring and reporting of forestry carbon projects	UNDP	Knowledge exchange needed between the GHG MRV system and the REDD+ related work on MRV and NFMS. Support alignment, communications between REDD Secretariat and the Ministry. Support aligned and coordinated with FAO's support under 1.4. Determine needs to support development of the REDD+ Registry: (to be explored if a Registry will be established in 2024).

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2.21. Viet Nam

Strategic context

In 2023, Viet Nam accessed its first REDD+ results-based payments under the FCPF Carbon Fund Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA), worth US\$41.2 million, which records accessing over 80% of the entire ERPA volume during its first monitoring period. This marks a significant milestone for Viet Nam and its REDD+ process which started over ten years back. This creates positive momentum for further forest carbon initiatives including for the LEAF jurisdictional program process, for which the TREES Registration Document (TRD) is being complied with support from the UN-REDD Programme, among others. The country's mitigation contribution ambition has been increased in the updated NDC (2022) including the LULUCF sector's annualized unconditional contribution of 32.5MtCO₂e (previously 9.3MtCO₂e) and conditional target of 14.1MtCO₂e (previously 21.2MtCO₂e) by 2023.

Viet Nam is assessing NDC financing avenues including Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the international market mechanisms. Viet Nam is also considering a domestic carbon market a national carbon market mechanism, to be in place by 2027, where the forestry and land use change sector plays a role as a net sink, and thereby could provide potential domestic carbon offsets.

Country engagement

The UN-REDD Programme engages closely with Department of Forestry (DoF) assigned as REDD+ focal agency of MARD. Discussions are also on-going with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as the NDC lead agency on support related to Article 6 financing and implementation, including national carbon market mechanisms.

Other immediate stakeholders in Viet Nam include the Embassy of Norway, the Embassy of the UK, the REDD+ project under JICA (SNRM2), SilvaCarbon and their associated projects. Discussions with related personnel from Norway, the UK and Emergent/LEAF were held in September 2023 to discuss the overall progress particularly around the TREES registration process for the LEAF jurisdictional program. Status of UN-REDD TA planning and implementation is also being updated regularly with UNRC.

Workplan¹⁵

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1. Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+ investment plans /programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Develop the benefit sharing mechanism of the LEAF jurisdictional program as an improvement to the benefit sharing of the PFES mechanism.	FAO	
	Review and update the National REDD+ Action Program (including an option to integrate into national forestry strategy) and conduct consultations	FAO	Implement together with UNEP
	Update soft and hardware for the REDD+ website/ platform	FAO	Technical inputs from UNEP
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains developed	Consultations with stakeholders in Mekong regional countries on results of assessment and analysis for decoupling the impacts of agricultural commodities on forests	FAO	UNDP will contribute lessons from Viet Nam’s iLandscape project, including for future considerations on how the project could inform the country’s (and potentially Mekong region) response to the EU DR.
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions	MRV - Training to expand the knowledge base on use of R for statistical analysis for conducting carbon accounting uncertainty assessments	FAO	Continues the on-going area of support from FAO’s work under UN-REDD

¹⁵ The table focuses only on the support through the UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2024, and excludes support offered through initiatives such as Aim4Forests, which is planned separately.

and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems			
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions	ART/TREES registration and monitoring documents finalised, including consultation process	UNEP	Jointly with FAO
	Safeguards Information System (SIS) updated and steps for continued improvement determined, including procedures for sub-national level data collection and reporting	UNEP	Includes support on operationalisation of GRM reporting
	Second summary of information finalised	UNEP	
2.1 Results-based payments (RBPs) accessed for measured, reported, and verified REDD+ results	Support on the monitoring of implementation of the LEAF jurisdictional program through the collection / compilation of implementation data.	FAO	To be implemented in coordination with A4F initiative and UNEP.
	Continued support on consultations and capacity building for the LEAF jurisdictional program	UNEP	To be implemented in coordination with FAO, e.g. link to BSP, and on procedures such as GRM
	Support responding to the queries from the VV process of ART/TREES	UNEP	To be implemented with FAO as well as other partners such as USFS / SilvaCarbon
	Guidance provided on REDD+ RBF options, including a policy brief (as a vehicle to start/support the political dialogue)	UNEP	Jointly with FAO
2.2. Market transactions for forest carbon facilitated	Estimation of potential jurisdictions and vintages for accessing RBPs through ART/TREES	FAO	Coordinate with UNDP in case this work is on-going
	Standards assessment provided	UNEP	Jointly with FAO
2.3 Private-sector forest carbon investments mobilized	Business and investment cases developed for investment in three commodity production models in Central Highlands	UNEP	Together with the VN Adapt /I Landscape
3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time	Contribute to implementation of MoNRE's carbon markets roadmap for national and international markets, which is supplemented by mitigation potential assessment from the forest and land-use sector through Climate Promise. This includes development of necessary policies, guidance and other relevant legal documents to	UNDP	

	implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.		
	Assess carbon stocks of mangrove forests and consolidate methods and database in collaboration with MARD, through Climate Promise, to clarify mangrove forests' contribution to raising ambitions in the NDC	UNDP	
4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action	Exchanges with Lao PDR (among any others) on sustainable domestic finances for REDD+ implementation through Viet Nam's PFES experience	FAO	To be implemented mainly through funding from the knowledge-receiving country (ie Lao PDR)'s budget resources. Ecuador as another potential country of interest – focal agency is UNDP.

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2.22. Zambia

Strategic context

Zambia has already made much progress against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including a well-developed [NFMS](#), a Summary of information on safeguards ([Sol](#)) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019 and an updated [FREL submitted to UNFCCC in 2021](#) (which substituted the one submitted in [2016](#) and employed improved methods and data). Monitoring in 2019-2020 did not, however, show conclusive evidence that Zambia had reduced emissions against its FREL, which would enable access to climate finance at a national level. Global forest data does not suggest a different trend in the period 2021-2023.

The new government of Zambia has continued to build its national development strategy on a “green growth” approach, most notably by launching an influential Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE) to prioritise sustainable natural resource management as a key pillar of its development and growth aspirations. MGEE has already been instrumental in pushing forward key legislation to support an improved enabling environment for effective and sustainable landscape management, relevant to the REDD+ national process.

In this context, and to support scaled-up progress, UN-REDD TA in Zambia follows a two-pronged approach:

- i) Catalyse REDD+ implementation at subnational jurisdictional level and promote community climate action, with an initial focus on North Western (NW) province, the most forested area of the country and the focus location of a GCF proposal currently under development. This approach is aligned with Zambia’s commitment to expand community-based forestry, and to partner on forest conservation with sustainable economic development as part of a wider green growth agenda.

UN-REDD has made significant progress on each of the four assessments planned in 2023: (1) Assessment of existing and potential community forest management groups (CFMGs) which

can be supported to capitalize climate action; (2) Assessment of forest value chains in NW province, (3) Assessment of rural finance, and (4) Analysis of the relation between forest cover and water-related ecosystems. These assessments have provided important findings on the opportunities and challenges for jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives in NW province, and particularly in identifying the bottlenecks to scaling-up community-based forestry as forest-based solution to climate change. UN-REDD TA 2024 will follow up with activities defined together with national stakeholders upon discussion of 2023 findings, with the goal of enabling and empowering local climate action and make the case for forest-based solutions for climate change.

- ii) Update the components of the Warsaw Framework in light of the requirements in new carbon standards, especially on safeguards information systems and stakeholder’s engagement.

Country engagement

UN-REDD TA has been implemented in 2023 in close collaboration with the Forestry Department (FD) both at national and provincial level. FD has been involved in methodological development, fieldwork, consultative workshops and the discussion of results and definition of potential follow up activities.

