

**UN-REDD**  
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



UNEP  
environment  
programme

# **UN-REDD PROGRAMME**

## **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## FOREWORD

As we near the midpoint of the critical decade to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, the urgency to accelerate action has never been greater. The next few years will determine whether global efforts can meet this ambitious goal, requiring stronger commitments, enhanced financial support, and more effective policy implementation.

2024 was a key year for the UN-REDD Programme, showcasing achievements and laying the groundwork for future progress in forest and climate action. UN-REDD continued delivering technical assistance, addressing deforestation drivers, promoting inclusive climate finance, and supporting countries in achieving REDD+ objectives. These achievements would not have been possible without the strong support and collaboration of our donors and partners, to whom we express our sincere appreciation.

The eighth UN-REDD Executive Board meeting in October 2024 was a defining moment for the Programme, setting the strategic direction for the Programme's final year of its current phase, and beyond. The Board provided clear guidance on scaling up system-wide change for forests and climate, emphasizing the centrality of socially inclusive practices and the need for more ambitious actions, increased access to climate finance, and stronger alignment with global forest and biodiversity goals.

A key outcome of the Board meeting was the endorsement of the UN-REDD Programme's advancing role in enabling countries to unlock and access finance for REDD+ implementation. This includes providing countries with technical assistance to access results-based payments and strengthening their capacity to implement effective socially inclusive and gender equitable forest governance mechanisms. The Board also reflected on the findings of the UN-REDD formative review, which reaffirmed the Programme's effectiveness and relevance while identifying opportunities for greater impact in the post-2025 period. The meeting also underscored the importance of fostering deeper collaboration with both public and private actors to leverage resources and drive transformative action in forest conservation and restoration.

During 2024, the forest agenda continued to make important progress. A notable step forward was the approval by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board of a new policy, informed by the success of the pilot programme, for the financing of REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs) for countries that successfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This decision is a major milestone towards implementation of Article 5 of the PA, ensuring that countries that meet the eligibility criteria will be financially rewarded for their REDD+ results. As highlighted by a GCF special study on REDD+ RBPs in Latin America, conducted by the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit, UN-REDD has played a key role in enabling countries to navigate the complexities of accessing such finance from the GCF Pilot Programme, providing technical assistance, policy advice and capacity-building support to ensure successful implementation. This policy shift has opened new avenues for investment in forest conservation, setting the stage for a more structured and predictable flow of climate finance to forest countries.

UN-REDD continued to support forest countries in the process of getting their REDD+ results certified using the ART/ TREES standard. This certification allows countries and subnational jurisdictions to receive climate finance from the LEAF Coalition, which so far has mobilized USD 1.5 billion. These TREES units can also be sold for CORSIA and used for bilateral cooperation under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. When it comes to Article 6, key decisions at COP29 were a huge step forward for the operationalization global carbon markets under Article 6. Many countries have identified opportunities to engage in Article 6 international cooperation through the forest sector, and UN-REDD can play a key role in supporting their readiness efforts, aligned with high integrity principles.

Despite these advancements, the urgency to accelerate forest action remains. Global deforestation rates, coupled with increasing greenhouse gas emissions, highlight the need for greater ambition. The world [remains off track to meet the Paris Agreement targets](#), with current policies projected to result in a temperature rise far beyond 2°C. However, it is still possible to get on a 1.5°C pathway. Forests hold real promise for delivering rapid emissions reductions, making immediate action on deforestation a vital component of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As we reflect on the need to rapidly accelerate investment and delivery, UN-REDD remains committed to mobilizing resources, advancing partnerships, and delivering transformative solutions to meet the 2030 targets of halting deforestation and restoring degraded lands. The Programme will continue advocating for stronger financial mechanisms, robust policy frameworks, and cross-sectoral integration to ensure that forests remain central to climate action and sustainable development.

As attention shifts to COP30 in Belém, Brazil, nature and forests are becoming an even greater focus, and UN-REDD stands ready to sustain and enhance its key supporting role in maximizing the role of forests to meet global climate goals.

“We have what we need to save ourselves. Our forests, our wetlands, and our oceans absorb carbon from the atmosphere. They are vital to keeping 1.5 alive or pulling us back if we do overshoot that limit. We must protect them.”

([António Guterres, UN Secretary General](#))

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN-REDD Programme presents its 2024 Annual Report, summarizing its efforts to support forest-based climate solutions, reduce deforestation, and strengthen forest governance. Through technical assistance and partnerships, the Programme has helped countries implement REDD+ strategies, access climate finance, and enhance their commitments toward global climate goals.

The Programme continued to assist countries in integrating forests into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). More than 15 countries refined their forest and land-use targets, incorporating quantitative commitments to emissions reductions and sustainable land management. Countries such as Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru strengthened their forest-related NDC components, while Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Zambia advanced their climate strategies with measurable forestry targets. At the same time, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Kenya aligned their forestry policies with broader national climate objectives to enhance policy coherence and implementation.

Countries also made progress in securing finance, strengthening carbon market governance, and refining benefit-sharing mechanisms. Ghana advanced its emissions reductions framework, positioning itself for an expected USD 20 million payment, while Viet Nam established agreements under the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF Coalition) to facilitate carbon transactions. Bolivia aligned its legal frameworks with Architecture for REDD+ Transactions/ REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (ART/TREES) requirements, supporting its engagement in international carbon markets. Other countries, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru, enhanced their national carbon registries to support the transparent tracking of forest-based emissions reductions.

In parallel, UN-REDD assisted governments in improving regulatory frameworks for carbon markets and strengthening private sector engagement. Peru launched the National Registry of Mitigation Measures, while Chile developed governance models for carbon transactions. Colombia enhanced safeguards for voluntary carbon markets to improve transparency and social equity, while Côte d'Ivoire established a Carbon Market Office and enacted a climate change framework law to clarify carbon rights. Indonesia developed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement to support jurisdictional forest solutions, while Zambia facilitated financial discussions to expand investment in REDD+ projects. Additionally, Kenya, Lao PDR, and Nepal refined their carbon market strategies to improve their participation in emissions reduction programs.

Beyond carbon finance, knowledge management, convening, and communication remained central to UN-REDD's approach. The Programme facilitated technical exchanges and peer-learning platforms to strengthen national capacity in integrating forests into climate policies and financing mechanisms. Regional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative and the Africa Forest Forum, contributed to policy alignment and knowledge-sharing on sustainable forest management, further supporting global commitments to climate action and biodiversity conservation.

Gender equality and social inclusion continued to be integrated into the Programme's activities. UN-REDD supported countries in developing gender-responsive approaches to forest governance and REDD+ implementation, ensuring that women's contributions to forest conservation and climate resilience are recognized. These efforts have contributed to improving representation and decision-making opportunities for women in the forestry sector.

As 2025 marks the final year of the current phase of UN-REDD, the Programme remains focused on consolidating progress and maximizing the potential of forest-based climate action. Looking ahead to the 2026–2030 period, UN-REDD will build on this foundation by helping countries scale up high-integrity emissions reductions, unlock new sources of forest finance, elevate the ambition of national climate goals, and tackle the root causes of deforestation through systemic, long-term solutions. At the same

time, the Programme will place greater emphasis on inclusion, gender equality, knowledge exchange, and strategic collaboration, ensuring that forest-based climate solutions are not only effective, but also equitable, trusted, and grounded in the needs of both people and planet.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

### Forest solutions realised

Key solutions to halt and reverse deforestation lay at the nexus between agriculture and forestry – with important calls from countries to enhance and scale up synergies across the two sectors, including reinforced by FAO member countries during [the 2024 Committee on Forestry and Committee on Agriculture](#). The work at the interface between agriculture and forestry and the technical cooperation therein embrace powerful opportunities to boost countries efforts in achieving their halting deforestation and climate goals. In this context, leveraging on FAO mandate and initiatives, sister agencies portfolios, and an active network of relevant partners, UN-REDD advanced in generation of tools, support countries, jurisdictions and local stakeholders enhancing capacities, to reduce deforestation and realize solutions to climate change. The programme also served as echo-chamber boosting dialogues on this important matter at regional and international level.

Several countries and stakeholders expressed interest in understanding and navigating requirements, as well as advancing preparedness, to emerging market based regulations aimed at decoupling commodities from deforestation (including the [EU regulation on deforestation-free products, EUDR](#)). UN-REDD provided neutral, technically sound advice, and robust support to countries and regions (through south-south exchanges). During the reporting period, the Programme facilitated regional exchanges among seven Latin American countries – Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru – to promote knowledge-sharing and discuss integrating sustainability into agrifood chains and agricultural product traceability systems. A key highlight was the sharing of lessons from Peru’s traceability system, widely recognized as a model for transparency in the region. Inspired by these insights, Colombia’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has considered to adapt them to inform the development of its own national agricultural traceability process.

Recalling countries commitments at the UN Food Systems Summit in promoting a transformation of their agrifood systems, including towards enhanced sustainability and reduced environmental impact, and one year away from the new stocktaking (UNFSSS+4, July 2025) crucial technical cooperation was ensured in the broader spectrum of reducing the risk of deforestation in due diligence in agriculture supply chains, as well as in promoting stronger and more coherent policies and investments on the land-use and AFOLU sector. Recognizing the importance of smallholders and local communities for sustainable commodity production and forest conservation, high attention in this type of work is provided to strengthen capacities of smallholders and associations of farmers. An approach that is central for countries to progress towards sustainability, food security and forest conversation at the same time.

In Colombia, UN-REDD Programme played a catalytic role in advancing deforestation-free agricultural supply chains by supporting the piloting of due diligence processes with two pioneering companies in the departments of Antioquia and Huila. By strategically leveraging [the OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains](#), UN-REDD helped these companies strengthen their due diligence systems, expand monitoring and verification coverage, and integrate more suppliers and coffee-producing families. This resulted in improved traceability and alignment with sustainability standards. Building on this momentum, UN-REDD engaged 37 additional companies in the coffee and cocoa sectors, enhancing their capacity to navigate global deforestation regulations and increasing their readiness to meet international compliance requirements. The Programme also supported the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia in developing a due diligence framework that benefits over 500,000 coffee-producing families, an essential step toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of Colombia’s coffee sector. Further extending its impact, UN-REDD initiated collaboration with the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber to strengthen the sector’s assurance framework, aligning it with the five-step approach of the Handbook. With the Business handbook being generated from a parallel initiative funded by GIZ and led by OECD and FAO, this is also a

concrete example of how UN-REDD can leverage process and products from partners, generating greater impact and efficiency.

Combining efforts between UN-REDD and the FAO-Japan funded Building global capacity on halting deforestation and land-use conversions from agricultural commodities (BigChance) project, the [Solutions-tree](#) continue to be developed, and prompted initial piloting and further inputs for enhancements by leveraging on the FAO-GCF funded Institutional and technical support for REDD+ readiness in West Africa project. The Solutions-tree is an evidence-based framework, interactive online platform and knowledge repository offering cross-sectoral solutions to address the underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation, in the context of broader agrifood systems transformation. Designed for government officials, experts, and private sector actors, it will provide tools, case studies, and technical references to foster positive forestry-agriculture interactions and guide tailored actions.

To further stimulate and ensure availability of solid data for decision making, leveraging on and collaborating with the [GEF funded Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program \(FOLUR\)](#) initiative, UN-REDD in collaboration with the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3), supported the development of a multi-regional input-output (MRIO) framework based on FAOSTAT data to trace supply chains of both forestry and agri-food products across the world. The framework, expected to be launched in 2025, will be available for use to quantify changes in global agricultural land and forestland areas associated with deforestation-risk commodities over time and assess the underlying drivers of deforestation.

UN-REDD also continued to lead on innovative work by developing a methodology for assessing national public expenditure on forests was developed and piloted in four countries (Ghana, Uganda, Brazil and Colombia), leveraging on and collaborating with the FAO Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies ([MAFAP](#)) initiative. In 2024, the scoping and screening exercise on existing guidance, frameworks, data sets on deforestation-free finance, and three Financial Institutions Consultative Sessions (FICS) were developed. The final version of the guidance document with the pathway to establish common rules or standards for deforestation-free or forest-positive finance will be delivered in 2025.

At the local level, UN-REDD has continued to strengthen forest solutions by strengthening the capacities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. These efforts, spanning Asia (including through the UN-REDD ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative), Africa, and Latin America, are central to promoting sustainable forest management and fostering community-driven solutions to forest conservation.

### **Forest solutions rewarded**

UN-REDD has continued its support to countries in meeting the requirements for accessing REDD+ results-based finance: results-based payments under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, establishing cooperation under Article 6 for the forest and land-use sector, and voluntary carbon markets. In addition to supporting countries to access results-based finance, the Programme also continued its support to countries to access upfront investments in forest solutions, particularly from the private sector. Beyond technical support to individual countries, UN-REDD has facilitated regional knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement to enhance countries' capacities to assess, navigate and benefit from complex carbon finance mechanisms.

In 2024, UN-REDD agencies, in their capacities as GCF Accredited Entities, were invited to continue supporting the process to develop a new GCF REDD+ RBP Policy, which was successfully finalized and adopted by the GCF Board in October 2024. As the [GCF special study on REDD+ RBPs in LAC](#) highlights, UN-REDD played a significant role in supporting countries to access RBPs from the GCF REDD+ RBPs Pilot Programme. UN-REDD agencies are also assisting the eight countries that have accessed REDD+ RBPs from the Pilot Programme to implement RBPs. Their collective experiences were welcomed at

deliberations by GCF Board members' nominated representatives, when discussing the details of the new GCF REDD+ RBPs Policy, which integrated RBPs into the regular programming cycle of the GCF, providing the necessary predictability of finance for climate action in the long term.

In 2024, a total of 20 countries were supported in their efforts to be eligible for results-based finance. As in recent years, 2024 saw a focus on supporting countries conform to ART-TREES, with a view to accessing results-based finance from voluntary carbon markets for jurisdictional REDD+ results, notably from the LEAF Coalition. A total of 13 countries were supported towards ART-TREES conformity, including six countries that targeted results-based finance from the LEAF Coalition. The total volume of potential results to be rewarded by LEAF, in countries supported by UN-REDD includes 36.03 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent from countries that have signed an Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA) and 138.16 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent from countries in the pipeline. This brings the total potential volume to 174.19 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, equating to at least USD 1.74 billion of results-based finance (assuming a USD 10/ tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent floor price).

Technical assistance was also provided throughout the ART/TREES cycle, from concept notes to registration documents to backstopping validation and verification requests. Countries such as Chile, Ghana, Peru, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Uganda progressed through various stages of TREES compliance. This support helped establish, inter alia, robust monitoring systems and enhance benefit-sharing arrangements, which are needed for ensuring that emissions reductions are both credible and sustainable.

The Programme offered rapid-response and targeted technical assistance for countries engaging with the LEAF Coalition. Efforts focused on Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) and ensuring compliance with ART/TREES. UN-REDD support has assisted countries such as Ghana, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal, and Viet Nam to navigate the complexities of securing dedicated LEAF payments for verified emissions reductions. While LEAF has been a dominant RBF opportunity in 2024, the Programme also supported exploratory discussions on additional bilateral and private-sector financing opportunities, ensuring that countries such as Argentina, Chile, and Colombia can diversify their sources of results-based payments.

In addition to the rapid response assistance on LEAF and TREES, strengthening the enabling environment for REDD+ finance remained a core focus for the Programme in 2024. UN-REDD assisted in the development and refinement of policy and legal reforms, the establishment of national carbon registries, and the improvement of monitoring, safeguards, and benefit-sharing systems. These interventions promoted more transparent, accountable, and equitable frameworks that underpin successful access to REDD+ results-based finance. Enhanced stakeholder engagement ensured that diverse community perspectives were integrated into the process, reinforcing the sustainability and social inclusion of forest-based climate mitigation efforts. Additionally, capacity building efforts helped strengthen safeguards compliance, improve carbon measurement, reporting and verification systems, and facilitate structured dialogues with financial institutions to attract investment in forest carbon markets. Côte d'Ivoire, for example, was supported to establish a Carbon Market Office and develop climate finance regulations to streamline carbon market participation. Kenya advanced legal provisions for emissions reductions ownership and transfer under ART/TREES, while Zambia conducted legal and institutional assessments to support private sector engagement in REDD+ finance.

Complementing results-based finance, UN-REDD also facilitated upfront investments to catalyse early REDD+ actions. This provided critical capital for developing the necessary infrastructure, systems, and governance frameworks that support long-term participation in carbon markets and other sources of results-based finance. The Programme helped to bridge the gap between initial REDD+ actions and subsequent performance-based payments, ensuring that early investments lay a solid foundation for sustainable, scalable climate finance solutions. For example, financial assessments and stakeholder

consultations in Zambia helped identify innovative financing models. Moving forward, expanding upfront investment options - particularly through public-private partnerships - will be a critical priority.

As UN-REDD transitions into its 2026-2030 phase, UN-REDD will continue to support access to REDD+ finance from diverse sources, prioritizing scaled-up payments in alignment with Articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement, including through the new GCF REDD+ RBPs Policy and high-integrity carbon markets. Acting as a trusted, impartial partner, UN-REDD looks forward to continuing to provide technical guidance to countries to support meeting GCF REDD+ RBPs eligibility criteria, as well as on advancing emission reduction purchase agreements, facilitating a stepwise improvement in emission quality and market predictability. Through strategic partnerships with entities like the GCF and the World Bank, and by engaging emerging integrity initiatives such as the IC-VCM and VCMI, the Programme aims to unlock transformative, sustainable forest finance beyond 2025.

## **Forest solutions enhanced**

UN-REDD has continued to support countries in integrating and enhancing Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector actions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In 2024, the Programme contributed to both increasing ambition for the forest sector in new and updated NDCs and assisting with the implementation of existing commitments. This work has helped countries align forest and land-use actions with broader climate targets, improve institutional coordination for NDC submissions, and secure financing for implementation. Additionally, the Programme has worked with governments to refine monitoring and reporting mechanisms, ensuring that progress toward NDC targets is transparently tracked and effectively communicated.

As of 2024, UN-REDD has provided technical assistance to more than 15 forest countries to enhance the forest components of their NDCs. In Latin America, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru worked to strengthen their commitments through quantitative mitigation targets for reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable land use. Ecuador, for example, has integrated REDD+ financing sustainability strategies into its NDC framework to align with national deforestation-free production and trade initiatives. The country has also leveraged UN-REDD technical expertise to assess land-use emissions trends, helping to refine its NDC strategy further. In Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana, and Zambia have worked to incorporate measurable forest sector targets with UN-REDD's guidance. Ghana, in particular, has focused on developing monitoring indicators to track its progress in forest-related climate actions. In the Asia-Pacific region, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Viet Nam advanced their NDC commitments by refining emissions reduction pathways and improving sectoral coordination to support policy implementation. Viet Nam has also engaged in extensive stakeholder consultations, ensuring that its revised NDC reflects a broad consensus across government agencies and civil society.

Beyond enhancing commitments, UN-REDD has supported several countries in implementing their forest and land-use targets reflected in their latest NDCs, while preparing for the 2025 NDC cycle. Countries such as Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Kenya have received targeted policy and technical support to translate their forest-related pledges into concrete actions. In Cambodia, the Programme has assisted in aligning national forestry policies with NDC goals, supporting coordination between the Royal Government and the Ministry of Environment. The country has also explored ways to integrate its REDD+ activities into broader climate finance strategies. Côte d'Ivoire was supported by UN-REDD technical assistance to assess progress on its 2022 NDC and develop a policy brief that will inform the next submission. Similarly, Kenya has updated its Climate Change Act with support from UN-REDD, introducing policy incentives to support emissions reductions in the forestry and land-use sectors. Kenya is also reviewing land tenure policies to enhance incentives for sustainable forest management.

To help countries access finance for NDC implementation, UN-REDD has provided analytical work on financial strategies that combine public and private investments, carbon finance opportunities, and international cooperation. This has contributed to bridging the financing gap between NDC commitments and implementation costs. In Uganda, for instance, a collaboration with FAO's MAFAP team led to the classification of public expenditures in the forestry sector, allowing for a more precise assessment of budget allocations and resource distribution. Uganda has also taken steps to improve financial tracking tools to enhance transparency in climate-related expenditures. In Zambia, UN-REDD has worked with national stakeholders to explore financial mechanisms that can increase investments in sustainable land-use practices, further supporting the country's ability to meet its NDC forest targets. The country has also initiated discussions with development banks to expand financing for large-scale reforestation programs.

At the global level, UN-REDD has supported knowledge-sharing efforts to integrate forests into NDCs. The Programme collaborated with UNDP's Climate Promise to develop the global guidance document, "[Aligning Short-term Land Sector Actions with Long-term Climate Goals](#)," which provides a reference for countries to implement forest-based climate strategies reflected in their NDCs. Since its release, this guidance has been adapted and applied in several countries, reinforcing the role of forests in achieving long-term emission reduction targets. Additionally, UN-REDD has facilitated regional dialogues where country representatives exchange best practices on integrating forest conservation into national climate strategies, contributing to greater peer learning and capacity-building.

As 2025 marks the final year of this phase of UN-REDD, consolidating progress and ensuring continuity will be important. With many countries preparing their NDC submissions for the 2025 cycle, the Programme's role in strengthening forest-based commitments and implementation strategies remains highly relevant. The Programme is also working with governments to identify priority actions for the post-2025 period, ensuring that the next phase of NDCs builds on previous achievements. As UN-REDD transitions into its 2026-2030 phase, expanding finance, strengthening partnerships, and refining policy frameworks will support the continued role of forests in global climate efforts. Continued engagement with financial institutions and policymakers will also be essential in scaling up resources for forest-related climate action.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The UN-REDD Programme continues to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting countries in integrating forest and land-use solutions into their climate strategies. Through technical assistance, policy guidance, and facilitation to finance, UN-REDD helps advance at least seven SDGs, ensuring that forests remain an integral part of global sustainability efforts.

UN-REDD supports SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on land) by assisting countries in embedding forest and land-use measures into their national policies (SDG 13.2), strengthening institutional capacities for climate action (SDG 13.3), and helping mobilize international climate finance (SDG 13.a). The Programme also promotes sustainable forest management and restoration (SDGs 15.1 and 15.2) and supports countries in developing financing mechanisms for sustainable forestry (SDG 15.b). As part of its technical work, UN-REDD has continued to support countries in accessing results-based payments and carbon finance, ensuring that mitigation actions in the forestry sector contribute to long-term climate goals.

Gender equality (SDG 5) remains an integral part of UN-REDD's approach, ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes (SDG 5.5) and supporting their equal access to land and natural resources (SDG 5.a). In 2024, the Programme continued integrating gender considerations into national REDD+ strategies, ensuring that women's roles in forest governance and climate action are acknowledged and incorporated.

UN-REDD also contributes to SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) by promoting governance frameworks that facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society in forest-related decision-making processes (SDG 16.7 and 16.10). The Programme supports transparency in carbon finance transactions and strengthens national institutions to improve the governance of forest and land-use sectors.

Efforts to promote sustainable trade (SDG 12) have continued through UN-REDD's work on deforestation-free commodity supply chains (SDG 12.6), with countries increasingly aligning their forest policies with international trade and sustainability standards. The Programme has also contributed to poverty reduction (SDG 1) by enabling forest-dependent communities to access climate finance (SDG 1.a) and advocating for equitable land tenure systems (SDG 1.4).

