|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A black background with red and blue text  AI-generated content may be incorrect.** |  |
|  | **Crosscutting work area:****Knowledge Generation and Management** |  |
|  | **UN-REDD Multiyear Programming Document 2026–2030 Illustrative Support Overview** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Prepared by UN-REDD Programme****June 2025** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | *This brief has been prepared by the UN-REDD Programme team based on preliminary analysis, internal assessments, and strategic insights from prior engagements and consultations. It is intended to provide illustrative information on potential areas of UN-REDD support for the 2026–2030 period. The content, including indicative budgets and activities, is for donor engagement purposes only and has not yet been discussed or consulted with the respective country authorities. As such, it does not represent an official position or commitment from the country concerned or from the UN-REDD Programme.* |  |

# Crosscutting work area: Knowledge Generation and Management

# The Challenge

Knowledge is the bedrock of effective and sustainable REDD+ implementation. As countries grapple with the increasing complexity of forest-based mitigation, including results-based finance, private sector engagement, and links to biodiversity and development goals, the need for accurate, timely, and actionable knowledge is more critical than ever. High-quality knowledge is not only a technical asset but a strategic enabler. It builds individual and institutional capacities, fosters innovation, and lays the groundwork for policy change and collective action.

Global research and assessments continue to point to persistent knowledge and capacity gaps across REDD+ countries. These gaps are particularly acute in areas such as carbon finance, nesting, benefit-sharing, and MRV systems. Many countries report limited understanding of evolving requirements under mechanisms like Article 6, as well as difficulties in translating technical guidance into actionable national strategies. These knowledge deficits can become bottlenecks, preventing countries from fully accessing REDD+ finance or delivering verifiable results.

At the same time, REDD+ is not only a technical agenda. It is a political, institutional, and normative one. Knowledge, when well-designed and delivered, can go beyond capacity building to shape motivations, strengthen social norms, and create enabling environments for change.

This is why UN-REDD grounds its knowledge strategy in tested Theories of Change and behavioral science. As outlined in the [UN Secretary-General’s 2.0 "Quintet of Change](https://www.un.org/two-zero/en)," the UN system must leverage behavioral science to complement data and technical knowledge. UN-REDD is responding to this call by integrating empirical data and social science into its learning and advisory services—ensuring knowledge addresses not just the ability to act, but the motivation and opportunity to do so.

# The value proposition

Over the past 15 years, UN-REDD has established itself as a global leader in REDD+ knowledge generation and management. As the first mover in this space, it introduced the original REDD+ Academy, developed foundational training curricula, and produced widely used guidance on safeguards, MRV, gender, and finance. Through technical assistance and global public goods, UN-REDD has helped countries interpret complex requirements, apply international standards, and build the institutional muscle needed to deliver REDD+.

But UN-REDD’s unique value lies not only in what it produces, but how it works. It acts as a trusted broker—curating, translating, and disseminating knowledge through a highly participatory and contextualized approach. Its learning labs, regional exchanges, and communities of practice enable countries to engage in two-way learning, turning knowledge into collaboration and co-creation. Unlike one-size-fits-all platforms, UN-REDD's model is relational, iterative, and rooted in national realities.

As we look forward, the REDD+ knowledge landscape is evolving rapidly. New players are emerging, and innovation is accelerating. Yet, no other actor combines the technical credibility, convening power, and trust of the UN-REDD Programme. As REDD+ transitions from readiness to results and from pilots to systemic integration, the knowledge needs are shifting too. Countries need deeper analysis, more inclusive learning spaces, and more agile tools to navigate complexity.

UN-REDD is rising to this challenge by expanding its knowledge partnerships with Indigenous groups, local practitioners, research institutions, and the private sector. It is deepening its efforts to better understand the factors that drive or hinder action. And it is positioning its knowledge services to be more forward-looking, inclusive, and action oriented.

**And finally, in today’s world when donors and partners are increasingly demanding evidence of results, it is essential to move beyond outputs and measure the true impact of knowledge interventions.** UN-REDD’s new knowledge generation and management offer is designed to ensure that knowledge generation and dissemination is not a one-way process, but a catalyst for real-world change. With sustained donor support, UN-REDD will continue to play its catalytic role in equipping countries with the tools, confidence, and connections to deliver forest-based climate action that is equitable, effective, and enduring.

# Scenarios

| **Deliverables** | **Types of activities** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Learning platform for forests and climate
 | 1. **Management of a global learning platform**: Maintaining a learning platform, through wider dissemination of new content on carbon finance, safeguards, benefit sharing, nesting, private sector engagement, and other key topics. This includes translating technical content in multiple formats and microlearning tools.
2. **Translation of knowledge through developing audience-specific learning tracks:** Tailored learning tracks designed for specific audiences, such as: a) *Indigenous Peoples Track*: Co-created with Indigenous leaders, focused on tenure, FPIC, and traditional knowledge; b)  *Practitioner Track*: Targeting technical teams with modules on MRV, benefit-sharing, and governance; c) *Private Sector Track*: Focused on ESG investors, supply chain actors, and carbon market actors; d) *Religious leader*s: Co-created with religious leaders with influence on forest communities.
3. **Inter-country/region/ theme-theme Communities of Practice (CoPs)**: Peer-to-peer exchange spaces hosted regionally between 2 or more countries or thematically between 2 or more topics. Supported by knowledge coaches and interactive digital tools.
 |
| 1. Policy-relevant knowledge and strategic foresight
 | 1. **State of REDD+ report and associated products**A global flagship report every two or three years assessing trends, performance, and innovations in REDD+. This includes rapid, responsive recommendations emerging cross-cutting issues.
 |
| 1. Knowledge-based evaluation of results and impact
 | 1. **Behaviorally informed knowledge uptake measurement**Drawing from the UN’s leadership on behavioral science, this subcomponent uses frameworks like COM-B (Capabilities, Opportunities, Motivation – Behavior) to understand how knowledge interventions shift the broader enabling environment, not just technical know-how. It will include using baseline and endline assessments designed to capture changes in stakeholder understanding, confidence, and readiness to act. These surveys help identify gaps and opportunities in both technical knowledge and behavioral drivers**Deep dive strategic level empirical evaluation –** Global and regional lessons and insights on impacts of REDD+ focused on country experiences - what did REDD+ bring to countries?
 |