Thus far, follow up planning for a 2024 workplan has been mainly discussed in the following meetings:

- 15-20 October 2023 (Lusaka): FAO mission focused on forest monitoring activities.
- 1-2 November 2023 (Lusaka): Validation workshop of the assessment of forest-water-climate nexus in the headwaters of the Zambezi River, with the participation of the FD, Zambia Meteorological Department, Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI), Ministry of Water, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE), National Remote Sensing Centre, Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), University of Zambia, ZESCO electricity company, WWF, CUT, CIFOR-ICRAF. The results of Tier 1 were presented in the workshop, followed by a discussion of the Tier 2 assessment, with active engagement of multiple institutions linked to forest-water-nexus under a landscape approach.
- 2 November 2023 (Lusaka): Meeting with UK in Zambia to discuss activity updates and potential for complementary 2024 planning
- 22-23 November 2023 (Solwezi): Workshop to present and discuss results of the assessments on CFMGs, forest value chains and rural finance. Participants include the FD (headquarters, provincial and district offices), District Commissioners, corporate cooperating partners (from the private sector), conservation NGOs, carbon project developers, CIFOR-ICRAF, Community Forest Management Groups, financial institutions and microfinance institutions (MFIs), private sector stakeholders from relevant value chains, traditional leadership, and INGOs doing related work in the focus landscape (WWF, TNC).
- In mid-December 2023 (actual date TBD), a bilateral meeting with FD is foreseen to present 2023 achievements and 2024 UN-REDD TA workplan.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
1.1. Countries and jurisdictions implement REDD+	GCF project document formulated, including a jurisdictional REDD+ programme focused on	FAO	

investment plans /programmes to deliver their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	the Headwaters of the Zambezi River, North Western Province.		
1.2 Forest landscape restoration, SFM and fire management	Capacities of CFMGs and Forestry Department (FD) enhanced to take informed decisions on land and forest management, and to promote local climate action	FAO	
	Forest value chains in NW province and related business opportunities are promoted as forest-based solutions to climate change	FAO	
	Forest-climate business developed at district/community level, to scale up implementation of REDD+ at jurisdictional level, with multiple complementary sources of finance	FAO	
	Tier-2 Assessment of F-W-C nexus informs integrated land-use management planning at community, district, national levels, maximizing climate and water ecosystem services and interrelations	FAO	
1.4 Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems	Forest data generated and made accessible to support jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives in Zambia	FAO	
1.5 Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.	Second summary of safeguards information elaborated	UNEP	Completion and submission of the Second summary of information, including validation meetings
	SIS update needs assessed, and plan develop to include improvements	UNEP	Specific strengthening of the SIS website and database (adding functionalities, upgrading contents will be pending clear institutional arrangement for hosting the tool and clear responsibilities of maintaining it over time)
	Stakeholder engagement plan developed/updated	UNEP	Development of stakeholder engagement plan and initial implementation of the plan.

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2.23. ASEAN Social Forestry regional initiative

Strategic context

Most of the ASEAN member states (AMS) are committed to advancing social forestry and have established ambitious targets for expanding social forestry over the next decade. To help achieve their targets, each country has put in place a range of policies and measures designed to support the expansion of social forestry, supporting efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation. At the same time there is growing momentum to include social forestry climate change mitigation actions in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In the most recent NDCs, five (5) ASEAN member states mentioned the importance of social forestry in mitigation efforts. Four (4) member states mention specific social forestry strategies to reducing emission/increasing removals, and two (2) member states have specified mitigation targets.

The overall impact of the UN-REDD Initiative Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in ASEAN countries¹ (referred to as “initiative” hereon) will be to strengthen the evidence base for social forestry towards climate change mitigation, while facilitating integration into countries’ NDCs and enhancing climate and private finance opportunities for social forestry. This will ultimately lead to progress towards assessing, accelerating and enhancing the NDCs’ climate change mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors, including through the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) due in December 2024 and the updated NDC, 12 months later.

The focus of support continues to be on:

- Assessing the contribution of social forestry interventions towards climate change mitigation in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR,
- Assessing the economic and business potential of selected social forestry enterprises and engaging with off-takers/market intermediaries, or market access providers in the 3 pilot countries,
- Developing enterprise development/investment plan for selected enterprises,
- Building capacities to assess and monitor social forestry interventions, including through integration in national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and NDC reporting (through BTR) and revision, and
- Developing, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, a set of regional guidelines for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Initiatives in the forest sector. In addition, there will be a strong focus on developing a practical regional toolkit for NbS practices in social forestry and to build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS at regional and national levels.

