

Follow Up Actions
in response to the Recommendations of the UN-REDD Programme Formative Review
(13 February 2025)

Introduction

The formative review of the UN-REDD Programme was undertaken between April to October 2024, in parallel with the UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy development process. The formative review and lesson learning process was designed with the goal of soliciting experiences to date, lessons learned, approach, process and overall contribution, in order to make recommendations on how UN-REDD could maximise its future contributions and support over the 2026-2030 period.

Emerging insights were presented during the UN-REDD [Eighth Executive Board](#) in October 2024, and the [report](#) was shared with the Executive Board for review in December 2024.

The report presents 11 recommendations. This response addresses each one of them and highlights the planned follow up and integration of the recommendations within the UN-REDD Programme.

Overall, the UN-REDD Agencies welcome the insights and findings of the formative review, including that the Programme has been and remains highly relevant to the needs of forest countries. We are committed to learning and strengthening the Programme and accept all the recommendations contained in the formative review.

The findings and recommendations have been integrated into the development of the draft UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy ([here](#)) and are being reflected in the associated programming and operationalisation.

Specific responses to the 11 recommendations are detailed in the following response matrix.

No.	Recommendation	Response and follow up action
Relevance, coherence and theory of change		
1.	Expand the focus of UN-REDD support to include land-use change and the forestry-agriculture interface, given the increased prominence of deforestation drivers outside the forest sector.	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. Outcome 4: Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation – highlights the importance of addressing the complex drivers of deforestation, including those related to agriculture and other land-use changes.</p> <p>Follow up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD will strengthen forest sector policies, governance, and incentives. • Support countries to develop national frameworks that balance economic development and forest conservation. • Support partners in developing and implementing inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This involves facilitating, brokering, leveraging, and aligning support channels with country priorities. • Work with market actors to decouple commodities and deforestation, using commitments and rules. This includes supporting countries to establish PES, debt-for-nature swaps, and other instruments • Support analysis of cross-sectoral agendas and REDD+ interventions. Strengthen policy alignment between agriculture and forestry to expand sustainable production. • FAO is actively expanding its technical and policy analysis and country support on agriculture-forestry nexus and its impacts on land use change. These will be used to strengthen UN-REDD actions.
2.	Clarify and agree the criteria for country selection in the new phase. There is an apparent tension between the need to “leave no one behind” on one hand and work with those countries with the greatest ER potential.	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. In order to be impactful, UN-REDD recognizes the importance of a variable/modular approach to cater for both high-impact geographies, as well as other countries. The UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030 anticipates a tailored approach to country selection and support.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to resources, UN-REDD will tailor its support to ensure that countries benefit the most based on their specific circumstances and needs. This will include a variable and modular approach to country-level support, allowing for flexibility in the type and scope of support provided. • In doing so, UN-REDD will ensure that no country is left behind by providing support to countries at different stages of REDD+ readiness and implementation, ensuring that all countries have the opportunity to benefit from the programme.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources will be allocated in a balanced way to meet the needs and demands of countries while maximizing the potential impact of the programme. The delivery modalities being explored include technical assistance and national programmes which provide more comprehensive support to countries, ranging from targeted catalytic support to fully-fledged national programs tailored to specific country circumstances. UN-REDD aims to secure predictable, flexible, multi-year investments, in order to ensure that expectations with regard to the Programme's cost efficiency, its ability to service a critical portfolio of actions and geographies, and delivery capacity can be met
3.	Clarify the role and niche of UN-REDD with regard to technical assistance. This could involve more proactive collaboration with other TA providers, providing a coordination role of TA providers in support of national governments and engaging across the full spectrum of results-based finance.	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. UN-REDD agrees with the importance of clarifying its role and niche with regard to technical assistance. The UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030 outlines how UN-REDD intends to strengthen coordination across technical assistance (TA) providers and support national governments more effectively.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD will continue to adhere to its principle of country ownership, supporting and informing inclusive country decision-making and coordination processes. These actions will serve as a catalyst for TA coordination on an as-needed and as-requested basis. UN-REDD will continue to engage with other TA providers to ensure basic coordination. This includes strategic discussions and a timely exchange of planning elements aimed to avoid redundancies and explore joint delivery opportunities. UN-REDD will maintain its position as a nimble yet trusted and impartial partner, helping governments to rapidly navigate the complex landscape of market actors, TA providers, and political voices for REDD+. This neutrality allows UN-REDD to focus on nationally owned solutions that put countries in the driving seat to halt and reverse deforestation.
Effectiveness		
4.	Build on the successes of National Programmes (country ownership, in-country presence, focus on policy reform and governance, support to non-state actors, trust-building, multi-year support) and ensure that	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. While National Programmes (NPs) were not a modality implemented in the most recent phase of the Programme, with sufficient funding, and building on experience from UN-REDD and others, similar approaches to the original National Programmes could be reactivated, as included in the draft UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy. The Strategy also emphasizes the need for support to go beyond non-forest actors</p>