Collaboration remains an important aspect of UN-REDD's work under SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The Programme continues to facilitate multi-stakeholder platforms, support public-private partnerships for sustainable forest management (SDG 17.17), and build technical capacity for countries to implement their climate commitments (SDG 17.9). By supporting South-South cooperation (SDG 17.6 and 17.16), UN-REDD has facilitated knowledge exchanges on sustainable forestry practices and financing mechanisms, ensuring that developing countries can access the tools and expertise needed to implement their SDG-aligned climate strategies.

## COUNTRY RESULTS

### Argentina

Delayed

#### REDD+ implementation

##### ***Forest solutions realised***

Technical assistance to strengthen safeguards capacities, complementing ongoing work through Argentina's Results-Based Payments (RBP) Project. This included a training program, presentations, as well as the development of an RBPs Project Platform and communications materials in digital and print formats to enhance capacities and disseminate project information. Capacities on safeguards were also strengthened through the REDD+ Academy Learning Lab held in Lima in August 2024, attended by three representatives from the National Forest Directorate (DNB) under Argentina's Sub-Secretariat for Environment. DNB members also participated in training sessions organized by the UN-REDD LAC Safeguards and Integrity Working Group.

##### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Technical and policy dialogues with the DNB and the Sub-Secretariat for Climate Change directors supported a proposal to create the Working Group on Forests and Carbon Markets, which was tailored for Argentina's Sub-Secretariat for Environment with the aim of identifying key capacity-building priorities and a work plan. Execution of the plan was delayed due to political changes. UN-REDD will continue supporting this initiative under the 2025 Technical Assistance framework.

#### Challenges and solutions

Like other government transitions, the new administration brought changes in government officials and the need for the UN-REDD Programme to establish adequate connections with the new authorities and adjust priorities. These resulted in some delays and the planned workplan was agreed. However, significant budget cuts and restructuring and consolidation of government agencies further delayed implementation. As an example, the Ministry of Environment has been restructured as an Under-Secretary within the Ministry of Interior. To address these challenges of limited governmental capacity and responsiveness, the 2025 Technical Assistance proposal will continue to catalyse some actions in coordination with the GCF RBP project and enhance its support to both National and Provincial authorities, under the framework of the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA).

#### Gender and social inclusion

Gender and social inclusion approaches were considered transversally across all activities within the Technical Assistance framework. This work included having the gender expert of the RBP project participant in the training sessions organized by the UN-REDD LAC Safeguards and Integrity Working Group. Also, in the REDD+ Academy Learning Lab, one of the three representatives from the DNB was also a woman, as well as an open-ended roundtable was held which allowed participants to bring forward new ideas, including experiences of ensuring a gender approach in payment for environmental services schemes.

#### Partnerships

The GCF RBP project under implementation by FAO has become a critical partner to facilitate dialogue and amplify the impact of UN-REDD assistance.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

Argentina continued progress on implementing its NDC, and REDD+ actions, contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15 and indirectly to SDGs 5, 6, 8 and 12.

## Bolivia

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

In 2024 UN-REDD supported the country through Technical Assistance, in synergy with the AIM for Forests (AIM4Forests) initiative (see the dedicated AIM section of this report). In this context, UN-REDD provided technical assistance to consolidate Bolivia's efforts to monitor and report on forest solutions that contribute to the objectives of the [Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\) for the period 2021-2030](#) related to the forestry sector, as well as supporting the elaboration of a REDD+ Strategy that aligns with the NDC goals. In early 2024, UN-REDD conducted a joint mission which identified gaps and bottlenecks to access climate finance in terms of the MRV systems and policy. A dedicated UN-REDD work plan has been prepared accordingly and discussed with the National Authority for Mother Earth (APMT), the Office of the Vice-President and the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA). UN-REDD strengthened collaboration with other stakeholders, in relation to MRV and the construction of its FREL, with support Foundation Friends of Nature (FAN) and a dedicated MRV team hosted under the Ministry of Environment and Water; analytical legal and economic studies in relation to the NDC forest objectives through the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF); analytical studies to develop a benefit distribution mechanism for LEAF.

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

Technical inputs and recommendations were given towards the consolidation of jurisdictional implementation plans under the country's cooperation mechanism for results (MCR for its acronym in Spanish) and country's submission to the LEAF Coalition. With an emphasis on the Department of Pando and Charagua (Santa Cruz), policy advice was given to support the development of Bolivia's REDD+ strategy and the strengthening of enabling conditions, notably the development of a national safeguards action plan and forest monitoring and reporting systems. Based on the progress made by the APMT, the Office of the Vice-President and the MMAyA, a roadmap for the development of a forest policy and Bolivian REDD+ Strategy, was supported, building on prior support to the benefit sharing mechanism for the MCR and LEAF. In addition, a methodology has been developed to estimate the costs of measures and actions and to analyse the different financing options for the forest sector.

#### **Forest solutions enhanced**

UN-REDD's technical assistance supported on-going efforts geared at facilitating Bolivia's access to results-based international cooperation, including through the LEAF Coalition. Based on a legality matrix, a review and analysis of Bolivia's legal and institutional framework related to the forestry sector was conducted, with the aim of facilitating access to carbon finance (Article 6 the Paris Agreement, standard TREES). The preliminary findings identified gaps, challenges and recommendations in terms of legal solutions and institutional arrangements, to help improve and implement recently adopted tools that aim to regulate climate finance in the country. In addition, AIM4Forests support identified some gaps for ART-TREES compliance and proposed scenarios to strengthen MRV capacities in the country.

### Challenges and solutions

From an institutional and political point of view, the country faces challenges to consolidate a national strategy or action plan to reduce forest loss and degradation, consistent with the forestry objectives of its

NDC. UN-REDD technical assistance has been provided to support and give input for the consolidation of the strategy and the definition of a road map

### **Gender and social inclusion**

In 2024, efforts were made to mainstream gender and social inclusion in UN-REDD activities in Bolivia. As part of the review and analysis of Bolivia's legal and institutional framework—particularly in relation to the applicability of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the TREES standard—gender and social safeguards were considered to identify bottlenecks that could hinder compliance and respect for these principles. Additionally, gender gaps were analysed during the review of forest-related policies and documents. Gender and social safeguards are also expected to be incorporated into future versions of the REDD+ action plan.

### **Partnerships**

The French Development Agency (AFD) is supporting the creation of a financing strategy for the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, while the German Development Bank KfW is designing investment programmes in the Amazon region with geographic synergies of LEAF jurisdictions. With funding from Sweden and in close coordination with the Swedish Embassy in La Paz, FAO Bolivia will be implementing a project on sustainable forests in Pando, synergies and coordination with the TA will be maintained in planning. Meanwhile, UNDP is implementing the GEF 8 Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Programme with potential investments in sustainable development in the Amazon.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Cambodia

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

Cambodia's Nested System piloting first deliverables were completed, in collaboration with Conservation International (CI) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia and based on REDD+ Secretariat guidelines and consultations. The analysis of options for managing REDD+ revenues through Cambodia's Environmental and Social Fund has been finalized, with the report awaiting Ministry of Environment (MoE) approval. By late 2024, contracts were secured with international and national firms to draft the second Summary of Information, establish the Safeguard Information System (SIS), and develop the REDD+ Registry - all critical to Cambodia's Results-Based Payment (RBP) proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Additionally, contracting processes for the assignment to develop REDD+ indicators for integration into Cambodia's Environmental Management Information System (CEMIS) and improve forest-based management with local communities and Indigenous Peoples are near completion. UN-REDD supported the government in producing Cambodia's Forest and Non-Forest 2024 map and in the accuracy assessment of the forest cover activity data. Based on the results, UN-REDD will further support Cambodia in the development of a detailed 22-class land use and land cover map and land use and land cover changes 2018-2024.

The UN-REDD Programme also provided support to the government of Cambodia in climate reporting, specifically emissions from the FOLU sector. Additionally, ongoing work involves assessing activity data for forest degradation, considering national circumstances. UN-REDD also supported forest biomass estimation, which led to updated emission factors. These factors were utilized in the most recently published information on forest cover, contributing to the production of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). To support Cambodia in producing updated and accurate Activity Data for 2024, forest and non-forest data for 2024 have been produced. This approach improves the detection of forest change by modelling yearly time-series data, enabling more accurate identification of true forest cover changes, as opposed to changes caused by seasonal variations. A processing chain and workflow was developed to support the government in developing a tailored deforestation alert system. In addition to day-to-day support, capacity building sessions were organized, including a technical workshop on the use of FAO's SEPAL platform (System for earth observations, data access, processing & analysis for land monitoring), and a workshop involving the Cambodian government that focused on estimating uncertainty in carbon accounting using Monte Carlo simulations.

#### **Challenges and solutions**

Despite ongoing delays since 2023 due to government transitions, in 2024, most of the activities within the annual workplan have been implemented according to revised timelines. This reflects a strong collaboration with the MoE, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) and the UN-REDD country team. However, by the end of 2024, UN-REDD requested an extension for Nesting Piloting implementation to ensure all deliverables were completed on time and met quality standards. Throughout 2024, these challenges were effectively managed, including contracting international and national consultants, leading to expectations that ongoing activities in 2025 will proceed without further delays. The concerted efforts from MoE and MAFF management, and the UN-REDD country team to address these delays, along with limited capacity at the national level, have resulted in significant resource allocation and time to enhance capacity building efforts and technical decision-making through on-the-job training, workshops, consultation process and longer missions.

## **Gender and social inclusion**

UN-REDD activities in 2024 demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equality, pursuing equal participation from both men and women and the integration of gender-responsive approaches throughout the project processes, emphasizing the collection of gender-disaggregated data to monitor progress and address inequalities. For example, within the Nested Framework piloting and related activities, such as the SIS and Registry, a gender and social inclusion approach was utilized, including within monitoring and reporting. Associated stakeholder dialogues, including consultations with local communities, which defined the design elements for procedures and new institutional arrangements regarding the implementation of Nesting, SIS, or Registry, also incorporated gender aspects (e.g. within the organization of workshops, gender data collection, etc.).

## **Partnerships**

Under the Nested System pilot, UN-REDD collaborates with various international and local NGOs, as well as project developers like CI, WCS, and VCS in Cambodia. This partnership ensures effective coordination among efforts and requires the involvement of local and subnational government bodies. For system implementation, especially the REDD+ Registry, the MoE and UN-REDD Country Team are working with Web Essential, a local firm experienced in the FOLU sector. Technical work on the National Forest Inventory (NFI) is conducted with the Royal University of Agriculture, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other partners, with plans to expand collaboration in 2025 to include more development partners and stakeholders. Technical work on activity data is carried out in close collaboration with MoE's Department of Geospatial Information Services (DGIS).

## **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Chile

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

Through UN-REDD support, Chilean National Forest Corporation (CONAF) revised its Finance Strategy for the Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV) to facilitate Chile's access to diverse carbon finance opportunities and guarantee the long-term effectiveness and financial sustainability of the Strategy and advancing sectoral NDC commitments. This included analytical assessments from a financial, economic, legal, and institutional perspective. A Financial Planning proposal for the ENCCRV with an assessment of key funding sources and an economic analysis on the Strategy's direct measures of action to maximize climatic funding were delivered. Moreover, UN-REDD strengthened institutional MRV capacities by assisting CONAF in the enhancement of its FREL and methodological approach for estimating ERs. Technical support included working sessions, methodological analyses, and scenario development, all aligned with the country's forest monitoring and MRV systems. Also, UN-REDD developed a tailored Montecarlo tool for deforestation. On safeguards, with UN-REDD's support, CONAF improved the Safeguard Information System (SIS) compliance indicators and accessibility, and efforts to improve stakeholder accessibility to CONAF's benefits sharing plan (BSP), through the ENCCRV Platform.

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

UN-REDD provided support through a comprehensive legal diagnosis of Chile's regulatory and institutional framework, in alignment with the provisions of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the TREES standard. This analysis identified gaps in compliance with the requirements of carbon financing mechanisms and proposed institutional and governance arrangements, along with legal solutions to facilitate the registration and transfer of mitigation results in carbon markets. UN-REDD also supported the assessment of gaps and capacity strengthening needs related to TREES' safeguards requirements, that will continue in 2025. Lastly, technical backstopping was provided to CONAF for the development of a Technical Annex to Chile's BTR.

#### **Forest solutions enhanced**

UN-REDD evaluated the potential to assist Chile in defining accounting rules for the MRV system, as well as reviewing CONAF's ER registry and related institutional arrangements, contingent upon CONAF's decision to proceed with nesting projects under its FREL. This exercise highlighted that, from a carbon accounting perspective, further progress is needed with the methodological update of the FREL, therefore the TA was postponed. From an institutional standpoint, the legal analysis done in the context of carbon funding opportunities provided recommendations on legal aspects and/or institutional arrangements that would be relevant when nesting projects.

### Challenges and solutions

In the last quarter of 2024, the Climate Change and Environmental Services Directorate of CONAF, UN-REDD's counterpart, underwent two leadership changes. To support this transition and ensure these changes had no impact or delays on the ongoing TA activities, the UN-REDD team assisted CONAF in ensuring the timely transmission of information and progress related to UN-REDD's support to the new leadership. Activities under UN-REDD TA were successfully implemented.

## **Gender and social inclusion**

Consistent with Chile's Constitution and a series of policy and regulatory instruments underpinning ENCCR, gender equality is a top priority in the country. As such, gender issues and priorities have already been mainstreamed in the ENCCR. This includes dedicated eligibility criteria and prioritization variables for design and implementation of on-the-ground actions of measure through its benefit sharing plan. Women's priorities and gender equality have already been mainstreamed across the ENCCR, safeguards compliance, monitoring and reporting through Chile's SIS. In this context, UN-REDD's technical assistance helped highlight improvements and guide the operation of the SIS to ensure gender commitments. It is also worth noting that CONAF's MRV team is women-led and composed mostly by women, and so UN-REDD's technical backstopping in 2024 helped build women's technical and institutional capacities, including through their participation in South-South in-person and virtual exchanges.

## **Partnerships**

UN-REDD continues supporting selected enabling measures of action under the ENCCR and is strengthening CONAF's institutional capacities to operate all information and monitoring systems under the ENCCR, including on MRV and safeguards, on a regular basis.

## **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Colombia

On track

### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

UN-REDD supported capacity building to develop four strategic processes in Colombia to implement forest solutions led by the Ministry of Environment: i) national and territorial dialogues on REDD+ and carbon markets, aimed at transforming the underlying causes of deforestation ([Acta Villa Catalina](#)) and to consolidate projects for forest conservation in community councils of Afro-descendant communities ([Acta Mesa Afro](#)); ii) the implementation of Judgment 248 of 2024 on a voluntary market REDD+ project in the Amazon with the active participation of civil society and academia ([Acta Diálogo ONG Sentencia 248 de 2024](#)), iii) participation of Indigenous Peoples in the country's preparation for UNFCCC COP 29 ([Matriz de sistematización del diálogo con pueblos indígenas sobre COP 29 CMNUCC](#)); and iv) regulation of social and environmental safeguards (SSA), as well as strengthening the internal committee and the inter-institutional working group on SSA.

Led by IDEAM and the Ministry of Environment, with technical support from UN-REDD, the country achieved three important results: i) update of the Forest Emissions Reference Level (FREL) for the period 2023-2027 ([NREF actualizado 2023-2027](#)), ii) carbon accounting table for REDD+ that advanced the revision and adjustments of the RENARE guide ([la revisión y ajustes de la guía del RENARE](#)) and Annex 2 of this guide, which contains the methodology for the establishment of the baseline of Greenhouse Gas-GHG emissions for REDD+ projects, according to the Reference Levels of Forest Emissions from deforestation ([metodología línea base emisiones para proyectos REDD+](#)), and iii) generation of the Technical Annex for REDD+ within the framework of the FREL 2018-2022 that is part of the Biennial Update Report (BTR), presented by the country in December 2024. The document is currently awaiting approval by the Ministry of Environment.

In addition, as part of the agenda with the rural development sector, the OECD-FAO Manual for Companies on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains - specifically for coffee - was implemented ([Piloto Debida Diligencia](#)). This was especially useful as a tool to aid compliance of EU deforestation regulations for companies that export commodities (coffee, cocoa, oil palm and others) from Colombia and the region. The Manual was also disseminated in different spaces with coffee companies in Bogotá, Santa Marta and Manizales.

UN-REDD also supported the Ministry of Environment in regulating safeguards and abiding by a ruling by the Constitutional Court on the Indigenous Communities of "Pira Paraná" (Judgment T-248 of 2024). This support included a national safeguards specialist and a national expert on human rights, and business and due diligence work from UN-REDD linked to the Vice Ministry of Environmental Land Management (VOAT). UN-REDD also provided technical assistance on Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and capacity building through a bilateral exchange with safeguards experts from the Ministry of Environment of Peru (MINAM) and technical sessions of the UN-REDD Safeguards and Integrity Working Group.

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

UN-REDD supported the Ministry of Environment in initiating the REDD+ safeguards regulation process this year to enhance the integrity of voluntary carbon markets in the country. Capacities on TREES, including safeguards requirements, were strengthened through technical sessions of the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity, and the 2024 UN-REDD Learning Lab in Lima.

## Challenges and solutions

Among the main challenges identified was the excessive workload faced by the focal points of the Ministry of Environment, particularly due to unforeseen events such as Judgment 248 of 2024 and commitments linked to organizing CBD COP 19. As per the Judgment, having a consultant seated in the Ministry permitted UN-REDD to respond to the immediate needs of the Government and to obtain first-hand information on key topics of REDD+. Furthermore, among the four strategic processes supported by the Programme, we learned that it is crucial to remain flexible and adaptive to address the specific needs and circumstances of institutions. At the same time, it became evident that a more structured and formalized programmatic framework is essential to minimize changes or improvisation in the implementation of activities.

## Gender and social inclusion

In 2024, UN-REDD TA undertook a range of activities to integrate a gender and social inclusion approach. For example, within the multi-stakeholder dialogues at national, regional and territorial levels to improve the environmental and social integrity of carbon markets, efforts have been taken to ensure women's active and meaningful participation. Dialogue attendance data ensured participation was broken down by female, male and non-binary participants and childcare was also provided, allowing for simultaneous spaces with child caregivers and adapting the spaces for the care of babies through the provision of a baby crib. In addition, a range of gender elements were integrated into the ruling by the Constitutional Court on the Indigenous Communities of "Pira Paraná" (Judgment T-248 of 2024). It included "indigenous women and family" in one of the five lines of actions of its execution calling for the strengthening of women's relationships in the contemporary indigenous world at the organizational levels of communities, in valuing their role in the principles of the indigenous family, in teaching their own language and knowledge of the land, and in managing the chagras. Gender-sensitive principles were also considered in the update process of the national REDD+ strategy (ENREDD+), even though some deliverables, such as technical reports and FREL submissions, were not designed with explicit gender components. Despite the technical nature of many activities, gender equity was promoted through balanced team composition, inclusive workshop practices, and a commitment to improving tracking of gender outcomes over time. However, no specific budgets were allocated solely for gender, suggesting opportunities for deeper institutional investment in mainstreaming gender across all outputs.

## Partnerships

The main partners of the UN-REDD TA are the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM. The Programme also works with allied organizations of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and peasant communities, as well as with NGOs such as WWF, TNC, WCS, Gaia, Tropenbos Colombia, Fundación Natura, Fondo Acción, Dejusticia and CEALDES, and universities such as the National University of Colombia, the University of the Andes, the Pontifical Javeriana University and the University of Rosario.

## Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15. In addition, UN-REDD TA contributes indirectly to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 16

## Costa Rica

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

Costa Rica strengthened their SIS following a detailed analysis and feedback provided to the REDD+ Secretariat on selected safeguards compliance indicators. This support was provided through the “Safeguards Lab” initiative, led by the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity. Support was provided in ongoing reviewing and updating of the co-benefits baselines and monitoring approaches for reporting to the Carbon Fund.

Studies on soil organic carbon (COS) reserves to improve the REDD+ results, and the technical and financial evaluation of the proposal of INISEFOR-UNA (Institute for Forestry Research and Services of the National University) have been carried out and the contracting process was finalized.

A work plan was submitted, including sampling points, field forms, quality assurance, and quality control procedures for the COS and biomass inventories. This process has included extensive consultations on the terms of reference with crucial actors such as the Ministry of Agriculture, FONAFIFO, National Institute for Innovation and Transfer of Agricultural and Livestock Technology, National Meteorological Institute (IMN), SINAC, ICAFE, FAO, Institute of Technology, Costa Rican soil science association, and the National University Institute of Forestry Research and Services. In addition, a strategic alliance was consolidated with the SCALA Project, ACCS, ICAFE, Dos Pinos and INTA - key players in the soil organic carbon (COS) sector. Progress was also made on coordination within the Soil Carbon Technical Roundtable, where the process to standardize methodologies for measuring carbon in soils was initiated, with the aim of implementing them in a uniform manner by 2025. The final revised report with calculation memories, databases, and paper field forms is expected by the second quarter of 2025.

Following the B40 decision of the Green Climate Fund, which established a permanent REDD+ Results-based Payment Programme, support to Costa Rica was provided to make an analysis on the potential for the country to access a RBP proposal, identifying the gaps and establishing a roadmap to overcome them. As a result, work was established and initiated to update its FREL and the REDD+ Technical Annex. Both are to be submitted to the UNFCCC in 2025.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Supporting Costa Rica in the validation and verification process (registration document 2017-2021 and monitoring document 2017-2021) was provided by VVB Aster Global. Due to some findings from the first round, Costa Rica had to submit two methodological variants to the ART/TREES secretariat in June. In early December, although the ART secretariat had not yet responded to Costa Rica's methodological variants request, the country officially sent Aster Global the second report of findings, as well as the registration document (2017-2021) and monitoring document (2017-2019) adjusted in track changes. This was done with the clarification to Aster Global that the findings related to the two methodological variants requests were still pending and the request for a meeting between Aster Global and the ART Secretariat was made to address the findings related to these variants and avoid a third round of findings. Also, during 2024, several technical meetings have been held with FONAFIFO and the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) to define the scope of the national carbon registry considering the methodological challenge of various standards coexisting in the country (i.e., FCPF, ART/TREES) with different methodologies, and to ensure that there is no double counting. FONAFIFO and INM reviewed a UNDP digital public good open-

source platform to host the national carbon registry. They decided to use this platform for national-level reporting in all NDC sectors, including the forest sector. Therefore, a kick-off workshop with FONAFIFO, IMN, MINAE, and UNDP (digital innovation team, climate and forest team, and country office) was held during the third quarter to exchange information on the current national systems and analysis of the feasibility of adapting the existing information from the transparency registry (SINAMECC) to this national carbon registry platform. However, the analysis showed that the proposed digital public good open-source platform was not the best vehicle to register the results from different sources of REDD+ results in the country (ART/TREES, FCPF, GCF). Therefore, FONAFIFO agreed to look for an alternative solution in 2025.

### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

As part of the dissemination of knowledge management, the webinar ‘Methodologies in COS’ was organized, with the participation of more than 100 online attendees, reflecting a high level of interest in the subject. In addition, an article entitled ‘Soil organic carbon and climate change mitigation’ was prepared for the magazine El Observador, with the aim of highlighting the role of soil carbon as a key tool for climate mitigation in Costa Rica.

### **Challenges and solutions**

Progress has been affected by delays in the review process by the designated verification body, which has not fully adhered to the planned schedule. Additionally, uncertainty around the timing for revision of methodological variants by the ART Secretariat has posed challenges for effective planning and next steps.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Within the support provided to Costa Rica on the ART TREES validation and verification process, clarifications and responses provided included a range of gender elements. These ranged from highlighting that inclusion of gender-sensitive development strategies will support larger SDG goals such as poverty eradication to noting that gender equality is a cornerstone of the country’s PES Programme, in which there is a growing number of women landowners and farmers signing PES contracts. It also noted that this inclusion not only empowers women economically but also integrates their leadership in conservation efforts, creating more sustainable and equitable outcomes. In addition, the “Safeguards Lab” initiative, led by the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity, a dedicated discussion focused on gender and social impacts was held.