Country engagement

The activities under the initiative have been identified during the development of the Workplan and Budget. These activities have been further refined following the June 2022 regional launch event, and country planning events in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR, and work planning in collaboration with partners identified under the initiative, including the ASEAN Secretariat, RECOFTC, Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP – EP) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

Workplan

Outcome/Output as per Results Framework	Deliverables	Lead agency	Brief observations
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<p>3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors assessed, accelerated and enhanced through time</p>	<p>Output 1. Contribution of social forestry schemes towards climate change mitigation in the AMS assessed to inform action and climate finance.</p> <p>Assessment of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models</p> <p>Recommendations on social forestry interventions to contribute to climate change mitigation developed and shared, with appropriate action plan in place</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>Improvement of relevant databases and undertaking mitigation assessments</p>
	<p>Output 2. Capacities to assess and monitor social forestry to the NDCs/Climate change frameworks built in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR</p> <p>Building capacity of stakeholders to monitor and report periodically and accurately on climate change mitigation actions of social forestry interventions under National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>Build on findings of Capacity Development Needs Assessment to develop scalable national and sub-national monitoring methodologies in the 3 target countries.</p>
	<p>Output 3. Facilitate the integration of social forestry actions in NDC implementation, reporting and in the upcoming NDCs revision (2025) in the 3 countries</p> <p>Assist countries in identifying and including specific social forestry interventions as mitigation and adaptation actions in the implementation and reporting of NDCs and their future revision</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>Based on findings under output 1 develop mitigation scenarios that support countries in identifying and including specific social forestry interventions as mitigation and adaptation actions</p>
	<p>Output 4. Promote and accelerate responsible private investments in social forestry</p> <p>Assessing the economic and business potential of selected social forestry enterprises and engaging with off-takers/market intermediaries, or market access providers in the 3 pilot countries,</p> <p>Developing enterprise development/investment plan for selected enterprises</p>	<p>UNEP</p>	<p>The objective here is to formulate effective strategies for scaling up and commercializing social forestry enterprises within key value chains, focusing specifically on minimum three high-potential enterprises in Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, for both NTFP and timber value chains.</p> <p>Potential private investment for social forestry programs will be then identified to facilitate the development of suitable financial products that cater to the specific needs of social forestry enterprises and to secure transactions.</p>

	<p>Output 5. Capacities of AMS to quantify benefits, connect partners and operationalise NbS in the context of social forestry enhanced</p> <p>Development of regional guidelines of NbS including decarbonization efforts in the forest sector</p> <p>Development of a practical regional toolkit to: 1) Support the implementation of NbS practices in social forestry and; 2) Build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS practices in the AMS</p>	FAO	<p>Support to 1) develop of Regional Guidelines that will facilitate the design of policies, programmes, and investments within AMS and; 2) Identify gaps and needs and enhance capacities on NbS for forest sector interventions within AMS through development of a practical toolkit for NbS practices in social forestry.</p>
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3. Knowledge Management

Outcome 4. Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions

Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) movement to accelerate climate action.

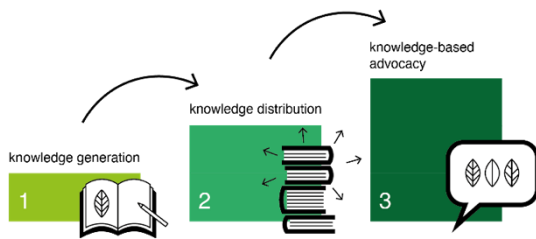
3.1. Output 4.1

Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation is captured, managed and disseminated to accelerate climate action.

Rationale

The 2024 Knowledge Management (KM) plan builds on the achievements of 2023, which generated momentum post-COVID19 for a solid knowledge base disseminated among key stakeholders. These efforts reflect the increased ambition of the Programme and its partner countries to deliver climate action and contribute to the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Declaration. This year's planned results are supported by KM funding for 2023-2025 from Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

The 2024 plan continues the KM Theory of Breakthrough, that focuses on a three-step knowledge journey to capacitate REDD+ practitioners, inform decision-makers, and establish UN-REDD as a hub for REDD+ knowledge; (1) annual thematic priorities will guide all outputs, (2) KM outputs are connected, coherent and sequenced and (3) UN-REDD's KM work links to the knowledge of partners outside of the Programme. The KM Theory of Breakthrough emphasizes connecting and sequencing outputs, prioritizing annual themes, and leveraging donor contributions strategically to maximize impact, promoting an interconnected approach over siloed delivery. In addition, core UN-REDD activities will build synergies and complementarities with the associated AIM4Forest programme, led by FAO.