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	support goes beyond forest agencies to non-forest institutions and actors.	<p>and institutions under Outcome 4: Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation, as well as in the Programme's approach to partnerships.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen support beyond forest agencies to include non-forest institutions and actors. This will ensure a comprehensive approach to tackling deforestation and forest degradation, involving all relevant stakeholders (see response to recommendation 1). • Subject to the availability of funds, National Programmes under the 2026-2030 Strategy will provide comprehensive support to countries, including through dedicated in-country operational budgets. The nature and scope of this support will vary from country to country, depending on specific needs and available resources. • These National Programmes will include a wide range of types of support, from targeted catalytic support to fully-fledged national programmes, with a focus on longer-term investments in institutional capacity, policy alignment, reform and integration, multi-stakeholder governance platforms and processes. This includes building trust among stakeholders and ensuring inclusive NDCs.
5.	Find ways to provide more support to IPLC actors. This could be through direct support (perhaps through intermediaries) or helping IPLC organizations access sources of climate finance directly.	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. Indigenous Peoples, and local communities are critical actors in the conservation and sustainable management of forest landscapes and central to ensuring the social equity of forest emissions reductions. The 2026-2030 Strategy includes Social Inclusion as a cross-cutting element with specific actions to enhance support for Indigenous Peoples' and local communities. This will be achieved through an integrated package of technical advisory support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication and advocacy activities.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD will provide support to promote social inclusion and gender equality and women's empowerment in global, national and local processes, including in policy formulation, Programme governance, political decision-making around REDD+ and access to forest-climate finance. • UN-REDD will support Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities to strengthen, formalise or protect their rights to forests, lands, and natural resources within the context of REDD+ policy processes and implementation as well as catalysing access to finance through existing and innovative mechanisms.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD will continue to work alongside and in support of local, jurisdictional, national and international Indigenous Peoples' organizations, women's organizations and youth organizations to support countries and jurisdictions to deploy a broad range of policy and legal reforms, participatory processes, as well as on access to finance, capacity building and knowledge sharing.
6.	Ensure governance remains a core area of support, including through the development of in-country multi-stakeholder platforms and processes facilitated through a modified version of National Programme support.	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. In-country presence, through dedicated country programmes, are essential to ensure support to multi-stakeholder governance processes and platforms. In recognition of the scale and speed of change required, the strategy for UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030 emphasizes institutional arrangements as a key area of work in Outcomes 1 and 4, as well as in the implementation modalities.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD will focus on strengthening institutional arrangements to support effective governance. This will include the development and support of in-country multi-stakeholder platforms and processes. This approach will ensure that governance remains a core area of support, promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. Outcome 1 - Demonstration of highly integrated REDD+ results: This outcome encompasses the consolidation, institutionalization and updating of forest monitoring and MRV and safeguards systems. It supports countries in demonstrating the integrity of results, addressing and complying with safeguards, and implementing socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms. Outcome 4 - Scaling up action to address drivers of deforestation: This outcome focuses on linking and leveraging actions to address drivers of deforestation by strengthening and aligning policies, governance and incentives within the forest sector and across relevant land use sectors. It promotes appropriate solutions for transformative change that address and respect safeguards.
7.	Engage more directly with private sector actors – both Voluntary Carbon Market actors and networks, but also operators working on agricultural commodities in forest countries (palm oil, rubber, soya)	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030. The Strategy strongly recognizes the role of the broad range of private sector actors involved in the voluntary carbon market, sustainable forestry (VCMs) and agricultural value chains. The 2026-2030 strategy reflects this in its outcomes 2 and 4.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD will convene dialogues among private sector carbon markets buyers and forest countries to advocate for a fair carbon price, improvements in predictability and volumes of financing, and