### **Partnerships**

UN-REDD activities continued to strengthen synergies with complementary initiatives, including FCPF, ART/TREES, and the GCF Results-Based Payments (RBP) project. These linkages aim to ensure alignment with safeguard requirements and enable the direct flow of climate finance to indigenous territories for the implementation of their territorial plans. Efforts also advanced in building inter-institutional collaboration to support the development of a national strategy for implementing Territorial Forest Action Plans (PAFTs). Partnerships were expanded across multiple sectors, including economic planning, labour, rural development, and local governance, reinforcing the integration of REDD+ objectives into broader development agendas.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD’s TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15. In addition, UN-REDD TA contributes indirectly to SDGs 1 and 5.

## Côte d'Ivoire

Delayed

### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

Côte d'Ivoire is actively committed to the implementation of REDD+, demonstrated through various initiatives at different levels. The country has ongoing actions that focus on strengthening and operationalizing the elements of the UNFCCC framework for REDD+. UN-REDD technical assistance focused on consolidating key elements of the national REDD+ framework to enable future access to results-based payments for emission reductions. Support included a review of the updated Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) following its submission to the UNFCCC, an analysis of institutional needs to strengthen the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and an update of the national REDD+ investment framework. These efforts aim to enhance access to both public and private finance and accelerate the implementation of REDD+ actions. Based on a nationwide assessment of potential emission reductions and the country's interest in leveraging additional fundings through their valorisation, a new evaluation has been planned and is ongoing using ART-TREES methodologies, following technical discussions with Emergent. Initial analysis suggests a national approach may be more suitable than a jurisdictional one. However, the final decision will be made by the country after completing the ongoing detailed assessment, considering the emissions reductions already achieved through the Tâi programme in the western region. Additionally, the country has started to establish a national zero-deforestation platform to enhance synergies and share results and lessons learned from the implementation of REDD+ projects and initiatives.

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

UN-REDD has deployed continuous support to the Ivorian government's efforts in enhancing its forest and climate framework within a highly dynamic national context. UN-REDD TA was provided for the development of the institutional and policy frameworks, along with the infrastructure for the operationalization of carbon markets in Cote d'Ivoire. Specifically, an Article 6 policy framework was developed, along with a carbon market registry.

In addition, technical support has been provided for the recent establishment of the Carbon Market Office. Additional technical legal assistance was provided to the Carbon Market office to inform the development of the draft climate change framework law, focusing on carbon market and carbon rights aspects. The framework law provides the basis to develop policies and strategies to combat climate change; aims to improve climate governance, coordination and institutional cooperation, to set up the institutional framework related to carbon markets, to facilitate access to and mobilization of climate finance and clarifies the ownership of carbon credits.

A package of comments was submitted to the national counterpart, aiming to improve its contents with a focus on the definitions, principles, objectives, measures to mitigate climate change focusing on the AFOLU sector, the role of key actors, including LCs & their customary rights, in addition to carbon market and ERs titles. In response to the government's request through SEP-REDD+, additional inputs were provided during the revision of secondary instruments aimed at implementing the law. These include draft decrees for (1) establishing the national climate change panel, (2) creating and defining the functioning of the Climate Change National Authority, (3), establishing the Carbon Market Authority, (4) organizing the National Commission to combat climate change and (5) organizing the Climate Change Expert Group.

Those contributions are part of broader efforts to refine key elements outlined in the roadmap for accessing climate finance and regulate the functioning of carbon markets in the country.

### **Challenges and solutions**

The establishment of a Carbon Market Office marks a dynamic shift in the national context, though the agency's structure remains unclear. SEPREDD is expected to integrate into this agency soon, but its specific roles and responsibilities in mitigation efforts are yet to be defined. UN-REDD technical assistance is closely monitoring these developments and tailoring its support to align with the evolving needs of both institutions. Emergent's interest is a positive opportunity for the country. However, technical considerations must guide any decision about involvement. Given inconsistencies in emissions reduction (ER) calculation methodologies across financial institutions, adopting the most rigorous methodology is recommended. Exploring all available options thoroughly before deciding is also crucial.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

In Côte d'Ivoire, gender considerations were partially integrated into several UN-REDD activities in 2024, particularly in relation to the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy and the development of a jurisdictional approach. Women were specifically invited to participate in consultation workshops, and their contributions were acknowledged in the refinement of methodologies for zero-deforestation initiatives. Some deliverables also considered practices implemented by women in the design of technical assistance. TA support on the draft climate change framework law also included providing guidance on the role of key actors, including local communities and their customary rights, in addition to carbon market and ERs titles.

However, gender integration was inconsistent across activities. For instance, while women were included in legal support meetings related to carbon rights, other activities lacked gender-sensitive design, disaggregated data collection, or a dedicated gender budget. These gaps highlight the need for more systematic integration of gender perspectives in both technical and policy-related interventions.

### **Partnerships**

Partnership with national institutions including Ministries and their agencies, EUREDD-Facility, the World Bank the German Development agencies, and projects such as the FAO-GCF PROMIRE project, the Thai ER Programme, the Cocoa and Forest Initiative among others has been strengthened. Internationally, UN-REDD facilitated also a connection and the technical exchanges between the Government and Emergent.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Delayed

### REDD+ implementation

Completion of a comprehensive analysis identifying the needs for institutionalizing the National Forest Monitoring System (SNSF). This analysis highlights key challenges, including (i) the strengthening of intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination and (ii) enhancing collaboration between sectors and technical/financial partners. A critical issue identified is the need for strong political and operational leadership to ensure all stakeholders can effectively fulfil their roles based on the new legal, technical, and financial frameworks to be developed.

A preliminary needs assessment for strengthening the MRV system in the province of Tshuapa was conducted. A capacity-building plan was outlined, emphasizing the necessity of establishing a provincial task force. The primary challenge identified is ensuring the political, institutional and technical anchoring of this task force to enable effective implementation. UN-REDD TA was provided for the development and effective implementation of FONAREDD portfolio of investment programs. This includes the formulation of a new investment program on commodity value chain and the restructuring of the PI-REDD Oriental to ensure smooth completion of program activities.

The implementation of the business incubation programme (restoration factory) to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to develop bankable projects contributing to emissions reduction is progressing well despite the initial delay. Contracting the firm Bridge for Billions to provide the platform for the capacity-building was completed, the selection of the local partner (La Creation Hub); and the selection of the participants (SME) and mentors is ongoing and will be completed in January 2025. Advanced discussions also took place between the DRC REDD+ Secretariat and UN-REDD on establishing the REDD+ Registry for the country to complement the USFS support towards that endeavour and for strengthening the country's Safeguards Information System (SIS), which ceased to be functional.

### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

The analysis on the benefit-sharing mechanism highlights several key aspects: (i) the strengths and weaknesses of existing benefit-sharing plans and mechanisms in DRC (ii) the institutional arrangements, systems or channels, and political and legal structures and instruments enabling the distribution of financial and non-financial net benefits from REDD+ programs; (iii) the parameters (criteria/indicators) influencing the design of a national benefit-sharing mechanism. The findings will serve as the foundation for the development of a comprehensive national guide on REDD+ benefits sharing in the DRC.

Technical support for the ART-TREES submission focused on issues related to carbon rights. An assessment of the progress at the national level regarding forest carbon rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was made, especially since the submission of the concept note to the LEAF Coalition in July 2021. The analysis highlights the establishment of the Carbon market regulatory authority (Decree No. 23/22 of June 14, 2023, establishing, organizing, and defining the functions of the "Carbon Market Regulatory Authority), with no direct effect currently on the carbon right itself. Ordinance No. 23/007 of March 3, 2023, amending and supplementing Law No. 11/009 of July 9, 2011, on fundamental principles related to environmental protection was also adopted but with no effect directly on carbon markets. UN-REDD TA supported the development of a successful USD 3 million project proposal on carbon markets and NDC implementation, funded by CAFI. The project is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2025, aimed at strengthening the policy and institutional framework, as well as infrastructure on carbon markets and NDC in the country. UN-REDD TA was also provided for stakeholder consultations, to

conduct a study on safeguards and an emissions reference level; and to develop a concept note as part of ART-TREES certification process for the Haut Uele REDD+ Investment Programme.

### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions During the webinar "Review of forest rights for local communities to improve access to REDD+ funding: Case of the Democratic Republic of Congo" a presentation was delivered to introduce the newly developed technical note. The note, based on analyses conducted in the DRC, aims to ensure equitable access to REDD+ climate financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It examines legal frameworks, including the 2022 law recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and provides practical recommendations for aligning national policies with international climate commitments. The presentation offered valuable insights to empower local communities and strengthen their participation in climate mitigation efforts. Support was provided to FONAREDD for implementing an innovative South-South cooperation investment program to enhance NDC implementation in the LULUCF sector.

### **Challenges and solutions**

Institutionalizing SNSF requires strong political and operational leadership to engage all stakeholders effectively. Continued technical assistance is key to helping the government establish sustainable mechanisms backed by clear legal, institutional, and technical frameworks. However, limited resources at the REDD+ Secretariat and delays in processing technical assistance have hindered coordination. Strengthening institutional capacity and securing predictable funding, especially for essential operations like the Safeguards Information System (SIS), would enhance access to Results-Based Finance (RBF). To support these efforts, UN-REDD is finalizing the recruitment of a Technical Advisor in Kinshasa, expected to be in place by early February 2025, to strengthen national REDD+ coordination and accelerate progress.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

UN-REDD undertook a range of activities to support the integration of a gender and Social Inclusion approach within TA activities within the DRC. It was among 11 countries that attended the Regional Exchange and Learning Lab on "strengthening social Inclusion in REDD+ implementation", organized by UN-REDD and the African Forest Forum (AFF). Basic concepts and policy frameworks to promote gender equality and women empowerment and social inclusion in REDD+ were shared with participants. In addition, an Info brief on the rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in forests was developed, in which emphasis was also placed on women's participation and rights within it. At the launch event for the Info brief, a woman was part of the presentation panel, women's associations were targeted as participants, and FAO technical experts directly involved in the webinar presentation were all women. Furthermore, within the support on strengthening of the MRV at the jurisdictional level, it was identified that there was a gap in the number of women who have the necessary technical skills to work on the topic.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Ecuador

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest Solutions Realised**

UN-REDD has strengthened MRV systems and compliance with international standards. Carbon measurement methodologies have been improved, supporting sustainable land use and deforestation-free production. Two new projects—one backed by UK DEFRA and another by Giorni, build on REDD+ achievements, promoting conservation and sustainable development. Lessons learned from PROAmazonía have been incorporated into the national forestry strategy and the second NDC, ensuring continuity of efforts. Innovative carbon accounting models in cacao and coffee production help maintain deforestation-free practices. Five grants support Planes de Vida, advancing reforestation and social inclusion. A Technical Management Committee furthers collaboration between the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the finance sector to secure concessional climate financing and link REDD+ funding opportunities to national investment plans. A road map outlining the country's actions to comply with international regulations and standards on deforestation-free chains was developed. It was built with the input of key national institutions and presented to the Interinstitutional Committee on Sustainable Production and Trade.

Ecuador's innovative deforestation-free coffee initiative has gained international recognition, showcased at the NY Climate Promise event and Lavazza's 20th Anniversary. Knowledge materials and lessons learned have been widely shared. Sustainable product lines from Guido Gobino, Paccari, Silva Cacao, and Lavazza highlight Ecuador's leadership in deforestation-free supply chains.

Related to the carbon accounting, UN-REDD provided support on the quality control of the country's new data sets from deforestation and forest degradation, with recommendations for enhancing the Standard Operation Procedures in a stepwise approach. The data cleansing routines and protocols of the first and second National Forest Assessment (ENF) for the calculation of new emission factors next year. The government was trained in using data cleansing protocols.

#### **Forest Solutions Rewarded**

Ecuador has accessed results-based finance through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), KfW, and ongoing negotiations for the LEAF Coalition, with strong UN-REDD support. Ecuador will begin the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) process in 2025 as part of its ART/TREES compliance, ensuring high-integrity emissions reductions. UN-REDD has provided technical assistance in preparing for the VVB process and negotiations under the LEAF Coalition to facilitate market access and long-term sustainability. Additionally, efforts have been made to ensure benefit-sharing mechanisms are effectively integrated into results-based payments.

#### **Forest Solutions Enhanced**

Ecuador has developed a national roadmap for deforestation-free commodity compliance, securing international market access for coffee, cacao, and palm oil. Private sector engagement has grown, with key brands joining sustainability efforts. UN-REDD has improved monitoring methodologies and emission factor calculations, supporting Ecuador's participation in global forums like Climate Week and the European Coffee Association. UN-REDD has played a key role in developing Ecuador's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), ensuring AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use), REDD+, and

Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) perspectives are fully integrated. Stakeholder consultations have helped align REDD+ with Ecuador's climate commitments, ensuring inclusive decision-making. UN-REDD has also supported Ecuador in aligning its national deforestation-free certification with evolving international regulations, such as the EU deforestation-free supply chain regulations.

### Challenges and Opportunities

Ecuador faces political complexities and security risks in agricultural areas, making conservation efforts more difficult. Institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement after the election requires strategic alignment to ensure the continuity of sustainability policies. Financial sustainability remains a challenge, requiring the expansion of concessional climate finance and the strengthening of the Green Credit Lines Committee. Adapting to evolving trade regulations like the EU deforestation-free supply chain rules is essential to maintain market access. The necessary work to implement ART/TREES and LEAF also remains a challenge, requiring robust governance structures, technical capacity, and financial resources to ensure compliance and long-term benefits, which are critical to advancing Ecuador's climate finance pathway. Methodological consistency among data sets with new technology improvements is challenging for the consistency in the monitoring process. Despite these challenges, Ecuador has notable opportunities. A robust and evolving NDC presents an opportunity to align conservation commitments with financial mechanisms. The development of a new REDD+ Action Plan will ensure structured progress in sustainability. Ecuador has successful models in deforestation-free production and green credit lines that can be scaled. Multi-sector collaboration, including government agencies, private companies, and financial institutions, presents an ideal scenario to align strategies and advance a balanced sustainability agenda. Furthermore, the implementation of ART/TREES and LEAF offers a significant opportunity to strengthen Ecuador's position in climate finance, securing long-term funding and reinforcing the country's leadership in deforestation-free supply chains. On the other hand, transparency in technical documentation (SOPs) related to methodology improvements on carbon accounting have been strongly recommended.

### Gender and social inclusion

UN-REDD has prioritized gender equality and social inclusion as cross-cutting components of REDD+ implementation in Ecuador. Efforts have focused on ensuring that women, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable communities are not only beneficiaries but active agents in the design, implementation, and monitoring of forest-based solutions. Gender-responsive approaches have been integrated into the REDD+ Action Plan and the updated NDC, reinforcing inclusive governance and equitable benefit-sharing. Through targeted technical assistance, capacities of women-led and indigenous organizations have been strengthened, enabling their participation in policy dialogues, forest monitoring activities, and sustainable value chains such as deforestation-free coffee and cacao.

The promotion of Planes de Vida as part of REDD+ implementation has been instrumental in enhancing social inclusion. These community-driven life plans prioritize cultural values, traditional knowledge, and territorial governance, aligning with climate goals while empowering indigenous communities to define their own development pathways. Efforts to scale deforestation-free production have also emphasized inclusivity, ensuring that women and indigenous producers benefit from climate finance and sustainable market access. Inclusive business models and green credit lines have helped integrate smallholders—particularly women and youth—into high-value supply chains, generating income while protecting forests. UN-REDD has supported these processes by linking social inclusion with the broader financial agenda, promoting mechanisms that reduce barriers to finance for underrepresented groups and ensure their access to fair economic opportunities. Notably, the partnership with FAPECAFES supported over 70,000 producers—40 per cent of whom are women—through improved infrastructure and access to markets. These initiatives were supported by staff with gender expertise and backed by the collection of gender-disaggregated data to monitor impacts.

Additionally, efforts to involve women in technical activities such as emissions estimation and training workshops were evident, with terms of reference explicitly including gender considerations. Knowledge products and workshops have also highlighted the role of women and youth in forest conservation, fostering a more participatory and just transition to sustainable land-use practices. By mainstreaming gender and social equity, Ecuador's REDD+ efforts are building a foundation for more resilient, inclusive, and community-driven climate solutions. The country also demonstrates a proactive and structured approach to gender mainstreaming, supported by targeted expertise and measurable outreach.

### **Partnerships**

Ecuador collaborates with multiple stakeholders, including government institutions, private companies, indigenous communities, and international organizations, to enhance climate finance and conservation efforts. Key partners include UK DEFRA, the European Union, Giorni, and private sector companies such as Lavazza, Paccari, and Silva Cacao. Additionally, multiple sectors, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Production, and the finance sector—both national and international, public and private—play a crucial role in fostering synergies for sustainable development. UN-REDD strengthens collaboration with financial institutions, sustainability-driven enterprises, and market-based solutions to scale up deforestation-free initiatives, integrating them into national policies and investment plans.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Ethiopia

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### Forest solutions realised

In close coordination with the FAO MRV Phase II Project, UN-REDD supported a range of strategic activities including field data collection to update forest biomass; facilitation of neutral technical dialogue sessions; capacity-building initiatives focused on the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and advanced tools such as Open Foris Arena; and technical assistance in calculating the geographical extent of REDD+ interventions. By leveraging the FAO MRV Phase II project, UN-REDD continues to enhance the integrity and readiness of Ethiopia's forest MRV framework within the broader REDD+ architecture. The National REDD+ MRV Capacity Consolidation and Strengthening project (UTF/ETH/118/ETH) commonly referred to as the "MRV Phase II Project" is implemented by Ethiopia Forestry Development (EFD) with Technical Assistance from FAO under Norwegian funding. The project runs from January 2022 to June 2025. A 12-months costed extension is in the pipeline with expected new NTE date 30/06/2026. The project strengthens national capacity for Measuring, Reporting and Verification on forest resources of Ethiopia for a possible Ethiopian participation in results-based payments for carbon sequestration through REDD+.

#### Forest solutions rewarded

UN-REDD has contributed to raising awareness and strengthening national capacities on the reporting requirements under ART-TREES, emphasizing how these align with and support Ethiopia's broader REDD+ framework. A series of technical exchanges and capacity-building sessions engaged experts from federal and regional government agencies, as well as academic institutions. These sessions included targeted trainings on the calculation of REDD+ activity areas, using the 2012–2022 period as a practical test case, and the determination of a crediting level under the ART-TREES standard. Additional workshops and trainings are planned for 2025, to be conducted following the completion of Activity Data (AD) and Emission Factor (EF) collection under the MRV Phase II Project. These efforts aim to further solidify Ethiopia's technical readiness for high-integrity, jurisdictional-scale carbon crediting and access to results-based finance.

#### Forest solutions enhanced

UN-REDD has supported critical field data collection activities under Ethiopia's MRV Phase II Project across four key regions: Sidama, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, and South West Ethiopia. These efforts are part of a nationwide effort to survey 1,096 Sample Units (SUs), which form the empirical basis for updating biomass estimates and Emission Factors across Ethiopia's four major forest biomes. By the end of December 2024, a total of 323 SUs, representing 29% of the national target, had been attempted. However, approximately 25% of these units were found to be inaccessible due to environmental and logistical challenges.

Looking ahead, EFD intends to use the Open Foris Arena platform for stock determination and analysis of the MRV Phase II data, marking a strategic shift toward more integrated and digital forest inventory workflows. To support this transition, UN-REDD facilitated the participation of EFD's National Forest Inventory team in the regional Arena training held in Lusaka, which offered a structured introduction to both Arena and Arena Mobile. This training not only enhanced technical competencies but also encouraged valuable peer learning and regional networking among participating countries. To ensure continuity and institutional sustainability beyond the life of the MRV Phase II project, additional training

sessions for EFD staff are planned for 2025, further embedding the use of Arena in Ethiopia's long-term forest monitoring strategy.

### **Challenges and solutions**

Ethiopia's MRV Phase II project has faced delays in collecting Activity Data and Emission Factors. In response to that, the focus has been to reinforce technical expertise, improving data collection methods, and strengthening institutional coordination. These efforts are crucial for ensuring accurate emissions tracking, advancing Ethiopia's REDD+ commitments, while promoting sustainable forest management.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

While UN-REDD support in Ethiopia in 2024 was more technical in nature, gender disaggregated was collected for the range of workshops that took place. To illustrate, within the technical dialogue session on the MRV Phase II project, 9 women and 16 men attended. However, for the June 2024 workshop on facilitating awareness of reporting requirements under ART-TREES, of the 21 participants in attendance, none were women. This illustrates a continued need of UN-REDD to work with Ethiopia to ensure increased participation of women within supported activities.

### **Partnerships**

Under the MRV Phase II project, EFD (Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission - EFCCC) serves as the implementing partner, overseeing the project's execution on the ground. Meanwhile, FAO ensures coordination and leverages actions with UN-REDD, providing technical assistance, supporting the development and enhancement of MRV systems for forest resources and emissions tracking.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Ghana

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

With support from UN-REDD, Ghana has significantly advanced its progress in meeting REDD+ investment programme goals and participating in global carbon markets. This has been achieved by developing a benefit sharing framework for Ghana's participation in these markets and by addressing the non-conformances and clarification requests raised during the ART-TREES Validation and Verification process, which is set to continue into 2025. Additionally, to further support the implementation of Ghana's REDD+ initiatives, a framework for assessing and classifying REDD+ costs at the jurisdictional level, originally planned for 2024, is now scheduled for implementation in 2025. The capacity to estimate forest emission reductions has seen substantial improvement through UN-REDD facilitated technical capacity development in applying Monte Carlo uncertainty assessments, ensuring Ghana meets TREES eligibility requirements. This enhancement strengthens the credibility and accuracy of Ghana's emissions data and aids Ghana's ability to achieve its REDD+ goals. Furthermore, the collection of pilot plot measurements in savannah areas, initially planned for 2024 as part of a broader National Forest Inventory (NFI), aimed to improve the quality of Emission Factors for the TREES standard. The rescheduling of this activity to 2025 will ensure better alignment with national priorities.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Work was carried out to develop a benefit sharing framework and a bespoke benefit sharing plan for the TREES area in Ghana. The TREES area is a subnational area covering 63 per cent of Ghana's total forest area. It is comprised of 10 regions in the south-western part of the country. These include Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta, Western and Western North. Seven out of nine regions (excluding Greater Accra) were visited and discussions were held with stakeholders including with regards to the previous experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Benefit Sharing Plan developed for the Ghana's participation in the FCPF's Carbon Fund. Participants included community stakeholders, public sector, private sector, and civil society/ non-governmental organizations. The consultations involved information and awareness on the ART/TREES and LEAF process and identification of challenges, bottlenecks and opportunities for effective public and private sector participation in the LEAF process.

Stakeholders who were engaged in REDD+ activities and forest management that have contributed to emission reduction or removal in the TREES area were mapped. Their inputs, with a focus on gender responsiveness for the benefit-sharing arrangements was sought. The engagements resulted in a draft of the Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP). In February 2025, final consultations will be held (to include the stakeholders from all the Regions) and the BSP will be validated in a national workshop in early 2025 and used for the distribution of the first LEAF payments to Ghana as per the ERPA signed in December 2023 through UNDP as the Financial Intermediary. As part of UNDP's Financial Intermediary role, work with the Forestry Commission (FC) advanced the process on the project document development and a results framework that relates to key performance indicators for the use of proceeds. The first expected payment for the serialized TREES credits validated by ART is approximately US\$ 20 million. Discussions continued with Emergent on a financing agreement which will be signed in the first quarter of 2025. A draft project document was completed in 2024 which lays out the activities that will be undertaken with the use of proceeds. It will be finalized and signed together with a performance-based payment agreement in the second quarter of 2025.