This approach aims to accelerate REDD+ financing, implementation, and impact by facilitating the exchange of knowledge between producers and users in innovative ways. While advancing the nine thematic knowledge management work areas of the UN-REDD Programme, the knowledge journey continues in 2024 with a focus on REDD+ and forests finance, forest positive agriculture and food systems, and social inclusion and gender equality. Continuing the momentum from 2023, there remains an urgent need for tropical forests countries to scale up finance and secure a steady funding stream at the same time, there is a growing demand for high social and environmental integrity carbon credits.

In 2024, the REDD+ Academy [3.0](#) is positioned as the crosscutting axis of the plan. The REDD+ Academy is the UN-REDD Programme's capacity development initiative. As part of the Programme's knowledge management support to partner countries, it seeks to enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground. Embedded in the UN-REDD Programme's web platform, the update of the Academy ([previous version](#)) will integrate and build upon be informed by the knowledge and results that the Programme is generating; the new version of the Academy is a user-centered platform that provides the practitioner with the ability to build his or her own learning path. This year's knowledge exchanges will include a learning laboratory where the focus is on how the different stakeholders put the knowledge generated and updated into practice in their areas and knowledge exchanges in spaces co-created with the target stakeholder groups. The target constituencies will include UN-REDD governments in partner countries, as well as non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, women groups, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Different working groups/communities of practice (safeguards, gender, countries with monitoring and finance/result-based payment projects) will be facilitated by the Programme following a methodology where the deliverables are customized and created according to the interest of the groups working on the theme. It is expected that these groups help to strengthen country engagement and optimize time while accelerating forest and climate action.

During this period, the UN-REDD [website](#) will be positioned as the go-to hub for quality knowledge and learning on REDD+ and land related processes.

It is to be noted that some activities developed in Africa are carried out in partnership with the [African Forest Forum \(AFF\)](#), an association of individuals with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

Global KM Deliverables

Indicative activities and key topics	Delivery type
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Updated learning journals on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nesting [UNEP/UNDP/FAO; KFS] ○ Safeguards [UNEP; KFS] ○ Implementing Social Inclusion in REDD+ [UNDP; KFS], ○ Carbon Markets [UNEP; KFS] 	Policy briefs, technical papers and guidance notes on priority topics.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ REDD+ Finance [UNEP,FAO; KFS] ○ Gender Equality in REDD+ [UNDP; KFS] ○ Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation [FAO; KFS] ○ Policies and measures for REDD+ implementation [FAO; KFS] ○ NFMS [FAO; KFS] ○ FREL [FAO; KFS] ○ NS/APs [UNDP; KFS] ○ REDD+ Framework in the context of NDCs and UNFCCC [UNDP; KFS] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional assessments of NDC/AFOLU-sector implementation for 2 regions, LAC and one other TBD – co-branded UN-REDD, Climate Promise and UNDP. <i>[UNDP; Core]</i> – Technical brief based on emissions reduction potential and trends (based on PLANT data) (e.g., external-facing version of a global PLANT report) <i>[UNDP; Core]</i> – Guidance paper on Carbon accounting frameworks and processes for multiscale reporting [FAO, Nor/Aim4Forest] – Report on aligning NDCs, REDD NS/APs and national UNFSS pathways <i>[FAO, Norway]</i> – Guidance and financing options to address deforestation linked agriculture (small scale agriculture, local markets and supply chain traceability, with a platform to facilitate access to a solutions database) <i>[FAO, Norway]</i> – Guidance on deforestation-free investments targeting financial institutions in support of redirecting private capital to finance deforestation-free commodities. <i>[FAO, Norway]</i> – Guidance on approaches to promote policy coherence and public finance related to FOLU climate targets <i>[FAO, Norway]</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot testing and lessons learned from initial application of W+ standard to REDD+ RBPs – Knowledge Product <i>[UNDP; UK, Norway]</i> - Lessons learned from supporting countries with ART/TREES readiness efforts <i>[UNDP; Norway]</i> - Lessons learned/case studies from initial nesting frameworks <i>[UN-REDD; UK, Norway]</i> - Lessons learned from Climate Finance for NDC implementation in AP <i>[UNDP; UK, Norway] TBC</i> - Two info briefs providing practical guidance on integrating gender into the VCM ecosystem [UNDP; UK, Norway] - Lessons Learned and best practices from LAC in integrating gender into REDD+ implementation and RBPs <i>[UNDP, core]</i> 	<p>Lessons learned and experience documented through case studies and info briefs.</p>