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		<p>high-integrity demand in VCMs. UN-REDD will also convene corporates to advance on their actions to mitigate emissions beyond their value chains (BVCM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD works with private sector actors, including those in agricultural commodities such as palm oil, rubber and soy, to decouple traded commodities from deforestation. This includes <i>inter alia</i>, using voluntary commitments and mandatory rules to ensure sustainable practices in accordance with Outcome 4 in the next phase. • UN-REDD works with VCM stakeholders and networks to ensure the integrity and scalability of carbon credits at a jurisdictional scale. This includes assisting countries in meeting the requirements for accessing results-based finance from corporate off-takers in the VCMs and ensuring that the carbon credits generated are of the highest integrity. • UN-REDD will intensify engagement with agricultural commodity stakeholders in forest countries to expand sustainable agricultural production and reduce deforestation. This includes working with commodity market actors on information and tools related to due diligence requirements to support sustainable supply chains and avoid negative impacts on small scale producers. • UN-REDD will demonstrate proof of concept by catalyzing private sector engagement in blended finance models, innovative financial instruments (sovereign green bonds, commercial green bonds and debt for nature and climate swap issuances), as well as risk mitigation instruments (guarantees, insurance products, off-take agreement issuances). • UN-REDD will support micro, small, and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs, anchor companies, and project developers in forest countries through targeted business incubation programmes to build sustainable land-use business models related to forest-based carbon credits generation, and deforestation-free soft commodity production. • UN-REDD will support private sector engagement with government institutions in forest countries to develop public-private structures and mechanisms (in-country facilities and funds) with fiduciary duties and governance structures, to leverage and access to result-based finance.
Efficiency		
8.	Work towards reducing transaction costs for partner countries through rationalized and harmonized arrangements for finance and administration of funds by UN agencies (“delivering as one”)	Accepted. Over the past five years, the Programme has strengthened its operational modalities, including the implementation of internal standard operation procedures (SOP). These improvements address concerns raised that were more applicable to earlier phases/evaluations of the Programme. They have been well received and are currently being implemented by the MG.

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		<p>Going forward, recognizing the magnitude of the changes required in the second half of the decade and the evolving role of the UN-REDD Programme, we are committed to ensuring that the Programme is continuously fit for purpose. The Programme will continue to explore and implement further changes to streamline and harmonize the financing and management of funds within the administration policies and arrangements of each agency. This will include ongoing assessments and adjustments to operational modalities to further reduce transaction costs and improve efficiency.</p>
9.	<p>Communicate more effectively UN-REDD's impact, added value and niche from the perspective of forest countries.</p>	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030, particularly in the cross-cutting elements of communication, convening and advocacy. The focus will be, first and foremost, on communicating, more effectively, the progress and experiences of forest countries to advance forest and climate mitigation actions. Within this effort to place forest country achievements front and centre, the Programme will also highlight, and make more visible, the contribution, added value and niche of UN-REDD. Communication has been an ongoing effort in the current phase, and we will continue to build on this foundation. The Programme also has a Knowledge Management Working Group with representatives from each agency, including communication specialists and program staff. This group has taken the lead in communication and KM in the current phase and will continue to play a role in ensuring that communication strategies are well coordinated and effectively implemented.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Strategy 2026-30, UN-REDD will formulate a cross-cutting strategic communications element to ensure better articulation of the Programme's impact, added value and niche. • UN-REDD will continue to convene dialogues in order to exchange experiences and lessons learned, including from UN-REDD supported activities. The Programme will also disseminate knowledge on transformative changes in forest and land-use governance, policies and incentives, incorporating country perspectives.
Impact and added value		
10.	<p>Clarify and document the role and mandate of the Executive Board. Ensure membership is sufficiently broad to reflect this mandate effectively.</p>	<p>Accepted. The role and mandate of the Executive Board is clear as stated in the EB Terms of Reference</p> <p>The responsibilities of the Board related to the allocation of funds differ with respect to whether funds are non-earmarked or earmarked. This has implications for how EB works and makes decisions.</p>

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		<p>Going forward, the Programme will review and update the governance arrangements, taking into account the new Strategy. As discussed at EB-8, this will be determined by the level of funding and concomitant scope of the Programme for the 2026-2030 period. During 2025, an inclusive process to develop fit-for-purpose governance arrangements will be undertaken to ensure that UN-REDD governance is aligned with the evolving needs and context of the Programme.</p>
11.	<p>Building on UN-REDD's convening ability, develop global and regional platforms for building trust and dialogue between forest countries and buyers of REDD+ credits (both governmental and private sector) Investigate partnerships with FCLP, UNFCCC and FCPF/SCALE.</p>	<p>Accepted. This recommendation has been integrated into the UN-REDD strategy 2026-2030 under Outcome 2 and cross-cutting element C - Convening, Advocacy and Communication. UN-REDD will continue to support national and sub-national jurisdictions in accessing REDD+ results-based financing from multiple sources of climate finance. These include scaled-up, country-led results-based payments, forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and voluntary carbon markets for REDD+ in highly integrated jurisdictions.</p> <p>Follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD will use its convening capacity to develop global and regional platforms to build trust and dialogue between forest countries and buyers of REDD+ credits. This will include targeted policy and technical dialogues to build consensus and trust on key issues under cross-cutting element C. • As part of the engagement in these areas, collaboration and partnerships with the FCLP, UNFCCC and the FCPF/SCALE will be deepened. These partnerships will be critical in facilitating dialogue and building trust between forest countries and buyers of REDD+ credits. With UNFCCC, UN-REDD is exploring how to integrate REDD+ credits into broader climate finance approaches and ensure alignment with international climate goals. With FCLP: Strengthen collaboration to enhance the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. With FCPF/SCALE: facilitate access to results-based financing and support countries in meeting requirements for high integrity carbon credits.