The legal and technical assistance provided in the ongoing Validation & Verification process for the TREES Registration Document and Monitoring Report has strengthened Ghana's ability to engage in forest carbon market transactions and meet ART-TREES eligibility requirements. Moreover, UN-REDD's support over the years, has helped improve Ghana's regulatory framework for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and carbon trading, enabling better alignment with the country's REDD+ strategy and the ART-TREES standard. The review of existing forestry-related legal instruments as well as analyses and studies addressing carbon and land tenure issues have resulted in clearer insights into carbon ownership and benefit-sharing arrangements. This support will extend into 2025, where the legal analysis and recommendations provided by UN-REDD are expected to contribute to (i) the drafting or revision of a proposal regulating the institutional/regulatory arrangements of the MRV/NFMS and (ii) the establishment of the relevant institutional arrangements to facilitate the registration and transfer of mitigation results at national and international level (ITMOs).

After the signing of the ERPA with Emergent, UN-REDD supported the FC to address the comments and queries on safeguards from Aenor (the verification and validation body) following two rounds of reviews - the first in July-August and the second in October-November 2024. In addition, continuous support was provided to strengthen capacities on safeguards application through regional stakeholder engagement meetings (in Nkoranza, Techiman, and Sunyani), which brought together 197 participants to discuss the LEAF Coalition and ART/TREES initiatives, and capacity-building training sessions. These efforts led to increased awareness and understanding of the LEAF and ART/TREES programs, and identified areas for improvement such as clearer communication, and further capacity building, which will continue in 2025.

Ghana will also be the first country in the world to receive funds from LEAF, with support from UN-REDD partnership. UNDP will act as its financial intermediary with Emergent.

### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

As a result of UN-REDD's efforts, Ghana has made significant advancements in assessing, accelerating and enhancing its NDC mitigation actions within the forest and land-use sectors. The development and piloting of an assessment framework to analyse Forestry Public Expenditure Reviews (PER) on forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable use have provided Ghana with a robust tool to evaluate and strengthen its financial and policy approaches to forest management.

### **Challenges and solutions**

A significant challenge during the ART-TREES Validation & Verification process has been the difficulty faced by the Ghana Forestry Commission in providing verifiable statistics, as required by ART-TREES, to demonstrate the annual conversion of non-forest to forest areas during the reference and crediting periods. This issue arises from a historical focus of the Ghana Forestry Commission on national-level statistics rather than maintaining detailed GIS records of newly planted areas, many of which are now challenging to locate or verify. To address this, UN-REDD has facilitated discussions with the VVB and the ART Secretariat to clarify the implications of this data gap and explore potential solutions to mitigate its impact and ensure compliance with ART-TREES requirements. Overall, the UN-REDD support to Ghana is on track and the country is developing as a regional and even global leader in achieving and reporting forest-based emission reductions. The progress is very demanding on the teams at Ghana FC, as they are engaged in multiple programmes to implement their REDD+ Strategy that are characterized by heavy technical processes. The success at which Ghana has been able to tap into climate finance opportunities through carbon markets including the FCPF Carbon Fund, comes with pressures on key personnel's time and energy at the Forestry Commission. As a result, some activities originally scheduled for 2024 had to be pushed into 2025. Good planning and timely notification of missions and interactions with FC, partners and consultants continue to be key.

## Gender and social inclusion

UN-REDD undertook a range of activities to support the integration of a gender and social inclusion approach within TA activities in Ghana. During the ART-TREES Validation and Verification process, the Government of Ghana was requested to demonstrate that all REDD+ actions align with the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, while also enhancing social and environmental benefits, as outlined in Cancun Safeguard E. The development of the benefit sharing plan (BSP) for Emergent included efforts to ensure that women and vulnerable groups participated in the discussions by organizing meetings at conducive times. The draft BSP integrates a social inclusion and gender approach and strives to ensure inclusivity through consultation based upon what is perceived to be a fair system of benefit sharing. To illustrate, the BSP sets targets and indicators for women's equitable involvement (with a required 30 per cent participation rate) in governance structures and as beneficiaries.

In addition, efforts were undertaken to support women's participation and collected gender-disaggregated data in related MRV capacity building work supported by UN-REDD. To illustrate, of the 17 participants, mostly from Ghana's Forestry Commission, involved in an MRV training, five were women (29 per cent%). Additionally, within UN-REDD efforts on an assessment framework to analyse Forestry Public Expenditure Review (PER) on forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, gender considerations were integrated during the background analysis and stakeholder engagement phases. Efforts were also made to ensure balanced participation in associated workshops and consultations.

## Partnerships

In 2024, Ghana continued to strengthen its international partnerships, building on its success from 2023, when it received its first Emission Reduction payment of US\$ 4,862,280 from the FCPF Carbon Fund for the first monitoring period (June to December 2019). In March 2024, the Validation Body confirmed 3,379,161 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in verified Emission Reductions for the second monitoring period (2020 and 2021) and the third Monitoring Report (2022 and 2023) is currently under review, with expected payments following successful validation. Furthermore, Ghana's partnership with Emergent, coordinator of the LEAF Coalition, continues to grow. The signed Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) positions Ghana as a leader in international climate finance and sustainable forest management. Upon successful completion of validation and verification ART will issue serialized TREES Credits from Ghana for the crediting period of 2017-2021. Ghana continues to implement the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project funded by the GCF with co-financing from the Government of Ghana, and private sector entities. The data from this project is relevant for activity data relating to northern savannah areas and contributes to the national emissions data and monitoring processes. Ghana also has engaged through the Forest Climate Leaders Partners, Canada funded project – the Gender Responsive Integrated Land Management Project (GRILMAP) in Ashanti Region project. This project is implemented by the Forestry Commission with support of UN-REDD and contributes to the continuing emissions reductions and removals in the TREES area.

## Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Indonesia

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

UN-REDD actively contributed to an Expert Meeting on Tropical Forest Monitoring Systems held in Bali, where it provided technical presentations and strategic support. Parallel to this, the Programme continued its collaboration with the Indonesia Environment Fund (IEF) to advance access to Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing for a green peatland economy initiative across five model areas. The concept note is currently undergoing its second-stage review. In addition, peatland restoration monitoring is ongoing, supported through complementary efforts by government and NGO partners working at different field data scales.

The “GREEN for Riau”, a new initiative UN-REDD programme supported by funding from the United Kingdom, was approved and began implementation in 2024. The initiative has delivered technical assistance on safeguards and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems for Riau Province. Specifically, support on safeguards included assisting Riau’s SIS (Safeguard Information System) reporting process, with the organization of a public consultation and validation workshop.

At the national level, recommendations for strengthening SIS architecture were shared, and a training session on safeguards was delivered to 10 provinces, aiming to harmonize subnational reporting capacities.

UN-REDD also sustained its institutional support to IEF in its GCF Readiness work as a Direct Access Accredited Entity, in close coordination with the UNDP GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) project, the World Bank, and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). These efforts run in parallel to the development of a Project-Specific Accreditation Agreement (PSAA) with GCF linked to the green peatland initiative mentioned above, positioning IEF as a key player in future REDD+ finance in Indonesia.

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

UN-REDD continued to advance enabling conditions for private sector engagement in jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives, including through the preparation of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) designed to align with Indonesian regulatory frameworks. A comparative assessment of Indonesia’s regulations against the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM) Assessment Framework was completed and shared with government counterparts. In parallel, a technical report on harmonizing Indonesia’s carbon market architecture was submitted to the government and relevant stakeholders to inform policy coherence and readiness for investment.

Under the GREEN for Riau, UN-REDD delivered two capacity-building workshops focused on REDD+ Results-Based Finance (RBF) mechanisms, targeting provincial stakeholders and facilitating improved understanding of investment readiness and compliance standards.

In support of the Climate and Resilience Fund (CRF), UN-REDD played a catalytic role in enhancing its investment profile. This included identifying a pipeline of 20 Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) projects, developing an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, and drafting a comprehensive Policy Investment Framework. Additionally, in collaboration with IEF, UN-REDD supported the establishment of rules, guidelines, and operational modalities for a Sharia-compliant Revolving Fund

Facility (RFF). This innovative financial mechanism is using standing timber as collateral, thereby providing a financial incentive to delay or avoid timber harvesting, and encouraging sustainable forest stewardship aligned with Islamic finance principles.

### **Forest solutions enhanced**

A technical UN-REDD Discussion Paper [Leveraging Results-Based Payments from the Private Sector to Fulfil Indonesia's NDC Targets](#) was developed to inform ongoing policy dialogue on the integration of private finance into national climate strategies. The paper was formally shared with the Government of Indonesia as a contribution to high-level discussions on aligning jurisdictional REDD+ efforts with private sector Results-Based Payments (RBP), with the aim of accelerating progress towards Indonesia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

### **Challenges and solutions**

Following Indonesia's general election in early 2024, a new government administration was officially inaugurated on 20 October. As part of the post-election restructuring, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) was split into two separate entities: the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment. This structural change is expected to influence the direction and pace of environmental and climate policy implementation, including advancing policies to access Results-Based Finance (RBF) for REDD+. However, substantive policy decisions are anticipated only in 2025, once the new institutional configurations are fully operational and leadership appointments are finalized. To maintain continuity and alignment with evolving regulatory frameworks and in line with updated national regulations on international cooperation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNEP and the former MoEF, pursuant to MoEF Decision 134/2023 (February 2023). The MoU provides a high-level framework outlining mutual intent to collaborate on climate and environmental priorities. To operationalize this partnership, a separate legal instrument called Implementation Arrangement (IA) will be signed in 2025.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

UN-REDD undertook a range of activities to support the integration of a gender and social inclusion approach within TA activities in Indonesia. For example, within support provided to IEF's readiness as GCF Direct Access Accredited Entity, guidance was provided to assess if and how IEF's institutional gender approach is compatible with GCF's. Within the design and training activities related to a spatial groundwater level (GWL) model for national peatland restoration, efforts were also taken to ensure gender balance among participants, moderators, and facilitators, as well as among the workshop and field trip invitees. In addition, in the Riau province, UN-REDD worked closely with the NGOs representing the local communities to ensure strong social inclusion in the safeguards work. For the Sharia-compliant RFF, UN-REDD, in partnership with the IEF, targeted communities and agroforestry groups to ensure these loans address gaps in traditional financing while promoting gender equality.

### **Partnerships**

UN-REDD organized several knowledge exchanges, including on Balancing Public-Private Interests in Indonesia's Carbon Markets with the Government's Transition Team, on Harmonizing Indonesia's Carbon Markets with key partners, and jointly with the UK government on the Future of Indonesia's Carbon Markets and Climate Finance and with Development Partners and Donor countries on Article 6 and Implications for Indonesia. UN-REDD actively engages the UN Resident Coordinator in political dialogues.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Kenya

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

UN-REDD focused on enhancing Kenya's capacity to measure forest area changes and associated emissions. From November 11-29, a training workshop at the Kenya Forest Service headquarters taught participants the Probability Map Subtraction (PROMS) methodology for analysing forest cover changes from 2016 to 2023. This resulted in a point sampling dataset for visual interpretation of forest changes, with findings to be shared with stakeholders in early 2025. Additionally, Kenyan participants engaged in a South-South Knowledge Exchange in Rome, presenting their climate strategies and collaborating on forest monitoring challenges. However, delays in annual monitoring prevented results from being presented to the REDD+ Technical Working Group in 2024, with plans to address this in early 2025. UN-REDD funds supported the Government of Kenya in advancing its forest and climate policy framework, building on earlier UN-REDD assistance that contributed to the review and amendment of the Forest Policy in 2022, which was formally approved in 2023.

In 2024, there was a focus on the review of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 2016. The objective was to amend legislation relating to forest conservation and management in tandem with the global discourse on forests conservation and management. The process involved the following steps: preparation of a lay draft by a Ministerial Task Force; onboarding of a legal firm; discussions with policy makers and a technical working group; submission and review of a draft Bill and after further consultations, submission of the Bill for public comment. The Bill has proposed significant changes, including institutional arrangements, and will go through a process of public review and be published for this purpose in February 2025. Conservation International has supported stakeholder engagement meetings.

Kenya is also exploring bonds as an instrument for green finance, and a partnership has begun with the Kenya CPF Group to develop a Green Bond for sustainable forestry initiatives through the investment of Pension Funds. A joint mission with the UNDP's Sustainable Finance Hub enabled initial planning for the Green Bond Framework and Issuance. A key point was to define roles and responsibilities together with the investors, regulators and issuers; and identify gaps/needs and challenges. The partners in this process include the National Treasury, Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Kenya, the National Stock Exchange, and stakeholders from forestry programmes.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

The Kenyan Government is exploring participation in international carbon markets, through initiatives like the LEAF Coalition. A community of practice, funded through UK-PACT continues to support the Government to set in place the requirements to receive results-based payments from a jurisdictional REDD+ Programme. These include REDD+ benefit sharing, safeguards and plans for a REDD+ registry building on the enabling environment of the carbon markets regulations that were approved in 2023. UN-REDD is an active participant, facilitating synergies and collaboration. Recent training workshops have generated results that will be integrated into Kenya's existing activity data database, forming a foundational element for a carbon accounting system. This system is crucial for the country's strategy to secure results-based payments from LEAF and other market-based climate finance opportunities. A national consultation to present the findings on emission reductions and removals (ERRs) to the REDD+ Working Group will occur in 2025. Additionally, a draft review assessing Kenya's legal framework for the

ownership and transfer of ERRs under ART/TREES has been completed, but progress on addressing legal concerns and advancing discussions on title transfer is still to be done as engagement with government officials and partners continue.

### **Forest solutions enhanced**

Monitoring results associated with the work undertaken in late 2024 are yet to be finalized and as such the project has not had the opportunity to assess the impact the updated monitoring methodologies will have on Kenya's potential forest related mitigation outcomes. It is however well known that the NDC associated with forests need to be updated as they were initially derived from a forest reference level which made use of outdated methods and data. Recent updates to the Kenyan national forest monitoring system are in line with global best practices and should therefore better reflect annual emissions and potential emissions reductions from REDD+ related activities. Updates to the national forest monitoring system place Kenya in an excellent position to realize the full benefits of international climate finance. Kenya submitted its third national communication to the UNFCCC in 2024, and continues to emphasize that the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) plays a critical role in achieving the NDC. It notes that the sector is central to Kenya's climate action, providing significant mitigation potential through sustainable forest management, afforestation, reforestation, and landscape restoration initiatives.

### **Challenges and solutions**

While institutional pathways remain in flux following recent changes within the relevant ministry, engagement efforts have continued. Several stakeholder meetings were convened in 2024, though coordination under UN-REDD faced initial challenges due to leadership transitions and evolving institutional responsibilities. Continued engagement is underway to support the responsible ministry in advancing its objectives related to carbon markets. A critical next step is demonstrating tangible results and fostering consensus around a national REDD+ programme as a pathway to results-based payments. Improved data, expected by April 2025, will inform these efforts and serve as the foundation for a national REDD+ stakeholder workshop to review and validate findings.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

All activities prioritize a gender-based approach. To illustrate, for the training activities related to reporting of forest-related emissions and removals as well as on forest change area estimation aligned with TREES v2 standards, it was ensured that at least 30 per cent of the participants were women and youth and that training and monitoring activities were led by female participants. Additionally, the draft bill outlining revisions to the FCMA include a stipulation calling for the formulation of a national gender and intergenerational responsive public education and awareness strategy on climate change and implementation programme. Gender balance was also achieved in stakeholder consultations on scaling up climate and nature finance through Green Bonds, while the associated legal counsel from the CPF Group was a woman.

### **Partnerships**

Partnerships are the modus operandi for the work in Kenya. Given the policy documents and the upcoming submission of the updated NDC in 2025, there continues to be opportunities to bolster efforts for sustainable livelihoods whilst enhancing the AFOLU sector's contribution to emissions reductions and fostering community resilience and environmental sustainability. In this regards funding from UK-DEFRA supported 10 communities (five of them women-led) to implement the REDD+ Strategy, as well as enhancing youth engagement in NDC implementation. UN-REDD continues to support policy dialogues, based on earlier work on the development of Kenya's national REDD+ strategy, the safeguards framework, forest monitoring systems, and forest monitoring efforts to align with international climate standards such as ART/TREES and VCS JNR.

UN-REDD work closely with the Kenya Forest Service, the Directorate for Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing, Survey of Kenya, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and Conservation International as well as platforms such as the UK-PACT community of practice. Additional collaboration with the national designated authority for carbon markets in the National Environmental Management Authority is ongoing to advance integrity in carbon markets engagement. UN-REDD is also engaged in developing a Joint Programme on unlocking nature financing for biodiversity conservation for inclusive and sustainable economic prosperity with its UN partners - Resident Coordinator's office, UN Women, UNCDF, UNEP, and UNESCO. The objective is to attract sustainable financial solutions to biodiversity and forest conservation using a blended finance model.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Lao PDR

On track

### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

The Technical Working Group on safeguards was re-established and the first meeting held, which included capacity building by participants. The operationalism of the National safeguards information system progressed with revision of indicators and definition of institutional arrangements and other key features, such as IT solutions, comms aspects, etc. A draft ART-TREES safeguards assessment was prepared. Trainings to raise government capacity on carbon accounting using statistical tools (R software) were delivered which supports sustained national capacity to generate MRV data going forward.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Technical assistance to support the Department of Forestry in navigating the plethora of private VCM initiatives was provided in the form of policy advisory and structured workshop delivery. Support focused on unpacking the concept of high integrity forest carbon and identifying mechanisms and efforts to avoid pitfalls of potential low integrity initiatives. Support was also provided for a preliminary exercise of RBP potential estimation, using available data sets against the ART-TREES standard. Results indicate that Lao PDR's Southern jurisdiction could have positive results for the period of 2019-2021 (years of data availability).

### Challenges and solutions

Lao PDR's forestry sector is faced with the emergence of a plethora of private VCM initiative interests as well as potential Paris Agreement 6.2 negotiations. Requests from the Department of Forestry for advisory on how to deal with such private interests continued to dominate much of the discussions. Against this backdrop, the UN-REDD TA organized several structured efforts to unpack the concept of integrity, and associated risks of potential low integrity carbon initiatives. Despite the efforts, persistent governance challenges remain, such as ensuring rules of law. The national fiscal crisis adds to this challenge and can risk national commitments including the country's NDC. The UN-REDD is supporting the institutionalization of a national PES mechanism that has potential to yield sustained income to the forestry sector's rural poor, to ensure a more sustainable basis for sustainable forest management and REDD+ results.

### Gender and social inclusion

Most actions under the TA 2024 targeted government agencies at the national level, hence participants and beneficiaries were largely limited to government officials. Nevertheless, in activities organized by UN-REDD, at least 30 per cent of participants were women. For the ART-TREES gap assessment, information on gender was included in assessing whether Lao PDR meets the safeguards requirements. This included gender disaggregated data in benefit sharing, and policies for and evidence of the full and effective participation of women in REDD+ implementation. The revised indicators and criteria for the national SIS include a criterion on for reporting specifically on gender: 'Lao REDD+ actions enhance gender equality', as well as gender being mentioned in other criteria (e.g., for benefit sharing and stakeholder participation).

Topics addressed through the TA 2024 also included social integrity of forest carbon, through which awareness was raised on approaches for effective engagement and consultation with ethnic groups and poor households.

## **Partnerships**

The UN-REDD TA 2024 engaged with partners, under the coordination of the Department of Forestry. RBP potential estimation was conducted in close coordination and collaboration with the F-REDD2 project of JICA, while a regional training on carbon accounting was co-organized with the US Forestry Service and Silva Carbon. A Mekong regional workshop on social integrity in forest carbon was co-organized with the Mekong Regional Land Governance (MRLG) initiative. On-going regular coordination was seen throughout including with related project initiatives of RECOFTC Laos, GGGI, the UN RC and UNCT system, the World Bank, GIZ, and others.

## **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD 's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Mexico

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

Mexico has strengthened its forest monitoring capacities through targeted training and collaboration. A workshop on optimizing sampling design using SEPAL's eSBAE tool enhanced early deforestation alert capabilities for 15 national specialists. A webinar on community-led data collection engaged 300+ participants, showcasing Mexico's leadership in forest inventories. Additionally, a training on Open Foris Arena improved CONAFOR's data collection efficiency, reinforcing sustainable MRV practices. These efforts advance high-quality, policy-relevant monitoring, supporting results-based payment mechanisms and ensuring accurate forest-based GHG emission reductions.

In the area of safeguards, UN-REDD supported the review of the Second Summary of Safeguard Information. Additionally, documents were reviewed, and feedback was provided for the documents outlining an integrated safeguard reporting strategy, prepared by CONAFOR's safeguards team. UN-REDD also collaborated with the government counterpart to design an initial work plan outlining priorities and potential funding to strengthen safeguards capacities for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women, to be implemented in 2025. Mexico has also made notable progress in implementing its REDD+ National Strategy (ENAREDD+) and advancing its MRV systems, enabling accurate assessment of forest sector performance toward climate goals. Furthermore, Mexico is the first country to operationalize a REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS), with ongoing updates to meet UNFCCC requirements. Key activities in 2024 include strengthening forest monitoring, enhancing MRV systems, and preparing for high-integrity forest carbon finance.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

UN-REDD has provided technical guidance to Mexico on meeting eligibility requirements for accessing results-based payments (RBP) for REDD+ under the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Key engagements included updates from the 38th GCF Board meeting, discussions with CONAFOR to identify and address eligibility gaps for submitting a Concept Note, and the interest of an informative session on "Debt for Climate and Nature Swaps" as a potential financing tool. A virtual meeting with CONAFOR's new UAIFF team allowed for continued discussions on aligning Mexico's priorities with GCF's evolving policy framework. Through a series of meetings with UN-REDD and CONAFOR, Mexico has worked to address gaps in RBP eligibility by submitting Concept Notes to the GCF. The country has made strides in accessing climate finance, with subnational entities like Jalisco and Quintana Roo submitting proposals under the LEAF Coalition and ART-TREES.

#### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

UN-REDD facilitated Mexico's participation in key international knowledge-sharing platforms to strengthen technical capacities for REDD+ implementation. Delegates from CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, and INEC actively engaged in exchanges such as the Lima Learning Lab, contributing to discussions on climate finance mechanisms. Additionally, CONAFOR's safeguards team participated in the UN-REDD Safeguards and Integrity Working Group, reinforcing their expertise on safeguard compliance. While the regional exchange on deforestation-free supply chains, initially planned with Ecuador, was postponed to 2025, Mexico remains committed to enhancing traceability frameworks and sustainable production strategies. Mexico also consolidated its nested approach to REDD+, integrating national and subnational

efforts to reduce deforestation. The country focused on enhancing the economic value of forests while promoting deforestation-free agricultural practices. In 2024, Mexico further strengthened its MRV systems, improved the quality of forest monitoring, and advanced safeguards reporting, including the publication of a second summary of safeguards information.