<p>Learning Lab in Latin America and the Caribbean – topic TBD [UN-REDD; KFS]</p> <p>Follow-up virtual exchanges to the AP Learning Lab on Carbon Markets, RBFs, REDD+ Finance and Nesting [UN-REDD; UK]</p> <p>Training/exchange for African countries on climate finance and carbon finance and any other related topics, held together with UNDP's Sustainable Finance Hub – [UNDP; UNEP; FAO, AFF; Swiss Norway]</p> <p>Challenge in Asia Pacific: Developing Models for j-REDD+ RBF and Upfront Finance (a two-day knowledge exchange focusing on developing models/roadmaps for REDD+ finance under different contexts) [UNEP; TBD] Contribution to the REDD+ Knowledge Day in Oslo together with the World Bank, UNFCCC and other agencies. [UN-REDD; TBD]</p>	<p>Regional knowledge exchanges (in-person) focusing on priority topics.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Webinars for Africa about Climate Finance and Social Inclusion [UNEP, AFF, UNDP; Swiss] – Dissemination of existing knowledge of REDD+ to African stakeholders [UNEP, AFF; Swiss] – Webinars to share progress on pilot nesting experience in Cambodia (possible south-south exchange format) [UNDP; UNEP; UK] – Deforestation-free production & trade [UNDP, with FAO, ITC et al.] 	<p>Webinars and knowledge clinics (virtual) offered on priority topics.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Safeguards Group in LAC (including webinars, articles and lessons learned) [UNEP; UK, Norway] – LAC Gender and REDD+ online Platform [(UNDP), Norway] – Finance for Forests /Result-Based Payments Countries Group in LAC (including webinars, articles and lessons learned) [UN-REDD; UK, Norway] - Global gender and VCM group platform in D-Groups (including webinars, articles and lessons learned) [UNDP; UK, Norway] - Accelerating NDC implementation through forest, land and nature: National multisectoral dialogues & consultations with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in 3 priority countries [bringing recommendations from the NDC guidance published in 2023: <i>Aligning Short-term land sector actions with long-term climate goals</i> to specific country contexts] – cobranded w Climate Promise [UNDP; Norway] - Backstopping and facilitating exchange on legal/rights aspects of carbon transactions (ERPAs) [FAO, Norway] 	<p>Working Groups, Communities of Practice.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletters (bi-monthly) [UN-REDD; UK, Norway] - Website updated and online knowledge hub [UN-REDD; UK, Norway, Korea] - Social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) [UN-REDD; UK, Norway] 	<p>Dissemination infrastructure</p>

3.2. Output 4.2.

Collective political and societal support to NbS increased.

Rationale

During 2023, the **‘#SaveForestsNow’** campaign was created and launched. The campaign was based in two main pillars, a track for civil society based on raising awareness on the urgency to protect, manage and restore forests; and a second track, **‘forest dialogues’**, with the aim of mobilizing political support and raising the ambition to deliver high quality emissions reductions and financing. During 2024, the narrative and objectives of the campaign will continue to work under these two tracks, seeking to broaden the spaces of consensus and meetings to reinforce the messages. The campaign will promote the creation of new spaces for dialogue and facilitate discussions between decision-makers and key actors. In addition, during 2024, the campaign seeks to build momentum for COP30 to be held in Belem, Brazil, where the Amazon landscape offers us the opportunity to set forests at the center of the scene and decisions of both governments and private actors.