### **Challenges and solutions**

One of the key challenges in accessing results-based finance is aligning national priorities with evolving international eligibility criteria. UN-REDD addressed this by facilitating targeted technical exchanges, ensuring Mexico remains informed of policy updates and financing mechanisms. Additionally, institutional capacity-building efforts through safeguards discussions and climate finance workshops have strengthened Mexico's ability to meet compliance requirements. Limited resources and the need for clearer legal frameworks regarding the recognition of emissions reductions from forest conservation remain a challenge. Mexico is addressing these by pursuing international climate finance and advancing legal reforms to facilitate REDD+ funding access for subnational entities. Capacity-building efforts, such as workshops and training on MRV and safeguards, are also being prioritized to overcome technical and institutional barriers.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Mexico's REDD+ implementation actively integrates social inclusion and gender considerations by strengthening safeguards capacities for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women. Through collaboration with government counterparts, UN-REDD supported the development of an initial work plan to enhance their participation and ensure equitable access to capacity-building initiatives. The review of Mexico's Second Summary of Safeguard Information and the design of an integrated safeguard reporting strategy further reinforce transparency and accountability in addressing social and environmental risks. Additionally, Mexico's engagement in international knowledge-sharing platforms fosters inclusive decision-making by incorporating diverse perspectives into forest monitoring and climate finance strategies. Mexico continues to prioritize community-driven forest monitoring and inclusive decision-making processes in REDD+ initiatives. Engagement with indigenous and local communities ensures their active participation and recognition of land rights, fostering greater social inclusion in climate action. These efforts contribute to a more equitable REDD+ process, ensuring that historically marginalized groups benefit from forest conservation initiatives while actively participating in sustainable land management.

### **Partnerships**

Collaboration between UN-REDD, CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, and INEC has been instrumental in advancing Mexico's forest sector goals. Technical Assistance provided by UN REDD and knowledge-sharing platforms among REDD+ countries have provided technical insights and strategic guidance. Moving forward, Mexico seeks to leverage these partnerships to enhance access to climate finance and strengthen deforestation-free supply chains. Mexico's collaboration with subnational governments, like Jalisco and Quintana Roo, was also crucial for advancing jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives. Both states focus on sustainable land use, forest protection, and community-driven management, aligning with national climate targets. Their efforts integrate local governance into broader REDD+ strategies, enhancing emissions reductions and sustainable development.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Nepal

On track



### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

In 2024, UN-REDD supported Nepal in carbon accounting and safeguards capacity building to enable compliance with TREES standards for Nepal's LEAF initiative. The first summary of information on safeguards is now in a final draft and translated, as well as the benefit sharing plan for the LEAF initiative, including consultations. The Grievance Redress mechanism (GRM) was documented for further operationalization in 2025. In addition, UN-REDD supported Nepal in conducting a review of its National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) 2018, including a strong attention to safeguards.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Nepal submitted its TREES Registration Document to the ART Secretariat in September, marking a significant milestone in the LEAF process. UN-REDD supported this achievement through technical assessment regarding the LEAF pathway options for Nepal. Extensive stakeholder consultations were also carried out to ensure transparency, ownership, and alignment with national priorities. These consultations took place at multiple levels and involved diverse stakeholder groups, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Their feedback helped shape the documentation and supported the legitimacy and inclusiveness of the process.

### Challenges and solutions

Gaps were witnessed between the technical progress on the TREES registration document, and higher-level understanding and commitment to the LEAF ERPA negotiations within the government. 2024 also saw the Nepal government deliberating on and developing national institutions to engage with the Paris Agreement Article 6 provisions as well as voluntary carbon market initiatives. Hence there is still limited capacity within the government to fully appreciate the implication of different options and the requirements associated with them. The UN-REDD TA acted as flexibly as possible to attend to these gaps as requested by the government, but filling capacity gaps will need to be continued into 2025 and beyond in coordination with other support initiatives. It should also be noted that through efforts in the past decades, Nepal has successfully overcome much of its past deforestation challenges, and therefore the challenge going forward is to maintain this positive trend through restoration efforts as well as to address forest degradation. Identifying the right match of initiatives that can compensate for and continue to incentivize efforts of Nepal's unique forestry trajectory will also be important.

### Gender and social inclusion

With support from UN-REDD, significant efforts were taken to promote a social inclusion and gender approach, particularly in Nepal's LEAF initiative. A thorough process of consultations and FPIC was rolled out from national to community levels, actively engaging Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, and women at each opportunity. At least 39 per cent of stakeholders consulted, trained, or mobilized as resource persons in 2024 were women. In addition, for the ART-TREES monitoring document, information on gender is included in assessing whether Nepal meets the safeguards requirements. This includes on gender disaggregated data in benefit sharing, and policies for and evidence of the full and effective participation of women in REDD+ implementation. Nepal's criteria and indicators, which form the basis for the SOI, were recently revised and integrate gender and social inclusion considerations, including on gender-

sensitive policies, laws and regulations. Information on gender equality and the participation of women in REDD+ activities are also included in the sections providing evidence on how safeguards have been addressed and respected.

### **Partnerships**

UN-REDD continued its role as a trusted partner in the coordination of efforts to support the LEAF initiative in Nepal. Under the request and guidance of the REDD+ Implementation Centre of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, the UN-REDD TA facilitated technical coordination and collaboration among technical advisory providers including the US Forestry Service, the UK TAP service providers (Ricardo consortium), and actively engaged with partners such as the UK Embassy, the UN RC and UNCT system, and the World Bank among others.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD ´s TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Papua New Guinea

Delayed

### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

UN-REDD's support to PNG included support on updating land use, change assessment, data collection on deforestation, forest degradation and restoration areas for 2020-2022.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

UN-REDD continued to support the preparation of the ART-TREES Registration Document. Support included a lockdown session to support the safeguards and MRV technical teams on respective document sections, as well as dedicated follow-up engagement. The land use and land use change assessment for 2020-2022 was completed, and results assessed against the FRL/FREL. The result will be included in the monitoring report due in June 2025. UN-REDD provided support in the interactions with the LEAF Coalition, including discussions on the pathways and potential buyers for 2020 and 2021 results.

### Challenges and solutions

Challenges in PNG were numerous, with constant high logistics costs, capacity needs within the implementing government agencies, and other unexpected events. Despite these issues, the UN-REDD national coordinator, under the technical assistance, liaises directly with government counterparts to address challenges and needs. A detailed work plan for REDD+ activities for the country has been developed for 2025.

### Gender and social inclusion

Under UN-REDD TA in PNG, effort was placed on promoting a gender approach in SIS related work and in the preparation of the ART-TREES Registration Document. For example, gender balance was evident in SIS training workshops and associated meetings. For example, 32 participants attended the SIS training, of which 18 were males and 14 were females. In addition, nine females and 18 males participated in the REDD+ TWC meeting in July 2024. Gender is also considered in the revised safeguards indicators of PNG. To illustrate, Safeguard A mentions the need to consider gender in the implementation of REDD+ activities and Safeguard B mentions gender considerations in any resettlement or displacement due to REDD+ activities. Gender balance was also sought in the workshops in the development of ART Registration documents.

### Partnerships

UN-REDD support is in direct collaboration with ongoing work under AIM4Forests and the European Union's Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity Programme (EU-FCCB). Ongoing work includes the enhancement of a NFMS, Near Real-Time monitoring System, and Safeguards, which will help Papua New Guinea to address climate change and conserve biodiversity.

### Linkages to SDGs

All efforts under UN-REDD in Papua New Guinea contribute to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Peru

On track

### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

UN-REDD has provided technical and legal support to Peru's Ministry of Environment (MINAM) to advance their nesting process, finalize governmental regulations, and launch the National Registry of Mitigation Measures (RENAMI). Additionally, UN-REDD has supported MINAM in building safeguards capacity by hiring local safeguards and legal specialists. UN-REDD has also supported the reviewing of the country's second Safeguards Summary of Information. UN-REDD also performed a legal analysis and proposed guidelines for the REDD+ Safeguards Information Module (MIS), approved by Ministerial Resolution in 2024, reflecting Peru's commitment to robust environmental governance and compliance with international safeguards standards. In addition, support has been given to improve the efficiency of the national forest monitoring system.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Support has been provided by UN-REDD to advance the work on the ART-TREES Registration Document and Monitoring Report, which included direct support to refine Peru's emissions from deforestation and forest degradation estimates. Emissions estimates are going through the quality control phase in the country. An action plan to finish the Registration Document along with the Monitoring Report was developed along with MINAM. Guidance was also provided to MINAM in communication with the ART Secretariat for discussions on the accounting area for the reports. Besides, MINAM has strengthened capacities on TREES safeguards requirements with the support of the UN-REDD Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity.

#### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

UN-REDD supported MINAM in the refinement of its National Strategy to Finance Climate Change Mitigation Measures, a central piece of the country's strategy to fund and implement the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). UN-REDD provided direct support to MINAM, focusing on the coordination of technical inputs from different stakeholders and the preparation of the Strategy's consultative process. Furthermore, UN-REDD and MINAM, together with Climate Focus, prepared and began implementing a project in partnership with the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity (VCMI) Initiative, aiming at developing options to spur demand for high-integrity carbon markets as part of the Initiative's access strategies.

### Challenges and solutions

There continue to be challenges related to insufficient resources within MINAM to hire permanent technical staff to advance forest and carbon monitoring in a way that allows them to meet bilateral and international commitments on REDD+, including the design and implementation of programmes under the ART-TREES Standard. To support MINAM in addressing these challenges, UN-REDD mobilized resources to hire short-term consultants focused on MRV, the finance strategy, nesting, and safeguards and legal aspects. Additional technical challenges relate to the overlaps, both in terms of geographical scope and results period, between MINAM's national ART-TREES submission and the subnational submission of the Amazonian Indigenous Network (RIA) and MINAM. Further discussions with key stakeholders from

government, civil society and the ART Secretariat, as well as technical analysis, were required to define ways forward that would establish consistency across approaches.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Gender and social inclusion approaches were considered across a range of activities within the Technical Assistance framework. For example, the final SOI has different indicators to measure and monitor performance of a gender approach within REDD+ activities. The legal analysis of the "Safeguards Guidelines" regulations (approved by Ministerial Resolution N° 00389-2024-MINAM), included indicator B3 on gender to be mandatory reported in every REDD+ activity in the country (in line with SOI). Moreover, article 22 of this Guidelines establishes that all SIS communication materials shall consider the gender, intercultural and intergenerational approaches. The safeguards section of the ART-TREES's Registration Document also includes gender relevant performance compliance indicators.

### **Partnerships**

Peru advances REDD+ through the JDI with key donors, securing performance-based finance under TREES and US\$ 10M from Norway via PROFONANPE. UN-REDD coordinates efforts with international partners, while the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative strengthens rainforest and indigenous protection via faith-based leadership. AIM4Forests supported the development of deforestation risk maps for the Amazon region and a methodology for estimating emissions from peatlands. These initiatives enhance Peru's forest conservation and REDD+ policy implementation.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

Peru's continued progress on implementing its NDC, and REDD+ actions, contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15 and indirectly to SDGs 5, 6, 8 and 12.

## Republic of Congo

Delayed

### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

With the support of UN-REDD TA, the Republic of Congo assessed its REDD+ national strategy and investment framework. A stakeholder technical meeting confirmed the country's strong commitment to implementing measures consistent with its national forest conservation strategy. Some strengths and weaknesses were identified, including:: some REDD+ tools have been developed in alignment with the requirements of the Carbon Fund; additional supports will be still necessary for their alignment with other international REDD+ standards; the legal framework governing carbon rights remains incomplete, despite the establishment of the Forest Carbon Task Force; governance and management bodies for REDD+ face challenges due to the cessation of external funding and lack of support from the Congolese government, with competition from the well-funded and strategically positioned governance body of CAFI. However, the country's current efforts to secure additional financial resources offers promising prospects for implementing the strategy and its investment framework effectively.

As part of the effort to consolidate the country's data management capabilities, a five-day training session on forest carbon inventory data processing was conducted for 10 CNIAF staff members. The training also introduced participants to the tool developed by FAO to streamline any future forest inventory process. Given the strong interest expressed by the government and the participants, plans are underway to organize more comprehensive training next year, which will include additional government agencies.

Support was also provided for the development of national guidelines to implement the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process in the Republic of Congo. These national guidelines respond to the growing and urgent need to harmonize the approaches used by various stakeholders in projects impacting Indigenous Peoples in Congo. A draft standardized framework has been created to guide the development of FPIC protocols and promote a unified approach to implementing FPIC in the field. This draft is now available and awaits national validation. The process of hiring the consultant to develop the first Summary of Information on Safeguards (SoI) is being finalized and the SOI is expected to be completed in 2025. UN REDD TA was also provided to mobilize a GCF readiness fund to conduct feasibility studies to identify and comprehensively address gaps to access GCF-REDD+ RBPs and other RBPs mechanisms.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

Following a successful submission of a response to LEAF coalition in 2023, the country initiated the development of the required concept note. UN-REDD TA and the SYNA MNV program has provided technical assistance throughout the process, focusing on key aspects such as carbon accounting, carbon rights and safeguards. The document is scheduled to be submitted to the LEAF Coalition in early 2025, following national approval.

### Challenges and solutions

The change in the National REDD+ focal point at the beginning of the year caused challenges, including a delay in finalizing the UN-REDD workplan for 2024. The capacity of the REDD+ national coordination is technically and financially insufficient. Despite the highlighted recommendation on the need to increase empowerment of this entity - as result of the evaluation of the REDD+ national strategy and its investment framework implementation status - no tangible action has yet been taken by the government. The

institution still relies on financial technical partners, such as CAFI, for its operationalization. In this context, as the implementation of some projects are underway, the country is now focusing more on mobilizing resources, including the development of the LEAF concept note.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Gender and social inclusion approaches were considered across a range of activities within the UN-REDD TA support in the country. To illustrate, in the evaluation of the REDD+ National Strategy implementation status, the involvement of women in the of the REDD+ implementation was included in the assessment. In addition, during the development of national guidelines to implement the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, the national gender and safeguards expert was involved and provided feedback on gender.

Several stakeholders also actively contributed to the discussions on developing the concept note for submission to the LEAF Coalition. The Republic of Congo was among 11 countries that attended the Regional Exchange and Learning Lab on “Strengthening Social Inclusion in REDD+ Implementation”. The event was jointly organized by UN-REDD and African Forest Forum (AFF) and was attended by a total of 33 participants. Basic concepts and policy frameworks to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, and social inclusion in REDD+, were shared with participants. Feedback from participants to learn more about the topic triggered the organizing of a Community of Practice which gave opportunity to more than 400 people to exchange experiences and learn about best practices on how to mainstream gender in REDD+ activities as well as addressing related issues.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD ´s TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## Uganda

On track

### REDD+ implementation

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

Over 500 stakeholders were engaged in capacity building activities through physical and virtual engagements. These included members of the Safeguards Task Force, the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC), private sector, academia, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations and media. Various workshops were conducted, benefiting over 167 participants on ART-TREES safeguards. These activities strengthened stakeholder capacity on ART-TREES and provided a platform to address safeguards requirements. Participants were updated on the National REDD+ strategy, Uganda's national safeguards approach, the state of carbon markets, the National Forest Monitoring system and other relevant systems. Key takeaways included explaining REDD+ concepts, reviewing existing policies, engaging independent monitors, and strengthening coordination among various actors. In total, 363 policymakers and actors were trained on various aspects of ART-TREES and REDD+.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was developed. A national consultative workshop was held to solicit input into the draft SEP, attended by over 52 participants from various sectors. Two regional workshops were held to raise awareness of REDD+ safeguards and the ART-TREES standard. A national validation workshop was held, where participants approved the TRD, TMR, SEP and Plan of Conformance. These documents will be presented to the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) in 2025.

Preliminary results from Uganda's public expenditure analysis on forestry sector was delivered, while significant progress was made on supporting TREES crediting level and an emission reduction (ER) assessment. Preliminary results were presented to the Ugandan government to help inform decisions on the years and activities to include in the ART-TREES TRD. Emissions reductions estimates against the UNFCCC FREL for 2018 to 2020 were developed and submitted to the Uganda Government in the context of the GCF submission, providing evidence of the absence of reversals over the remainder of the results reporting period. REDD+ projects trading or intending to trade in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) were analysed and monitored throughout the year. Information was collected on their status, ER issued and retired, and projects in the pipeline, with recommendations for improving carbon accounting and nesting. Substantial progress has been made in advancing Uganda's forest management through a comprehensive analysis and strategic interventions. Preliminary results from Uganda's public expenditure analysis on forestry have provided valuable insights, enabling the government to allocate more effective resources for sustainable forest management. Additionally, advancements in the TREES crediting level and emission reduction (ER) assessments have supported the Ugandan government in shaping future forest-related activities. Preliminary calculations of activity data (deforestation, forest degradation, and afforestation) were presented and discussed with the government. Furthermore, ongoing monitoring of REDD+ projects, including those within the Voluntary Carbon Market, has led to actionable recommendations for improving carbon accounting and nesting practices.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

A joint UN-REDD mission was held in October 2024 with an objective of working with the Government to optimize UN-REDD support by improving coordination. The mission enabled discussions on progress with respect to ART-TREES registration and the REDD+ RBP submissions. Discussions were held on the status, more broadly on carbon markets, including discussions on the REDD+ registry and status of alignment of

the various platforms on forest and land monitoring systems. Capacity building on integrating REDD+ elements into the national carbon market regulations are postponed to 2025 once the national legislation, which is currently with Parliament, has been approved and released. In terms of technical input, a Safeguards consultant was embedded in the National REDD+ secretariat team to develop a TREES monitoring plan, TMR and Plan for Conformance of the ART TREES safeguards outcome indicators. The TRD, TMR, and Plan of Conformance have advanced substantially and will be finalized by end of the first quarter of 2025. On the accounting side, progress was also made on the TRD but remains incomplete. Accurately assessing degradation has proven challenging, particularly due to the country's dry forest typology.

UN-REDD kept the Ugandan government informed on the GCF discussions. In the second half of 2024, the GCF Board approved an exceptional allocation for the remaining four countries in the RBP pilot pipeline. Since then, UN-REDD has provided technical input to develop a funding proposal, as this is a priority for Uganda. Also, a national consultation was conducted in November 2024 in Kampala with over 40 participants from government ministries, the private sector, and NGOs, to gather feedback on two Emissions Reductions Programme Idea Notes (ER-PINS) that had been developed by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) for the Albertine and Kyoga Water Management Zones. UN-REDD will support the MWE to further develop these PINs to facilitate additional finance to the two regions. Regional consultations are planned for 2025.

In December 2024, upon request from the REDD+ Secretariat, UN-REDD provided the first session of a series on capacity building of Carbon markets, with further sessions likely in 2025 if needed. Notable progress has also been made in advancing the TREES Registration Document, although challenges in assessing forest degradation, especially in dry forest ecosystems, remain. Close coordination with the Ugandan government has ensured national priorities are effectively represented in international discussions, leading to the approval of additional support under the GCF REDD+ RBP pipeline. This strategic funding will further strengthen Uganda's forest management framework and help secure ongoing investments for future initiatives. In parallel, the preparation of the GCF Funding proposal, which will reward Uganda for emission reductions in 2016 and 2017, has been a key focus. Emission estimates for the period 2018-2020 were developed and submitted, further strengthening the evidence base for climate action in Uganda.

### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

UN-REDD is supporting Uganda's NDC 3.0 work, and discussions were held with MWE, the National Forest Authority and the REDD+ Secretariat to ensure that there are strong links between FOLU and the NDC stock take. UN Country Teams' meetings have been held to map out the various activities supported by UN agencies to enable a coherent approach to the NDC 3.0 process. Uganda's forest solutions have been strengthened through the refinement of methodologies for assessing land use changes and deforestation. UN-REDD's coordinated efforts have enabled the country to enhance its approach, leading to more accurate data and more effective forest management strategies.

### **Challenges and solutions**

The delay of the carbon markets legislation is keeping the REDD+ Secretariat waiting and will delay the delivery on capacity. However, capacity-building on carbon markets, are helping to fill the gaps and provide basic CM trainings to MWE staff. With respect to MRV, challenges include updating and storing data and funds to keep software updated (ESRI licenses) and continuous, hands-on capacity building to use tools, etc. Moreover, calculating activity data in Uganda is challenging due to the unique dynamics of dry forests. The team has been testing alternative methodologies to more accurately represent the forest's realities and effectively capture land use changes. These solutions aim to improve data accuracy and ensure more reliable assessments of deforestation and land degradation. The chosen methodology will

not only be user-friendly for the country team but will also be easily replicable over time. Its versatility will support a range of applications, ensuring long-term, sustainable forest management and effective planning.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Uganda was among 11 countries that attended the Regional Exchange and Learning Lab on “strengthening social inclusion in REDD+ implementation”. The double-event was jointly organized by UN-REDD and African Forest Forum (AFF) and was attended by a total of 33 participants. Basic concepts and policy frameworks to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, and social inclusion in REDD+, were shared with participants. Feedback from participants to learn more about the topic triggered the organizing of a Community of Practice which allowed more than 400 people to exchange experiences and learn about best practices on how to mainstream gender in REDD+ activities, as well as addressing related issues. Gender and social inclusion was an integral part of all activities undertaken in 2024.

### **Partnerships**

The National Forest Authority will share information on partners supporting the various GIS systems and platforms. In 2025, Partners will be identified to advance the discussion on the ER programme idea notes and work through BIOFIN leveraged. UN-REDD is engaging with partners such as the World Bank regarding a payment for ecosystem services programme. The nesting assessment was developed jointly with the AIM4Forestss: Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD ´s TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15

## Viet Nam

On track

### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

With support from UN-REDD, Viet Nam has achieved significant progress towards meeting the requirements for accessing REDD+ result-based finance. Preparation for the validation and verification (VVB) process for the LEAF program is underway, and the ERPA negotiation is expected to yield carbon credit issuance in late 2026. UN-REDD support also included a safeguards guidance package and capacity building for LEAF provinces. The Summary of Information (SOI) 2 was drafted and consulted. A Safeguards Information System (SIS) brief was prepared, and support is ongoing on a SIS update. The preparation of a Programme Operational Manual (POM) is being drafted, and planning to operationalize the Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). A separate legal document, including provisions for title transfer and benefit sharing, is also planned for approval in the fourth quarter of 2025. Concurrently, Viet Nam is conducting an Internal Mid-term Review of the National REDD+ Action Plan. UN-REDD TA has fostered regional cooperation on carbon integrity through a knowledge exchange with Laos and Cambodia on Viet Nam's experience with Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

#### **Forest solutions rewarded**

Significant progress was made in 2024 towards Viet Nam's participation in the LEAF Coalition. The TREES Registration Document (TRD) and Initial Monitoring Report (IMR) documents have been submitted to and accepted by the ART Secretariat. The country developed an Emission Reduction Purchasing Agreement (ERPA) with the LEAF Coalition, bringing it closer to receiving results-based payments for REDD+ activities. By enhancing PES monitoring, UN-REDD technical assistance will bridge the gap between national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and on-the-ground realities in Viet Nam's forests. Improvements in Viet Nam's capacity to monitor forest dynamics are also instrumental towards compliance with the EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR). In addition, a policy dialogue with 53 participants, including key government ministries, researchers, development partners and donor agencies was held on REDD+ financial resources and opportunities. The recommendations are to inform a draft policy paper on accessing results-based finance.

#### **Forest solutions enhanced**

Viet Nam continued to improve its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) with support from UN-REDD TA. A preliminary assessment of the NFMS has identified gaps, including limitations in data collection and analysis, human resources, and insufficient integration with other relevant data sources. UN-REDD support to address the identified gaps will allow for more accurate measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of forest carbon emissions and removals. The TA also contributed to the assessment of carbon stocks of mangrove forests with technical guidelines approved by (DoF) with the objective of quantifying mangrove forests' contribution to raising ambitions in the NDC. In addition, the UN-REDD TA contributed to the implementation of MoNRE's carbon markets roadmap, including the development of policies, guidance and other legal documents to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

### Challenges and solutions

In the context of a positive and fast progressing environment, several challenges impact program implementation. Finalizing ERPA documents and completing VVB processes still require further UN-REDD

support for the DoF. Building VNFF's capacity as a Financial Intermediary (FI) requires addressing recommendations from the Internal Capacity Assessment (ICA) and UN-REDD TA is currently working with VNFF to establish a clear roadmap. Time constraints between the development of the separate decree for the LEAF initiative and the general carbon market decree also pose a challenge. Furthermore, decision-making processes within the DoF have at times slowed advancements. Finally, changes in the structure of the national apparatus, including a merger of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), are expected to require adjustments due to potential changes in the national focal point.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Gender equality and social inclusion are prioritized through several key activities undertaken in 2024. For example, the benefit sharing mechanism of the LEAF jurisdictional program considers women as a vulnerable group and prioritizes benefit distribution towards women-headed and poor households. To achieve this target, women are provided supporting income improvements, such as loan interest assistance and alternative livelihoods support. The ART-TREES Registration Document also integrates gender throughout its safeguards analysis and indicator selection. The consultation process for the proposed LEAF Program, as well as initial safeguards workshop for LEAF provinces, considered gender and information on female participation was collected. Additionally, efforts were made to achieve 30 per cent representation of women in workshops. To ensure meaningful participation, gender-specific group discussions were conducted where necessary, allowing women to share their perspectives in a safe and supportive environment. Consultations and information sharing were conducted at national, provincial, and local levels, with targeted outreach to women's organizations and ethnic minority communities.

### **Partnerships**

The UN-REDD TA continued its role as a trusted and neutral partner to DoF and MARD in coordinating support to the LEAF initiative. As requested by DoF, the UN-REDD TA facilitated coordination and collaboration among technical advisory providers, such as JICA, USAID, and UK TAP. UN-REDD also continues to actively engage with partners such as the UK and Norwegian Embassy, the UN RC and UNCT system, and the World Bank among others.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA in Viet Nam directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land) by supporting forest conservation and reducing deforestation.

## Zambia

Delayed

### REDD+ implementation

#### **Forest solutions realised**

Zambia continues to strengthen its efforts to reduce emissions against its FREL, towards accessing climate finance. UN-REDD supports these efforts by (i) catalysing and informing a replicable model of climate action at jurisdictional level, specifically in North Western (NW) province, and (ii) updating the country's second Summary of Information on Safeguards (SIS). The assessments in NW province, initiated in 2023, were completed in 2024 and are being used to inform a model of local/jurisdictional climate action with potential for replication across the country.

Contributions also allowed for the country to progress on the development of a GCF concept note, including a proposed REDD+ jurisdictional programme in the headwaters of the Zambezi River in NW province. The existing and potential Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) in NW province have been evaluated, including a geospatial assessment of their territories, to capitalize on the role of local communities in climate action and forest stewardship. Publications on CFMGs and rural finance in NW province progressed, with an expected final launch in early 2025, which will be complemented by a study of forest carbon markets and local communities.

Local, national and international market channels for several forest value chains were assessed in 2024 through field surveys, complementing studies initiated in 2023 aimed at developing alternative livelihoods to enhance the value of standing forests. The analysis of forest-water-climate nexus (F-W-C) in the Zambezi headwaters has progressed through a Tier 2 approach. The [findings](#) provided insights into how different forest management approaches impact water provisioning and carbon sequestration. Synergies with the AIM4Forests initiative have added significant value, particularly in the piloting of a forest inventory in Manyinga District. With the support from UN-REDD the government plans to use such forest data to complete a Forest Management Plan for Manyinga district during the first quarter of 2025.

Building upon the first Summary of Information on Safeguards (SOI) that covered 2009 to 2019, the country's second SOI, covering 2020 to 2023 was developed during the reporting period. The validation workshop by the national safeguards technical working group took place in December 2024. Feedback collected during the validation workshop are being integrated and the final version of the second SOI on safeguards, which will be available in January 2025. Moreover, some preliminary work on the country's Safeguards Information System (SIS) have been conducted, including the vision and objectives, the content and structure, the institutional arrangements, and this work for strengthening the SIS will continue in 2025. Discussions have started, upon request from the Government counterpart, on organizing a capacity building session on ART TREES to enable familiarization of the ART TREES requirements and implications. UN-REDD is putting together a one-day event on the topic, to be delivered in the first quarter of 2025.

#### **Challenges and solutions**

Systematization, accuracy and accessibility of data remains a critical issue in the forestry sector in Zambia (e.g. geospatial information, data on CFMGs). This affects decision-making, as well as creates difficulties for the multiple actors involved in the forest sector (e.g. when boundaries of CFMGs overlap with other CFMGs or with other land uses). UN-REDD is supporting the government of Zambia to generate more accurate data and information, as well as to facilitate data storage, sharing and accessibility to

reduce inconsistencies. In late 2024, the Forestry Department reiterated its resolve that forest-related data should be hosted on government services and could be made available to stakeholders through an established request system. A new Director in the Forestry Department was appointed in early 2024 and was quickly brought up to speed on UN-REDD activities and plans. The continued turnover of key staff in the Forestry Department, the Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund, ZESCO and other institutions has been addressed through regular dialogue and exchanges to consolidate relationships and collaboration.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

The different studies and workstreams have incorporated stakeholders' consultation, as well as gender as a cross-cutting aspect, including gender-specific questions and sections, collecting disaggregated gender data and making specific efforts to ensure women's representation in stakeholder meetings. The field inventories and training in NWFP harvesting sustainability also allowed the participation of women including female officers from FD. Female Chieftainesses were also engaged in the field data collection. Additionally, in the assessments of forest value chains, gender dimensions were addressed using a template that highlighted areas of gender discussion. Given the traditional roles of women in forest products in North Western province, many women participated in the data collection process. Efforts were made to ensure women's representation in stakeholder and validation meetings, and gender disaggregated data was collected during field work. Furthermore, in the assessments of rural finance services, engagement with village savings and banking groups included strong participation from women. The full scope for developing the second SOI on Safeguards was gender sensitive.

### **Partnerships**

UN-REDD TA actively collaborated with Zambia's Forestry Department, engaging comprehensively in all operational facets and fieldwork endeavours. This collaboration extended further through strategic partnerships with various institutions. Meanwhile, through a collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Valencia and the University of Zambia (UNZA) Integrated Water Resources Management Centre, Tier 2 of the forest-water-climate assessment was carried out, with support from the Forestry Department and local communities. Dissemination and validation of F-W-C results involved inputs from various stakeholders including Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), Zambia Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) and Zambia's Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) who provided valuable input data during tier 1 of the forest-water-climate assessment. The collaboration extended further with Rhodes University initiating engagement for NWFP analysis.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15, as well as to SDG 6.

## ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative

On track

### REDD+ implementation

The UN-REDD initiative “Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] countries” is working to strengthen the evidence base for climate mitigation contributions of social forestry (SF) to facilitate its integration in NDCs and enhance access to climate finance. The Initiative, which is funded by SDC and runs from 2022 to 2025, works at the regional ASEAN level, with piloting on strengthening of SF monitoring systems, capacity development, including for mitigation assessment for SF, and SF enterprise development in three countries – Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR.

In 2024 the initiative advanced in:

- Assessing the contribution of SF interventions towards climate change mitigation in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR – with preliminary results indicating a trend of reduced annual emissions in SF compared to non-SF. Final data collection and analysis is expected to be completed in 2025.
- Building capacities to assess and monitor SF interventions, including through integration in national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and NDC reporting (through BTR) and revision.
- Strengthen government and multistakeholder processes for systematic integration of SF in relevant programs, going beyond SF, to include, e.g., NDC development and reporting, NBSAP review and reporting and rural livelihood development. One result is further emphasis on a holistic SF monitoring and reporting system that covers ecological, economic and social impacts of SF, with reporting to relevant government agencies beyond SF departments. The initiative’s support on this process includes formally through, e.g. reestablishment of the multi-stakeholder Village Forestry Working Group (VFWG) and the establishment of the Committee for VF Monitoring in Lao PDR.
- This is complemented by work at ASEAN level, including through initiative staff being embedded with two of the most relevant ASEAN Working Groups (AWG-Forest and Climate Change and AWG-Social Forestry) enabling coordination and support at the regional and national levels. Examples include the ongoing development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-Based Approaches (EbA) in the Forestry Sector, and the proposed ASEAN Guidelines on Integration of SF in NDCs. In addition, a practical regional toolkit for NbS / EbA practices in SF is being developed with plan to build capacities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) to enhance partnership on NbS at regional and national levels.
- Assessing the economic and business potential of selected social forestry enterprises and engaging with off-takers/market intermediaries, or market access providers in the three pilot countries, and developing enterprise development/investment plan for selected enterprises.

Under Output 1 (Contribution of social forestry schemes towards climate change mitigation in ASEAN assessed to inform action and climate finance) various activities were conducted, building on data shared by and discussions with government partners, as well as SF partners the team developed. These include:

- Draft mitigation assessments (MA) for SF in Cambodia (four focus provinces), Indonesia (West Sumatra) and Lao PDR (nationwide) were prepared. Discussions are ongoing to strengthen the assessments.
- Draft manual for conducting a mitigation assessment for SF in Indonesia was developed and shared with the Directorate General – Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership (Ministry of Forestry) in Indonesia. A similar manual is planned for Lao PDR.

- The work under Output 2 includes the formal activities below, as well as informal meetings with government, relevant ASEAN bodies, and national SF partners (e.g. World Bank, RECOFTC) to address system and capacity gaps to monitor SF.
- Capacities strengthened in Indonesia and Lao PDR to conduct mitigation assessment (MA) for SF and joint development of action plan for further enhancements.
- A Committee for coordinating the development of SF (Village Forestry - VF) monitoring system in Lao PDR was established based on recommendation of VF Monitoring Workshop. The Committee's first role was determining the data needs and availability to effectively monitor VF in the country, building on the capacity development needs assessment conducted under the initiative. The initiative is also working with government and non-government partners to strengthen the system for data collection, and management based on the Committee's recommendations. Additionally, the initiative supported the re-establishment of the VF Working Group which is mandated to coordinate development of VF in the country, this further supports the monitoring of VF, including its alignment with the NFMS.
- Regional learning event on monitoring social forestry in South-east Asia: focus on Indonesia enabled the sharing of lessons learned on the SF monitoring pioneer in the region (i.e. Indonesia) with peers in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

The activities under Output 3 (Facilitate the integration of social forestry actions in NDC implementation and in the upcoming NDCs revisions (2025) in the three countries) include:

- Building on Outputs 1 and 2 meetings held with relevant government agencies on integrating SF in NDC for Cambodia and Lao PDR. Both NDCs to be submitted in June-July 2025.
- Reviewed Indonesia's new NDC providing suggestion for increased integration of SF that was finalized in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Under Output 4 (Promote and accelerate responsible private investments in social forestry), a series of activities have been undertaken by working together with NTFP-EP and RECOFTC to create a holistic, sustainable, and replicable model for the commercial development, financing, and capacity development of social forestry enterprises within the ASEAN region. The work focused on providing a systematic approach towards identifying potential investment sources, assessing investment needs, developing tailored financial products, facilitating financial transactions, and developing a financing blueprint to guide future financing efforts in the field of social forestry. This also included:

- Assessment of the economic and business potential of selected social forestry enterprises and engagement with off-takers/market intermediaries, or market access providers in the three pilot countries. It resulted in the analysis of high-potential enterprises in Indonesia (eight), Lao PDR (two), and Cambodia (three), for both NTFP and timber value chains to build their business and financing case. This also involved the identification of market access providers and securing of off-take agreements to ensure a viable market for the enterprises' produce.
- Enterprise development/investment plan: The objective here was to formulate effective strategies for scaling up and commercializing social forestry enterprises within key value chains. Building on the findings from activities 1, tailored business development and investment plans for each of the selected enterprises were developed. These plans consider the specifics of each enterprise, their potential for scale, market access, and required investments.

The work under Output 5 (Capacities of ASEAN member states to quantify benefits, connect partners and operationalize nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based approach (EbA) in the context of social forestry enhanced) responds to a request from the ASEAN Secretariat. Here the initiative, working with Nanyang Technological University, is conducting an analysis to support the development of regional guidelines, along with a practical toolkit for NbA and EbA practices in the forestry sector, including Social Forestry. Interviews were conducted with ASEAN Member States and technical experts. A regional online

“Consultation for development of Guidelines for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) / Ecosystem-based Approach (EbA) in forestry in ASEAN”, with ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Working Groups on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and Forest and Climate Change (AWG-FCC), was held on 29 October 2024, with an event to review the guidelines planned for 2025.

### **Challenges and solutions**

UN-REDD has faced several challenges in advancing its work on social forestry (SF), each requiring strategic solutions. One key hurdle has been the sensitivity surrounding SF data. However, UN-REDD’s strong relationship with the governments have allowed access to this critical information. By ensuring a clear understanding of how the data will be used and how findings will be communicated, the initiative has been able to navigate this challenge effectively. Political changes in Indonesia, particularly in the lead-up to and aftermath of the February presidential elections, have also posed difficulties. Despite this, the initiative’s well-established relationships with government officials have helped mitigate disruptions. Nonetheless, last-minute changes to the work plan have required the team to remain highly flexible and adaptive. Additionally, data inconsistencies and system limitations across all three focus countries have made integrating SF into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) particularly challenging. To address this, the initiative is making substantial investments in system improvements and capacity development, tailoring its approach to the specific needs of each country. These efforts aim to create a stronger foundation for SF’s inclusion in national climate strategies.

### **Gender and social inclusion**

Efforts were taken to equitably include both women and men in discussions and workshops related to UN-REDD support on building capacity to monitor and report periodically and accurately on climate change mitigation actions with social forestry interventions under NFMS, and to countries in identifying social forestry interventions as mitigation and adaptation actions in the implementation and reporting of NDCs and their future revision. Additionally, both woman and men were involved in key discussions and interviewed in the development of the NbS/EbA guidelines and toolbox.

This said, integration of a gender and social inclusion approach presented challenges in 2024 and increased attention to these areas will be provided in 2025.

### **Partnerships**

The initiative works in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Working Groups on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and Forest & Climate Change (AWG-FCC). It also works with the governments of Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR, including through Letters of Agreement. The initiative has also re-established support to the Secretariat of the AWG-SF and AWG-FCC. This is proving increasingly important as the initiative moves forward, especially in relation to the implementation of the Plans of Actions (2021-2025) for both WGs, and development of Plan of Actions (PoAs) for 2025-2030. The AWG-SF secretariat will also facilitate the engagement with other projects and partners in their coordination efforts with ASEAN mechanisms. Additionally, the initiative is working closely with Nanyang Technological University, Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) and RECOFTC and various other partners and stakeholders in ASEAN and in the target countries. Additional effort is being made in Cambodia to synergize with the SDC supported Community Action for Sustainable Forest (CASFor) project, and coordinate with other agencies on the support to NDC 3.0.

### **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD’s TA contributes directly to SDGs 1, 13 and 15.

## UN-REDD and Africa Forest Forum Partnership

On track



### REDD+ implementation

REDD+ implementation in Africa is progressing as planned, enhancing policy coordination, social inclusion, and financial opportunities for forest conservation efforts. National policy dialogues in Ghana, Ethiopia, and the Republic of Congo were organized to strengthen the integration of REDD+ across sectors, improve policy reforms and better coordination. A regional exchange in Côte d'Ivoire engaged 11 countries in advancing REDD+ implementation through cross-sectoral development strategies. This was followed by a Learning Lab in Abidjan, which provided the participants from these countries with practical knowledge on integrating gender equality and social inclusion in REDD+ initiatives. Additionally, a two-week Community of Practice on REDD+ Academy Howspace reached over 400 participants, equipping them with best practices for mainstreaming gender and addressing social inclusion challenges. Access to climate finance for afforestation and reforestation in Africa was advocated through a side event in Brazzaville, held during the International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation. This event facilitated knowledge sharing on financial opportunities for large-scale forest restoration efforts.

### Challenges and solutions

One of the main challenges faced during implementation was the high demand for support from countries against the backdrop of the programme's limited resources. To address this, the Africa Forest Forum (AFF) and UN-REDD adopted a joint planning and implementation approach. By pooling resources and enhancing coordination, this strategy significantly increased cost-effectiveness, expanded the reach of activities, and improved participation from partner countries.

### Gender and social inclusion

Social inclusion and gender mainstreaming remained key priorities in REDD+ implementation. The Learning Lab in Abidjan provided critical training on gender equality, women's empowerment, and social inclusion policies to 33 participants from 11 countries. Additionally, the broader Community of Practice enabled over 400 stakeholders to exchange best practices and strategies for integrating gender considerations into REDD+ activities.

### Partnerships


The year saw strengthened collaboration among UN-REDD agencies and key partners. Regular coordination meetings and joint activities, such as the Abidjan Learning Lab, the Regional Exchange, and national policy dialogues, enhanced synergies and efficiency. The partnership also extended to UN-REDD's inception workshop on public expenditure analysis, reinforcing financial planning for REDD+ implementation. These concerted efforts highlight the growing momentum of REDD+ initiatives in Africa, ensuring that policies, resources, and partnerships align to drive sustainable forest management and climate action at national and regional levels.

### Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## AIM4FORESTS

On track



### REDD+ implementation

In 2024, AIM4Forests focuses on forest monitoring to advance better resource management, monitoring for ecosystem restoration, forest monitoring to support deforestation-free commodity production, and support to measuring, reporting and verification of mitigation results. The log frame also includes a strong focus on participation and transparency, especially of Indigenous Peoples, and puts the programme firmly into the context of work towards achieving SDGs. The AIM4Forests programme is a programme to advance forest monitoring in several different contexts – which are connected to REDD+ implementation several ways. While most of AIM4Forests activities are undertaken at a global level (through development of technical solutions, work on guidance materials for compiling crucial datasets), there are also activities in a growing list of countries. In 2024, the following countries benefitted from AIM4Forests support: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

#### ***Forest solutions realised***

The programme works to strengthen forest monitoring in several contexts that are key to addressing climate change and reducing forest loss. Provision of forest monitoring information can enable better forest resource management. Countries need fit-for-purpose forest monitoring that can guide their efforts for ecosystem restoration. The global effort to reduce commodity-driven forest loss crucially relies on high-quality datasets to inform sourcing strategies and consumer-side requirements.

#### ***Forest solutions rewarded***

AIM4Forests includes a focus on supporting country capacity to measure, report on and verify mitigation results. This helps countries access climate finance and reap the rewards for actions to reduce emissions. The programme will provide tailored technical solutions for forest monitoring, address outstanding methodological challenges and deliver direct technical assistance to countries.

#### ***Forest solutions enhanced***

AIM4Forests includes a strong focus towards enhancing transparency and access to data for all those whose actions can help deliver progress towards NDCs and better resource management.

### Challenges and solutions

The risks to the AIM4Forests Programme are the flipside of its strategy to develop impact. The programme was designed to contribute to several important trends surrounding management of forest resources and climate change. It aims to support forest monitoring in the context of deforestation-free commodity production, through supporting country efforts to measure, report and verify mitigation results, to monitor progress towards ecosystem restoration targets, and to operate forest monitoring systems that enable better management of the forest resource. By supporting forest monitoring in these several contexts, the programme has the potential to deliver much impact – but this impact also depends on progress on international climate change, ecosystem restoration, and deforestation-free commodity production.

## **Gender and social inclusion**

The programme is designed to advance gender equality and social inclusion. Such considerations are at the heart of the programme's definition of the change it aims to promote, and they are mainstreamed throughout the log frame with several targets directly set to enhance access to women, and disadvantaged groups. There is also a whole output specifically targeting Indigenous Peoples and local communities, a key group that has not had sufficient involvement in work on forest monitoring and climate change. There is a plan to replicate the Forest Carbon Champions programme (a youth-focused initiative for Kenya) to a further four countries in 2025.

## **Partnerships**

AIM4Forests crucially relies on partnership to deliver progress. Experts, firms, universities external to FAO are crucial delivery partners. In particular, partnerships with the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) and with the International Land Coalition (ILC) stand out. The GFOI provides technical advice to AIM4Forests. Certain activities are also implemented together, for example, a South-South exchange at FAO's headquarters in November 2024. The GFOI also directly leads Output 4 of the AIM4Forests Programme to deliver a country-led planning process for forest monitoring capacity development. In 2024, the GFOI worked with Fiji, Kenya, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Peru and the DRC to help run a structured planning process designed to strengthen technical capacities and better integrate forest monitoring into national institutions. The ILC makes a large contribution to Output 3 of the AIM4Forests Programme targeting Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The ILC facilitates an Indigenous Peoples-led community of practice on forest monitoring.

## **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 12, 13 and 15.

## REDD+ Academy

On track



### REDD+ implementation

The REDD+ Academy reached significant milestones in 2024, solidifying its position as a premier global tool for REDD+ learning and capacity building. With over 6,828 visits to its platform and more than 1,500 active participants by December, the Academy showcased growing engagement from practitioners, governments, and organizations worldwide. A standout achievement was the launch of the upgraded Howspace platform, which introduced an AI-powered learning assistant designed to provide tailored, real-time support. This innovative feature, combined with the Academy's first learning journal on "Nesting approaches in REDD+," offers practitioners easy-to-follow, practitioner-friendly guidance on complex topics like nesting, carbon markets, and forest carbon accounting. The introduction of micro-learning tools further enhanced accessibility, enabling learners to absorb content in digestible segments that suit their schedules and expertise levels.

The Academy's practical approach to learning extends beyond the platform. The Learning Lab held in Lima, Peru, in 2024, gathered over 90 technical experts from Latin America to engage in hands-on, region-specific discussions around scaling REDD+ finance, carbon market integration, and forest-based mitigation strategies. These discussions were critical in addressing regional challenges, ensuring that the Academy's resources are directly aligned with on-the-ground needs. The Academy also published 99 PDFs, 32 videos, and 18 chats, making a wealth of high-quality materials available to global users. Notably, Learning Lab videos had a 55.66 per cent engagement rate, highlighting the Academy's success in creating content that resonates with practitioners. Active Communities of Practice (CoPs), particularly the African Forest Forum, fostered in-depth discussions and valuable knowledge exchanges, with participants sharing their experiences and collaborating on actionable solutions for REDD+ implementation.

### Challenges and solutions

Despite the REDD+ Academy's achievements, it faced several challenges in 2024. Regional engagement showed disparities, with Africa having the highest participation, while Latin America and Asia showed lower levels of involvement. To address this, the Academy is developing tailored outreach campaigns to better engage these regions, including offering region-specific content and leveraging regional partnerships for enhanced local engagement.

Another challenge faced was the integration of the Academy's various components—CoPs, Learning Labs, and Journals—which, while valuable individually, need to be more closely aligned for a seamless, cohesive learning experience. The Academy intends to strengthen the connection between these elements to create a more unified platform. Additionally, while personalized learning paths were a step forward, ensuring that content is accessible and useful for stakeholders at different levels of expertise remains a priority.

### Gender and social inclusion

Gender participation remained unbalanced, with a higher proportion of male participants (at a ratio of 30-70 per cent). To address this, the Academy plans to implement more targeted outreach, focusing on gender inclusivity and engaging women through specific programs and events.

## **Partnerships**

The Academy strengthened its collaboration with ITC-ILO as a service provider and with the African Forest Forum. Moving forward, new partnerships and linkages are being explored with the World Bank Academy.