During 2024, the campaign will continue to promote and accelerate transformative reductions in deforestation, enhance understanding on the carbon co-benefits while seeking synergies with biodiversity conservation b) build consensus on the need to increase forest carbon price and requirements for high-quality emissions reductions that optimize biodiversity conservation; c) mobilize societal support and build on multilateral initiatives such as ‘FCLP’, ‘One Forest Summit’, ‘GBF’, ‘OPEC for rainforests’ ‘Interfaith Rainforest Initiative’ to unlock one gigaton emissions reductions by 2025, while ensuring high social and environmental integrity.

([2023 Advocacy campaign](#))

Indicative activities and key topics	Delivery type
Engagement through side events, speakers and/or bilateral meetings delivered at Climate Week, Private sector events and COP29. Bilateral meetings with decision makers at public and private level and key stakeholders Communications and media relations: Explainer series or podcast Stories from the ground 1 media trip to make the case for JREDD Collaboration with N4C, GGC, IRI, UNEP CFU, IC VCM, Climate Promise – FLN work area, FDP, GCFTF, FFL.: media relations, joint messaging, coordinated outreach, media monitoring and intelligence sharing. <i>[UNEP; UK, Norway]</i>	High-Level Advocacy Campaign and Public Awareness
Support roadmap and positioning of forest and food systems transformation <i>[FAO; Norway]</i>	Thematic campaign: UN Forest and Food Systems Summit Coalition
Indigenous Peoples & Climate Finance – a capacity building and policy dialogue initiative, working with global and regional networks and processes <i>[UNDP; UK]</i>	Thematic campaign: indigenous peoples and local communities
Multi-stakeholder collaborations for deforestation-free production & trade: Connecting cooperatives, governments, companies and financiers <i>[UNDP; UK]</i>	Cooperative dialogue and schemes (virtual meetings, local encounters).

3.3. Output 4.3

Digital cooperation and frontier technologies deployed to accelerate and enhance NbS

Rationale: Emerging technologies offer an opportunity for UN-REDD to improve its evidence-based decision making and to better design technical interventions and products that could effectively contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of forests. This is aligned with the UN Roadmap for Digital Cooperation which notes that "recent advances in technology offer groundbreaking opportunities to monitor and protect the environment as well as overall planetary health".

To seize this opportunity, during 2024 UN-REDD will continue deep-dive and improve its initial results achieved during 2023 with the proof-of-concept for using artificial intelligence to enhance the organization's ability to design technical assistance and improve its knowledge on strategic areas. To do so, UN-REDD will reach out to states and stakeholders to add features needed to deliver the best use of the AI products for the target constituencies. The UN-REDD Programme will take advantage of recent advances in Machine Learning including Machine Classifiers, Natural Language Processing techniques and Deep Learning with the following objectives:

- accelerate knowledge on strategic REDD+ topics: by systematically mining, extracting, and labelling data from reports, publications, datasets, etc. related to a selected REDD+ topic to produce further insights that can facilitate evidence-based decision-making and design of technical assistance and other knowledge products;
- support evidence-based decision-making by setting up a system for prescriptive/predictive analysis on pathways for accessing results-based finance based on historical GHG emissions data and other criteria.
- leveraging the predictive power of AI, using machine learning to predict deforestation in the Amazon. Supporting Amazon states in their risk allocation for building nested scenarios.
- test other features that can be useful not just for the climate mitigation team but also for the finance and adaptation and biodiversity related topics.

Indicative activities and key topics	Delivery type
<p>The use of AI technologies for forest, MRV and REDD applications: Prototype of Deforestation Prediction Tool for Brazil, with added features and improved usability and accuracy [UNEP; UK] Prototype of AI-powered/automated tool for classifying and analyzing country data for accessing results-based finance [UNEP; UK] Scoping the use of GIS & digital technologies to support the national traceability of deforestation-free production [UNDP, Norway & UK]</p>	<p>Test approaches and establish proof of concept</p>