## **Linkages to SDGs**

UN-REDD's TA contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15.

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT RESULTS

### Knowledge is captured, managed and disseminated

In 2024, UN-REDD strengthened the evidence base for forest solutions, ensuring knowledge drives policy shifts and implementation. The REDD+ Knowledge Management Day, co-hosted with the World Bank in Oslo, convened 140 participants from over 40 countries, shaping global discussions on finance, benefit-sharing, carbon credit ownership, and private sector engagement. The REDD+ Academy, in partnership with the Korea Forest Service, expanded to over 1,500 members, with 35 per cent from government institutions. The first learning journal, *Nesting Approaches in REDD+*, increased engagement in this emerging topic, accelerating informed decision-making and improving access to best practices.

Knowledge exchange translated into action. A UNDP-supported digital hub connected Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Colombia, enabling real-time learning on deforestation-free supply chains. Ecuador's BPA+ model became a benchmark for sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam and Ethiopia. An AI-driven traceability system piloted in Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Colombia helped small producers comply with European Union Deforestation Regulation standards, to improve market access. At the launch of Climate Promise 3.0 in New York, deforestation-free chocolate showcased how sustainable supply chains can drive climate action while creating market opportunities, proving that forest-friendly business practices can be both commercially viable and environmentally responsible.

As knowledge collaboration deepened, direct policy influence followed. The Latin America Learning Lab on Integrity Finance strengthened technical capacity on high-integrity carbon markets, with 90 per cent of participants reporting an increased ability to integrate safeguards, FPIC, and benefit-sharing into REDD+ frameworks. The Asia Regional NDC Forum, co-organized with ESCAP and GIZ, provided technical guidance that led more countries to establish clear, measurable forest targets in their climate commitments. These efforts bridge gaps between national policies and international climate goals, making forest conservation a central climate strategy. In Asia, responding to priorities raised by Indigenous Peoples during the 2024 Asia-Pacific Climate Week, UN-REDD convened a "Regional Knowledge Exchange on Carbon Markets and Indigenous Peoples", engaging 56 participants from eight Asian countries to build capacity on carbon market mechanisms.

Additionally, at NYC Climate Week, UN-REDD supported the "Women's Leadership Learning Exchange" to promote a new economic model rooted in indigenous rights, environmental values, and women's leadership. The Programme also convened the event "Indigenous Peoples and Private Climate Finance: Connecting with Equity & Integrity for Regeneration", creating a platform for indigenous leaders, philanthropies, and the private sector to explore innovative finance models, sustainable partnerships, and actionable steps that support indigenous stewardship of forests and landscapes for climate resilience. A similar convening took place during COP29 to inform and collate feedback from the global Indigenous Peoples community.

Stronger advocacy amplified impact. The Bridge to Belem campaign, launched at COP29, emphasized forests as a climate solution, generating over 10,000 social media engagements and increasing UN-REDD's digital audience by 13.5 per cent. Media coverage surged, with 74 articles published across 70 outlets in 25 countries, translated into nine languages. The NDC report "Raising Ambition, Accelerating Action", launched at the Bonn Climate Talks, pushed for stronger forest commitments, sparking high-level policy discussions. UN-REDD's COP29 events showcased financial and cross-sectoral solutions to halt deforestation, promote sustainable land use, and advance global climate and biodiversity goals.

By building evidence, fostering collaboration, and advocating for policy shifts, UN-REDD is ensuring forests remain at the heart of climate action.

## GENDER

In 2024, the UN-REDD Programme continued to support 22 partner countries<sup>1</sup> in integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment principles within REDD+ action across a range of work areas including deforestation-free value chains, performance-based climate finance and NDC implementation.

This support ranged from incorporating gender considerations with the safeguards guidelines for Cambodia’s Environmental and Social Fund and involving the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in associated consultation processes, to achieving a 54 per cent women’s participation rate (including a representative from the Lao Women’s Union) in Laos during its capacity building activities to strengthen the national safeguards information system (SIS). Similarly, in Papua New Guinea, within SIS training workshops and associated meetings, the participation rate of women averaged 48 per cent.

Support also involved incorporating gender relevant performance compliance indicators in Peru’s ART TREES’s Registration Document and integrating gender within the ART TREES validation and verification process and associated draft Benefit Sharing Plan in Ghana to promote equitable participation and benefits for both women and men. Additionally, in Colombia, multi-stakeholder dialogues at national, regional and territorial levels also promoted social integrity (including gender) of carbon markets in which women were equitably involved and participation data was collected across a range of genders (woman, man, non-binary).

In 2024, partnerships with a range of governments, private sector and finance institutions and organizations also helped to deliver achievements on gender and women’s empowerment. To illustrate, the Government of Ecuador, in partnership with UN-REDD, the GCF, the GEF, and the company Lavazza, developed a socially inclusive and gender-responsive public-private framework to formulate sustainability policies, issue regulations, promote sustainable livelihoods, establish a national certification scheme and mobilize commercial partnerships with coffee and cocoa companies. [The effort](#) has, to date, supported over 70,000 local producers, 40 per cent of whom are women. Additionally, in partnership with the African Forest Forum (AFF), UN-REDD organized an in-person social inclusion and gender learning lab in June and an online social inclusion and gender Community of Practice session on Howspace in November to build stakeholder capacity in Africa in establishing socially inclusive and gender-responsive measures when implementing REDD+.

At the global level, innovative social media campaigns for International [Women’s Day](#) and the [Day of Rural Women](#) were developed to help amplify the voices of indigenous women leaders and their invaluable role in forest protection and REDD+. Similarly, [awareness raising and capacity building tools](#) were also developed to promote women’s tenure rights and highlight gaps in women’s access to information in the forestry sector. The online [UN-REDD Community of Practice on Gender and Voluntary Carbon Markets](#) continues to serve as an active knowledge exchange platform and membership has grown to more than 580 people.

Furthermore, two online meetings in June and December were held with the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform. Discussions centred on defining the scope of the upcoming UN-REDD case study publication on “Good Practices in Integrating Gender into REDD+” as well as identifying LAC country interest to be featured in this publication. As a result of these efforts, five country case studies from Brazil,

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Argentina, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia

Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay were drafted to showcase how these countries are charting a new path in mainstreaming gender within their REDD+ results-based payment projects. Work to finalize this publication will continue into early 2025, with an estimated release date of June 2025.



# CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

of the Administrative Agent

## UN-REDD Programme Fund

for the period 20 June 2008 to 31 December 2024

**UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**  
United Nations Development Programme  
**GATEWAY:** <https://mptf.undp.org>

May 2025



United Nations  
MPTF Office

## DEFINITIONS

### **Allocation/Total Approved Budget**

Amount approved by the Management Committee for a project/programme. The total approved budget represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Management Committee.

### **Approved Project/Programme**

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Management Committee for funds' allocation purposes.

### **Contributor Commitment**

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed donor agreement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

### **Contributor Deposit**

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed donor agreement.

### **Delivery Rate**

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization or Non-UN Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organizations.

### **Donor Agreement**

Standard Administrative Arrangement and/or European Commission contribution agreement between contributor/donor and MPTF Office.

### **Net Funded Amount**

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

### **Participating Organization**

A UN or non-UN Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing the applicable legal agreement with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

### **Project Expenditure**

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

### **Project Financial Closure**

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred. MPTF Office will report a project financially closed once the financial report(s) has been received and any balance of funds refunded.

### **Project Operational Closure**

A project or programme is deemed operationally closed once all activities funded for Participating Organization(s) have been concluded.

### **Project Start Date**

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

### **US Dollar Amount**

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.

### **Transferred Funds**

Funds transferred to Participating Organizations by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the Management Committee's request.

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## INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the donor agreement signed with contributors/donors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and donor agreements with contributors/donors. It receives, administers and manages contributions,

and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 20 June 2008 to 31 December 2024 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ccf00>).

## 2024 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2024**.

Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address:

<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ccf00>.

### 1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2024**, **9** contributors deposited US\$ **417,791,616** and US\$ **3,746,703** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **421,538,318**.

Of this amount, US\$ **402,237,103** has been net funded to **3** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **386,926,551** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **3,912,000**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund** as of 31 December 2024.

**Table 1 Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2024	Total
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Contributions from donors	377,696,356	40,095,260	417,791,616
<b>Sub-total Contributions</b>	<b>377,696,356</b>	<b>40,095,260</b>	<b>417,791,616</b>
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	2,793,114	96,274	2,889,388
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	857,315	-	857,315
<b>Total: Sources of Funds</b>	<b>381,346,785</b>	<b>40,191,534</b>	<b>421,538,318</b>
<b>Use of Funds</b>			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	383,276,686	25,227,425	408,504,111
<b>Sub-Total Transfers</b>	<b>383,276,686</b>	<b>25,227,425</b>	<b>408,504,111</b>
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(6,267,007)	-	(6,267,007)
<b>Sub-Total Refunds</b>	<b>(6,267,007)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,267,007)</b>
Administrative Agent Fees	3,511,047	400,953	3,912,000
Bank Charges	12,848	76	12,924
Other Expenditures	265,917	-	265,917
<b>Total: Uses of Funds</b>	<b>380,799,490</b>	<b>25,628,454</b>	<b>406,427,943</b>
<b>Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent</b>	<b>547,295</b>	<b>14,563,080</b>	<b>15,110,375</b>
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	2,865,424	547,295	-

<b>Closing Fund balance (31 December)</b>	<b>547,295</b>	<b>15,110,375</b>	<b>15,110,375</b>
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	377,009,678	25,227,425	402,237,103
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	360,604,984	26,321,567	386,926,551
<b>Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations</b>	<b>16,404,695</b>	<b>(1,094,142)</b>	<b>15,310,553</b>

## 2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2024**.

The **UN-REDD Programme Fund** is currently being financed by **9** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December **2024** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2024**.

**Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
European Union	26,591,660	26,591,660
Government of Denmark	9,898,183	9,898,183
Government of Japan	3,046,138	3,046,138
Government of Luxembourg	2,674,100	2,674,100
Government of Norway	338,787,657	338,758,335
Government of Republic of Korea	741,736	741,736
Government of Spain	5,492,939	5,492,939
Government of Switzerland	4,824,745	4,824,745
Government of the United Kingdom (other)	25,763,780	25,763,780
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>417,820,937</b>	<b>417,791,616</b>

### 3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2024**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **2,889,388**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **857,315**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **3,746,703**. Details are provided in the table below.

**Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total
<b>Administrative Agent</b>			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	2,793,114	96,274	2,889,388
<b>Total: Fund Interest Earned</b>	<b>2,793,114</b>	<b>96,274</b>	<b>2,889,388</b>
<b>Participating Organization</b>			
FAO	387,916	-	387,916
UNDP	421,882	-	421,882
UNEP	47,516	-	47,516
<b>Total: Agency Interest Earned</b>	<b>857,315</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>857,315</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,650,429</b>	<b>96,274</b>	<b>3,746,703</b>

#### 4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Management Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2024**, the AA has transferred US\$ **408,504,111** to **3** Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

**Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount to Participating Organization (in US Dollars)**

Participating Organization	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO	145,635,667	(790,009)	144,845,658	12,388,481	-	12,388,481	158,024,148	(790,009)	157,234,139
UNDP	138,495,595	(3,682,800)	134,812,795	5,597,301	-	5,597,301	144,092,896	(3,682,800)	140,410,096
UNEP	99,145,424	(1,794,198)	97,351,225	7,241,643	-	7,241,643	106,387,067	(1,794,198)	104,592,868
<b>Grand</b>	<b>383,276,686</b>	<b>(6,267,007)</b>	<b>377,009,678</b>	<b>25,227,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,227,425</b>	<b>408,504,111</b>	<b>(6,267,007)</b>	<b>402,237,103</b>

## 5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint Programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2024** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ccf00>.

## 5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In **2024**, US\$ **25,227,425** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **26,321,567** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in the table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **402,237,103** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to **US\$ 386,926,551**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **96.19** percent.

**Table 5.1 Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Participating Organization	Approved Amount*	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure**			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Cumulative	
FAO	176,892,594	157,234,139	135,744,530	13,480,601	149,225,132	94.91
UNDP	146,281,047	140,410,096	131,371,112	5,363,928	136,735,040	97.38
UNEP	105,401,515	104,592,868	93,489,341	7,477,038	100,966,379	96.53
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>428,575,156</b>	<b>402,237,103</b>	<b>360,604,984</b>	<b>26,321,567</b>	<b>386,926,551</b>	<b>96.19</b>

\*Total approved amount aligned with future donor commitments

\*\*Over-expenditures due to mismapping of projects or multiyear budgets

## 5.2. Expenditures Reported by Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established seven categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories.

**Table 5.2. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,256,408	-	1,256,408	0.35
Personnel (Old)	23,105,695	-	23,105,695	6.39
Training of Counterparts (Old)	3,596,995	-	3,596,995	0.99
Contracts (Old)	6,914,797	-	6,914,797	1.91
Other direct costs (Old)	2,110,598	-	2,110,598	0.58
Staff & Personnel Cost	159,953,952	16,298,265	176,252,218	48.73
Supplies, commodities and materials	2,579,895	180,141	2,760,035	0.76
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	3,735,433	56,718	3,792,151	1.05
Contractual Services Expenses	37,340,760	1,140,800	38,481,561	10.64
Travel	29,180,065	2,527,309	31,707,374	8.77
Transfers and Grants	42,269,846	3,370,932	45,640,778	12.62
General Operating	25,070,319	1,024,505	26,094,824	7.21
<b>Programme Costs Total</b>	<b>337,114,765</b>	<b>24,598,669</b>	<b>361,713,434</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<sup>1</sup> Indirect Support Costs Total	23,490,219	1,722,898	25,213,117	6.97
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>360,604,984</b>	<b>26,321,567</b>	<b>386,926,551</b>	<b>-</b>

**1 Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed upon for on-going projects. Once projects is financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

## 6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2024, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of the contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, US\$ **3,912,000** has been charged in AA fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs based on UNSDG policy, establishing an indirect cost rate as a percentage of the programmable costs for interagency pass-through pool funds. In the current reporting period US\$ **1,722,898** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **25,213,117** as of 31 December **2024**.

## 8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred

## 7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed daily from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

to as 'direct costs'. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, no Direct Costs have been charged.

**UN-REDD Programme Fund**  
Annexes to Financial Report

## Annex 1. EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT GROUPED BY THEME/OUTCOME

Annex 1 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Theme/Outcome by project/ joint programme and Participating Organization

### Annex 1 Expenditure by Project within Theme/Outcome

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>UN_REDD</b>						
00070986 UN-REDD International Support	FAO	Financially Closed	4,358,875	4,344,292	4,344,292	100.00
00070986 UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	Financially Closed	4,679,302	4,665,011	4,665,011	100.00
00070986 UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	Financially Closed	6,856,866	6,856,866	6,856,866	100.00
00071391 UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	FAO	Financially Closed	2,926,450	2,907,355	2,907,355	100.00
00071391 UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	UNDP	Financially Closed	3,110,690	3,103,899	3,103,899	100.00
00071391 UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	UNEP	Financially Closed	1,346,060	1,130,560	1,130,560	100.00
00072449 UN-REDD Vietnam	FAO	Financially Closed	1,690,814	1,673,426	1,673,426	100.00
00072449 UN-REDD Vietnam	UNDP	Financially Closed	2,501,128	2,489,254	2,489,254	100.00
00072449 UN-REDD Vietnam	UNEP	Financially Closed	192,814	192,375	192,375	100.00
00073509 UN-REDD Indonesia	FAO	Financially Closed	1,498,000	1,391,426	1,391,426	100.00
00073509 UN-REDD Indonesia	UNDP	Financially Closed	2,996,000	2,938,677	2,938,677	100.00
00073509 UN-REDD Indonesia	UNEP	Financially Closed	1,150,250	1,072,285	1,072,285	100.00
00073510 UN-REDD Programme Panama	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,189,000	2,188,669	2,188,669	100.00
00073510 UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNDP	Operationally Closed	2,067,350	2,059,635	2,059,635	100.00
00073510 UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNEP	Operationally Closed	1,043,650	967,981	967,951	100.00
00073511 UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,498,000	1,479,705	1,479,705	100.00
00073511 UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNDP	Operationally Closed	2,568,000	2,453,290	2,453,336	100.00
00073511 UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNEP	Operationally Closed	214,000	193,841	193,841	100.00

00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	FAO	Operationally Closed	4,520,750	4,455,709	4,455,709	100.00
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,707,634	1,707,634	1,707,988	100.02
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	UNEP	Operationally Closed	107,000	107,000	107,000	100.00
00074797	UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	FAO	Financially Closed	1,095,679	1,095,679	1,095,679	100.00
00074797	UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	UNDP	Financially Closed	2,280,062	89,269	89,269	100.00
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,180,000	2,140,880	2,140,880	100.00
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,995,000	1,995,000	2,011,247	100.81
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNEP	Operationally Closed	315,000	311,963	311,963	100.00
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	FAO	Financially Closed	1,300,050	1,175,656	1,175,656	100.00
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNDP	Financially Closed	1,551,500	1,550,547	1,550,547	100.00
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNEP	Financially Closed	149,800	40,095	40,095	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	FAO	Financially Closed	2,190,000	2,189,721	2,189,721	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNDP	Financially Closed	1,490,001	1,487,117	1,487,117	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNEP	Financially Closed	1,040,000	1,040,000	1,040,000	100.00
00076666	UN-REDD Programme Solomon Isla	UNDP	Financially Closed	550,000	489,140	489,140	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	FAO	Financially Closed	315,650	276,176	276,176	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNDP	Financially Closed	162,950	162,950	162,950	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNEP	Financially Closed	21,400	21,400	21,400	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	FAO	Financially Closed	1,767,908	1,764,477	1,764,477	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNDP	Financially Closed	1,457,021	1,447,986	1,447,986	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNEP	Financially Closed	775,071	773,167	773,167	100.00

00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,130,990	1,130,990	1,130,990	100.00
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	2,400,350	2,355,143	2,355,143	100.00
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	468,660	444,018	444,018	100.00
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,368,262	1,299,879	1,299,879	100.00
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,813,188	1,813,188	1,811,295	99.90
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNEP	Operationally Closed	818,550	770,500	770,500	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,578,700	2,569,703	2,569,703	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	979,050	979,050	979,050	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	442,250	441,133	441,133	100.00
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,868,687	1,867,322	1,867,322	100.00
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,484,489	1,484,489	1,483,742	99.95
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	646,824	646,824	621,326	96.06
00090410	UN-REDD BANGLADESH	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,070,000	1,068,805	1,068,805	100.00
00090410	UN-REDD BANGLADESH	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,230,500	1,230,500	1,230,500	100.00
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,891,760	1,891,587	1,891,587	100.00
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,308,610	1,297,107	1,297,107	100.00
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	642,000	536,749	536,751	100.00
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,599,650	1,595,535	1,595,535	100.00
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,246,550	1,246,550	1,246,550	100.00
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNEP	Operationally Closed	363,800	358,434	358,434	100.00
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,171,650	1,169,689	1,169,689	100.00
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	2,396,800	2,396,800	2,396,597	99.99
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	428,000	424,137	424,137	100.00
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	FAO	Operationally Closed	684,800	684,179	684,179	100.00
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	UNDP	Operationally Closed	643,070	643,070	596,512	92.76

00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	UNEP	Operationally Closed	470,800	458,934	458,934	100.00
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	FAO	Operationally Closed	941,600	940,289	940,289	100.00
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,945,795	1,945,795	1,945,795	100.00
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	UNEP	Operationally Closed	722,250	689,700	689,950	100.04
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Progr	FAO	Operationally Closed	856,000	850,786	850,786	100.00
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Progr	UNDP	Operationally Closed	3,424,000	3,412,742	3,412,742	100.00
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,231,164	2,203,277	2,203,277	100.00
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	UNDP	Operationally Closed	3,015,688	3,012,494	3,012,774	100.01
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	UNEP	Operationally Closed	307,518	305,260	305,260	100.00
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	FAO	Operationally Closed	1,686,688	1,686,653	1,686,653	100.00
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,983,084	1,983,084	1,983,082	100.00
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	UNEP	Operationally Closed	396,007	394,031	394,016	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	FAO	On Going	867,500	990,000	948,096	95.77
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNDP	On Going	1,602,841	1,030,112	1,030,112	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNEP	On Going	6,107,109	7,092,661	6,175,182	87.06
00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	FAO	Operationally Closed	3,301,404	3,267,639	3,267,639	100.00
00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	UNDP	Operationally Closed	2,464,702	2,263,864	2,263,864	100.00
00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	UNEP	Operationally Closed	1,458,510	1,458,510	1,458,510	100.00
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	FAO	On Going	11,136,454	11,136,454	10,940,247	98.24
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	UNDP	On Going	3,682,396	3,585,588	3,583,308	99.94
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	UNEP	On Going	3,948,609	3,948,609	3,948,609	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,778,558	2,756,959	2,756,959	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	UNDP	Operationally Closed	4,958,936	4,904,425	4,904,426	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	UNEP	Operationally Closed	1,707,245	1,707,245	1,707,245	100.00
00103788	KM & Global Coordina	FAO	Operationally Closed	2,891,727	2,882,850	2,882,850	100.00

00103788	KM & Global Coordina	UNDP	Operationally Closed	5,194,298	5,194,298	4,990,784	96.08
00103788	KM & Global Coordina	UNEP	Operationally Closed	7,013,901	7,013,901	7,013,901	100.00
<b>UN_REDD: Total</b>				<b>177,631,699</b>	<b>173,891,653</b>	<b>172,472,502</b>	<b>99.18</b>

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
<b>UN REDD Global</b>							
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	FAO	Financially Closed	3,620,810	3,620,810	3,620,810	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	Financially Closed	2,530,632	2,530,632	2,530,632	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	Financially Closed	2,537,142	2,537,142	2,537,142	100.00
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	FAO	Operationally Closed	48,013,327	47,858,066	47,858,066	100.00
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNDP	Operationally Closed	49,110,168	48,323,815	48,063,361	99.46
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNEP	Operationally Closed	40,583,114	39,530,232	39,530,232	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	FAO	Operationally Closed	5,466,848	5,465,606	5,465,606	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	UNDP	Operationally Closed	5,425,556	3,814,234	3,814,234	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	UNEP	Operationally Closed	2,876,553	2,876,553	2,876,471	100.00
<b>UN REDD Global: Total</b>				<b>160,164,150</b>	<b>156,557,090</b>	<b>156,296,555</b>	<b>99.83</b>

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
<b>1 Forest Solutions Realised</b>							
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	FAO	On Going	8,535,608	8,535,608	6,855,051	80.31
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	UNDP	On Going	6,991,438	6,991,438	6,072,624	86.86
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	UNEP	On Going	3,397,195	3,397,195	2,501,964	73.65
00140248	AIM for Forests Programme	FAO	On Going	30,205,479	11,778,958	8,132,350	69.04
<b>1 Forest Solutions Realised: Total</b>				<b>49,129,720</b>	<b>30,703,199</b>	<b>23,561,989</b>	<b>76.74</b>

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>2 Forest Solutions Rewarded</b>						
00125684 Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	FAO	On Going	5,893,174	5,893,174	4,976,762	84.45
00125684 Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	UNDP	On Going	5,052,831	5,052,831	3,661,853	72.47
00125684 Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	UNEP	On Going	6,990,221	6,990,221	5,923,164	84.74
<b>2 Forest Solutions Rewarded: Total</b>			<b>17,936,226</b>	<b>17,936,226</b>	<b>14,561,780</b>	<b>81.19</b>

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>3 Forest Solutions Enhanced</b>						
00125685 Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	FAO	On Going	4,681,683	4,117,258	3,394,328	82.44
00125685 Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	UNDP	On Going	2,058,573	2,058,573	1,672,426	81.24
00125685 Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	UNEP	On Going	1,435,588	1,435,588	1,080,634	75.27
<b>3 Forest Solutions Enhanced: Total</b>			<b>8,175,844</b>	<b>7,611,419</b>	<b>6,147,388</b>	<b>80.77</b>

Theme/Outcome / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>4 Connecting Actors&amp; KNwledge</b>						
00125686 Outcome 4: Global KM	FAO	On Going	2,888,895	2,888,895	2,084,505	72.16
00125686 Outcome 4: Global KM	UNDP	On Going	4,220,865	4,220,865	3,740,470	88.62
00125686 Outcome 4: Global KM	UNEP	On Going	8,427,758	8,427,758	8,061,361	95.65
<b>4 Connecting Actors&amp; KNwledge: Total</b>			<b>15,537,517</b>	<b>15,537,517</b>	<b>13,886,337</b>	<b>89.37</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>428,575,156</b>	<b>402,237,103</b>	<b>386,926,551</b>	<b>96.19</b>
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## Annex 2. EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT GROUPED BY COUNTRY

Annex 2 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Country by project/ joint programme and Participating Organization

Table Annex 2 Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country

Country / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>Argentina</b>					
00092164 UN-REDD ARGENTINA	FAO	1,891,760	1,891,587	1,891,587	100.00
00092164 UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNDP	1,308,610	1,297,107	1,297,107	100.00
00092164 UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNEP	642,000	536,749	536,751	100.00
<b>Argentina: Total</b>		<b>3,842,370</b>	<b>3,725,443</b>	<b>3,725,445</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Bangladesh</b>					
00090410 UN-REDD BANGLADESH	FAO	1,070,000	1,068,805	1,068,805	100.00
00090410 UN-REDD BANGLADESH	UNDP	1,230,500	1,230,500	1,230,500	100.00
<b>Bangladesh: Total</b>		<b>2,300,500</b>	<b>2,299,305</b>	<b>2,299,305</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</b>					
00074797 UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	FAO	1,095,679	1,095,679	1,095,679	100.00
00074797 UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	UNDP	2,280,062	89,269	89,269	100.00
<b>Bolivia (Plurinational State of): Total</b>		<b>3,375,741</b>	<b>1,184,948</b>	<b>1,184,948</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Cambodia</b>					
00076663 UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	FAO	1,300,050	1,175,656	1,175,656	100.00
00076663 UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNDP	1,551,500	1,550,547	1,550,547	100.00
00076663 UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNEP	149,800	40,095	40,095	100.00

<b>Cambodia: Total</b>			<b>3,001,350</b>	<b>2,766,298</b>	<b>2,766,298</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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<b>Chile</b>						
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Progr	FAO	856,000	850,786	850,786	100.00
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Progr	UNDP	3,424,000	3,412,742	3,412,742	100.00
<b>Chile: Total</b>			<b>4,280,000</b>	<b>4,263,528</b>	<b>4,263,528</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Colombia</b>						
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	FAO	1,868,687	1,867,322	1,867,322	100.00
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNDP	1,484,489	1,484,489	1,483,742	99.95
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNEP	646,824	646,824	621,326	96.06
<b>Colombia: Total</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>3,998,635</b>	<b>3,972,389</b>	<b>99.34</b>

<b>Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)</b>						
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	FAO	2,926,450	2,907,355	2,907,355	100.00
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	UNDP	3,110,690	3,103,899	3,103,899	100.00
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme de De	UNEP	1,346,060	1,130,560	1,130,560	100.00
<b>Congo (the Democratic Republic of the): Total</b>			<b>7,383,200</b>	<b>7,141,814</b>	<b>7,141,814</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Congo (the)</b>						
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	FAO	1,368,262	1,299,879	1,299,879	100.00
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNDP	1,813,188	1,813,188	1,811,295	99.90
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNEP	818,550	770,500	770,500	100.00
<b>Congo (the): Total</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>3,883,567</b>	<b>3,881,674</b>	<b>99.95</b>

<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>						
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	FAO	1,599,650	1,595,535	1,595,535	100.00
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNDP	1,246,550	1,246,550	1,246,550	100.00

00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNEP	363,800	358,434	358,434	100.00
<b>Côte d'Ivoire: Total</b>			<b>3,210,000</b>	<b>3,200,519</b>	<b>3,200,519</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Ecuador</b>						
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	FAO	1,767,908	1,764,477	1,764,477	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNDP	1,457,021	1,447,986	1,447,986	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNEP	775,071	773,167	773,167	100.00
<b>Ecuador: Total</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>3,985,629</b>	<b>3,985,629</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Global and Interregional</b>						
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	FAO	4,358,875	4,344,292	4,344,292	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	4,679,302	4,665,011	4,665,011	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	6,856,866	6,856,866	6,856,866	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	FAO	3,620,810	3,620,810	3,620,810	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	2,530,632	2,530,632	2,530,632	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	2,537,142	2,537,142	2,537,142	100.00
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	FAO	48,013,327	47,858,066	47,858,066	100.00
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNDP	49,110,168	48,323,815	48,063,361	99.46
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNEP	40,583,114	39,530,232	39,530,232	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	FAO	5,466,848	5,465,606	5,465,606	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	UNDP	5,425,556	3,814,234	3,814,234	100.00
00103359	UN REDD - Delivering National	UNEP	2,876,553	2,876,553	2,876,471	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	FAO	867,500	990,000	948,096	95.77
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNDP	1,602,841	1,030,112	1,030,112	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNEP	6,107,109	7,092,661	6,175,182	87.06
00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	FAO	3,301,404	3,267,639	3,267,639	100.00
00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	UNDP	2,464,702	2,263,864	2,263,864	100.00

00103785	AFRICA - Technical Assistance	UNEP	1,458,510	1,458,510	1,458,510	100.00
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	FAO	11,136,454	11,136,454	10,940,247	98.24
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	UNDP	3,682,396	3,585,588	3,583,308	99.94
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (T	UNEP	3,948,609	3,948,609	3,948,609	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	FAO	2,778,558	2,756,959	2,756,959	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	UNDP	4,958,936	4,904,425	4,904,426	100.00
00103787	LAC - Technical Assistance (TA	UNEP	1,707,245	1,707,245	1,707,245	100.00
00103788	KM & Global Coordina	FAO	2,891,727	2,882,850	2,882,850	100.00
00103788	KM & Global Coordina	UNDP	5,194,298	5,194,298	4,990,784	96.08
00103788	KM & Global Coordina	UNEP	7,013,901	7,013,901	7,013,901	100.00
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	FAO	8,535,608	8,535,608	6,855,051	80.31
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	UNDP	6,991,438	6,991,438	6,072,624	86.86
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Re	UNEP	3,397,195	3,397,195	2,501,964	73.65
00125684	Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	FAO	5,893,174	5,893,174	4,976,762	84.45
00125684	Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	UNDP	5,052,831	5,052,831	3,661,853	72.47
00125684	Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Re	UNEP	6,990,221	6,990,221	5,923,164	84.74
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	FAO	4,681,683	4,117,258	3,394,328	82.44
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	UNDP	2,058,573	2,058,573	1,672,426	81.24
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions En	UNEP	1,435,588	1,435,588	1,080,634	75.27
00125686	Outcome 4: Global KM	FAO	2,888,895	2,888,895	2,084,505	72.16
00125686	Outcome 4: Global KM	UNDP	4,220,865	4,220,865	3,740,470	88.62
00125686	Outcome 4: Global KM	UNEP	8,427,758	8,427,758	8,061,361	95.65
00140248	AIM for Forests Programme	FAO	30,205,479	11,778,958	8,132,350	69.04
<b>Global and Interregional: Total</b>			<b>325,952,689</b>	<b>303,444,733</b>	<b>288,191,949</b>	<b>94.97</b>
<b>Honduras</b>						
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	FAO	941,600	940,289	940,289	100.00

00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	UNDP	1,945,795	1,945,795	1,945,795	100.00
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emiss	UNEP	722,250	689,700	689,950	100.04
<b>Honduras: Total</b>			<b>3,609,645</b>	<b>3,575,784</b>	<b>3,576,034</b>	<b>100.01</b>

<b>Indonesia</b>						
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	FAO	1,498,000	1,391,426	1,391,426	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNDP	2,996,000	2,938,677	2,938,677	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNEP	1,150,250	1,072,285	1,072,285	100.00
<b>Indonesia: Total</b>			<b>5,644,250</b>	<b>5,402,389</b>	<b>5,402,389</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Mongolia</b>						
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	FAO	1,171,650	1,169,689	1,169,689	100.00
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNDP	2,396,800	2,396,800	2,396,597	99.99
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNEP	428,000	424,137	424,137	100.00
<b>Mongolia: Total</b>			<b>3,996,450</b>	<b>3,990,626</b>	<b>3,990,423</b>	<b>99.99</b>

<b>Myanmar</b>						
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	FAO	2,231,164	2,203,277	2,203,277	100.00
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	UNDP	3,015,688	3,012,494	3,012,774	100.01
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Pro	UNEP	307,518	305,260	305,260	100.00
<b>Myanmar: Total</b>			<b>5,554,370</b>	<b>5,521,031</b>	<b>5,521,311</b>	<b>100.01</b>

<b>Nigeria</b>						
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	FAO	1,130,990	1,130,990	1,130,990	100.00
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNDP	2,400,350	2,355,143	2,355,143	100.00
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNEP	468,660	444,018	444,018	100.00
<b>Nigeria: Total</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>3,930,151</b>	<b>3,930,151</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Panama</b>						
00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	FAO	2,189,000	2,188,669	2,188,669	100.00

00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNDP	2,067,350	2,059,635	2,059,635	100.00
00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNEP	1,043,650	967,981	967,951	100.00
<b>Panama: Total</b>			<b>5,300,000</b>	<b>5,216,285</b>	<b>5,216,255</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Papua New Guinea</b>						
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	FAO	4,520,750	4,455,709	4,455,709	100.00
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	UNDP	1,707,634	1,707,634	1,707,988	100.02
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Progra	UNEP	107,000	107,000	107,000	100.00
<b>Papua New Guinea: Total</b>			<b>6,335,384</b>	<b>6,270,343</b>	<b>6,270,697</b>	<b>100.01</b>

<b>Paraguay</b>						
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	FAO	2,190,000	2,189,721	2,189,721	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNDP	1,490,001	1,487,117	1,487,117	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNEP	1,040,000	1,040,000	1,040,000	100.00
<b>Paraguay: Total</b>			<b>4,720,001</b>	<b>4,716,838</b>	<b>4,716,838</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Peru</b>						
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	FAO	1,686,688	1,686,653	1,686,653	100.00
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	UNDP	1,983,084	1,983,084	1,983,082	100.00
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Progra	UNEP	396,007	394,031	394,016	100.00
<b>Peru: Total</b>			<b>4,065,779</b>	<b>4,063,768</b>	<b>4,063,751</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Philippines (the)</b>						
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	FAO	315,650	276,176	276,176	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNDP	162,950	162,950	162,950	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNEP	21,400	21,400	21,400	100.00

<b>Philippines (the): Total</b>			<b>500,000</b>	<b>460,526</b>	<b>460,526</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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<b>Solomon Islands</b>						
00076666	UN-REDD Programme Solomon Isla	UNDP	550,000	489,140	489,140	100.00
<b>Solomon Islands: Total</b>			<b>550,000</b>	<b>489,140</b>	<b>489,140</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Sri Lanka</b>						
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	FAO	2,578,700	2,569,703	2,569,703	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNDP	979,050	979,050	979,050	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNEP	442,250	441,133	441,133	100.00
<b>Sri Lanka: Total</b>			<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>3,989,885</b>	<b>3,989,885</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Tanzania, United Republic of</b>						
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	FAO	1,498,000	1,479,705	1,479,705	100.00
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNDP	2,568,000	2,453,290	2,453,336	100.00
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNEP	214,000	193,841	193,841	100.00
<b>Tanzania, United Republic of: Total</b>			<b>4,280,000</b>	<b>4,126,837</b>	<b>4,126,882</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<b>Uganda</b>						
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	FAO	684,800	684,179	684,179	100.00
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	UNDP	643,070	643,070	596,512	92.76
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Progr	UNEP	470,800	458,934	458,934	100.00
<b>Uganda: Total</b>			<b>1,798,670</b>	<b>1,786,183</b>	<b>1,739,625</b>	<b>97.39</b>

<b>Viet Nam</b>						
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	FAO	1,690,814	1,673,426	1,673,426	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNDP	2,501,128	2,489,254	2,489,254	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNEP	192,814	192,375	192,375	100.00

<b>Viet Nam: Total</b>			<b>4,384,756</b>	<b>4,355,054</b>	<b>4,355,054</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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<b>Zambia</b>						
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	FAO	2,180,000	2,140,880	2,140,880	100.00
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNDP	1,995,000	1,995,000	2,011,247	100.81
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNEP	315,000	311,963	311,963	100.00
<b>Zambia: Total</b>			<b>4,490,000</b>	<b>4,447,843</b>	<b>4,464,089</b>	<b>100.37</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>428,575,156</b>	<b>402,237,103</b>	<b>386,926,551</b>	<b>96.19</b>
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# Contributors

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European Union



Government of Denmark



Government of Japan



Government of Luxembourg



Government of Norway



Government of Republic of Korea



Government of Spain



Government of Switzerland



Government of the United Kingdom (other)

# UN Participating Organizations

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## LOOKING AHEAD

As we are in the final year of UN-REDD's current phase, the Programme is actively reflecting and building on its achievements to date, paving the way for a robust post-2025 framework and ensuring a seamless transition into the 2026-2030 phase. The challenges ahead are significant, requiring bold actions, at speed and scale, to ensure the global goal of halting deforestation by 2030 is within reach.

Operationalizing the 2026-2030 strategy will be one of the key focuses, ensuring that lessons learned from the current phase inform a more effective and impactful approach moving forward. This includes strengthening country-level implementation, refining technical assistance models, and ensuring that financial mechanisms are more accessible and scalable. To ensure transparency and inclusivity in shaping its next phase, UN-REDD will launch an online public consultation, inviting stakeholders from around the world to contribute insights and recommendations to the 2026-30 strategy.

Engaging new partners will be critical to broadening UN-REDD's reach and deepening its impact. By fostering collaboration with governments, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations, the Programme will position itself as a global convening force for forest solutions. New partnerships will help drive innovative financing mechanisms and ensure that forests remain at the heart of global, regional and national climate change action.

The road to COP30 in Belém, Brazil—the “Forest COP”—offers a significant opportunity for UN-REDD to showcase its leadership and influence in the forest agenda. UN-REDD will use this platform to highlight best practices, demonstrate the transformative potential of REDD+ initiatives, and advocate for increased ambition and financing to accelerate forest-based solutions, in the context of countries' NDCs, the backbone of the Paris Agreement. The Programme's role at COP30 will reflect its commitment to positioning forests as a cornerstone of the global climate agenda. [UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) has emphasized that “We have what we need to save ourselves. Our forests, our wetlands, and our oceans absorb carbon from the atmosphere. They are vital to keeping 1.5 alive or pulling us back if we do overshoot that limit. We must protect them”.

Looking beyond 2025 to the critical second half of the decade, UN-REDD aims to catalyse transformative change in the land use sector. By leveraging more than 15 years of experience and fostering stronger collaboration, the programme is committed to building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for forests and the global community.

## ANNEX 1: IMPACT STORIES

### REDD+ delivers results for Ghana's cocoa farmers

Ghana's REDD+ programme continues to deliver transformative results, helping restore degraded lands, boost rural livelihoods, and fight climate change. With nearly US\$ 21 million in results-based payments secured, cocoa farming communities are now reaping the benefits of climate-smart agriculture and forest conservation.

The success story of Daniel Amponsah Gynayeh, a 66-year-old farmer from the Asunafo District, exemplifies the programme's impact. Once facing plummeting yields due to deforestation and erratic rainfall, Gynayeh has seen his cocoa production rise from 20 to 60 bags annually after adopting REDD+-promoted practices. As the head of a 15,000-member cooperative, he has championed reforestation efforts, sustainable farming, and community training.

Ghana's REDD+ journey began in 2015 with the launch of its National REDD+ Strategy. Since then, the country has become Africa's most advanced REDD+ implementer. In 2023, Ghana received its first results-based payment of US\$ 4.86 million for reducing nearly one million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2019. A second, larger payment of US\$ 16 million was issued in mid-2024 for a further reduction of over 3.3 million tons during 2020–2021. These funds, disbursed through a benefit-sharing mechanism, are now supporting farmers, communities, and local authorities across the country.

Women like Grace Asare in Ghana's Kakum landscape are also seeing tangible benefits. Formerly impacted by deforestation and male-dominated decision-making, Asare has used REDD+ support to launch a successful snail farming business, pay her children's school fees, and advocate for women's inclusion in climate action. "It has changed my life through capacity building and training," she said, emphasizing how education and support helped boost her cocoa yield and livelihood.

The funds have provided agricultural tools, tree seedlings, and water boreholes, while also encouraging alternative livelihoods like beekeeping and vegetable farming.

Significantly, former illegal miners and loggers are now participating in forest-friendly income-generating activities.

Ivy Ashiley, Benefit Sharing Mechanism Officer at Ghana's Forestry Commission, underscores the importance of recognizing the efforts of communities reducing emissions. "If people put in so much effort to reduce emissions, they must be acknowledged," she said. "This is a good way forward."

Ghana's REDD+ model — combining government leadership, community engagement, and international finance — is helping not only reduce emissions but also set a benchmark for other African countries. With forests playing a key role in absorbing carbon and regulating rainfall, the restoration of natural landscapes is proving both a climate and economic imperative.

As Asare puts it: "Let's keep planting the trees and not cut them down." Ghana's REDD+ success proves that when local people are empowered and rewarded, climate solutions grow from the ground up.



## Costa Rica's deforestation-free coffee sets new global standard



Costa Rica reached a landmark moment in climate-smart agriculture, exporting its first verified deforestation-free coffee to the European market—a result of a decade of investment in forests under the UN-REDD Programme.

The export of 275 sacks of certified coffee to Trieste, Italy, marked a turning point in the global coffee trade and showcased how deforestation-free supply chains can be both profitable and planet-friendly.

This milestone stems from Costa Rica's REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) project, launched in 2013 to expand sustainable land use across productive sectors. Recognizing coffee's central role in the economy and environment, UNDP partnered with the Costa Rican Coffee Institute (ICAFE) to develop a pilot initiative focused on verifying the environmental integrity of coffee production. The result: a fully traceable, deforestation-free coffee supply chain capable of meeting rising global standards, especially the European Union's upcoming regulation on deforestation-free imports, set to take effect from 2025.

"Adapting to climate change is not just an option but a necessity to maintain our competitiveness," said Carlos Isaac Pérez, Deputy Minister of Strategic Management at the Ministry of Environment and Energy. "This initiative shows how our farms' natural resources are partners in production—not just assets."

At the heart of this transformation is the Coffee Growers Cooperative of Tarrazú (CoopeTarrazú),

Costa Rica's largest, representing 4,500 producers. The cooperative exports 25 per cent of its coffee to Europe, making it the country's third-largest exporter to the continent. Under the pilot programme, farmers in the Los Santos area implemented a rigorous due diligence process to ensure their beans were grown without contributing to deforestation. This effort is enhancing transparency, building resilience, and preparing the sector for regulatory shifts in the global market.

For coffee buyers like Illycafe, which purchased the pilot shipment, the benefits are clear: access to premium, environmentally responsible products that meet the demands of increasingly climate-conscious consumers. For Costa Rican producers, the results include increased market access, stronger supply chain resilience, and global recognition for sustainability leadership.

The initiative is also contributing to Costa Rica's broader climate goals, reinforcing its position as a global frontrunner in forest conservation and sustainable agriculture. With support from UN-REDD, farmers are not only protecting their landscapes but enhancing productivity and climate adaptation through smarter land management practices.

"This collaboration with CoopeTarrazú is a step forward in keeping Costa Rica's coffee sector aligned with international standards," said Xinia Chaves, UNDP consultant and leader of the pilot project. "We are demonstrating that responsible production can meet both environmental and commercial goals."

As countries around the world race to decarbonize their economies and secure nature-positive supply chains, Costa Rica's success offers a replicable model. Through targeted investment, international partnerships, and grassroots engagement, Costa Rica is proving that small beans can yield big results—for farmers, forests, and the future of our planet.

## Papua New Guinea accelerates REDD+ progress

Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to make significant strides in reducing deforestation and enhancing forest conservation through its implementation of REDD+. Home to the world's third-largest rainforest and 7 per cent of global biodiversity, PNG's forests are vital to both national development and global climate goals.

Over the past decade, PNG has transitioned from REDD+ readiness to results, building robust national systems that are unlocking access to international climate finance. The country is poised to receive its first results-based payments from the Green Climate Fund within the next two years and is actively engaging with mechanisms such as the LEAF Coalition to scale up efforts.

“Our work is now being recognized, and there is a sense of respect that REDD+ is really something that can answer local community needs—balancing livelihoods with preserving forests,” said Gwen Sissiou, Acting Director for REDD+ and Mitigation at PNG's Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA).

PNG was one of the original proponents of REDD+, co-presenting the concept with Costa Rica at the 2005 UN climate conference. Since then, the government has worked to develop national forest monitoring systems, define its forest reference emission level (FREL), and launch pilot projects to test REDD+ implementation.

Key to this progress has been strong institutional coordination by CCDA, which has mobilized support across sectors—from local communities and traditional authorities to private industry. Sissiou credits increased development partner investment in recent years for enabling PNG to expand REDD+ activities on the ground, raising awareness about the links between forests, climate resilience, and livelihoods.

One notable result has been the growing role of women in climate and conservation efforts. In Sissiou's REDD+ division at CCDA, over half the

staff are women. Nationally, more women are entering environmental leadership roles, supporting implementation and outreach at the community level.

“Women are driving this and making a huge impact in promoting conservation and delivering real benefits for the people,” she noted.

This transformation is particularly significant in a country ranked near the bottom of the UNDP Gender Inequality Index, where women have historically faced limited participation in formal decision-making. REDD+ has provided a platform to challenge traditional roles, creating new opportunities in leadership, project design, and benefit-sharing.

With 2.9 million hectares of forest already degraded and deforestation continuing at 1.4 per cent annually, PNG's REDD+ activities are delivering critical outcomes. These include forest conservation, improved livelihoods, community capacity building, and enhanced readiness to meet future climate targets.

“We've come a long way,” Sissiou reflected. The momentum is growing, and the results are starting to show.”



## Indigenous Peoples learn more about their rights in Asia's emerging carbon markets

Across Asia, where 70 per cent of the world's Indigenous Peoples reside—many of them stewards of forested landscapes—carbon markets are emerging as both an opportunity and a challenge. While market-based climate finance mechanisms are accelerating globally, Indigenous Peoples often remain excluded due to knowledge gaps, legal ambiguity, and barriers to participation.

In response, the UN-REDD Programme has supported efforts to equip indigenous communities in the region to understand and engage with high-integrity carbon markets—anchored in respect for rights, tenure, and traditional knowledge.

In 2024, the Programme convened a regional knowledge exchange in Thailand with indigenous representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand. This initiative built on earlier outreach during the 2023 Asia-Pacific Climate Week, where many indigenous participants voiced confusion and uncertainty about carbon markets.

“There was a strong desire to engage, but people didn't know where to start,” said one facilitator. “This exchange aimed to demystify the basics—what carbon markets are, how they operate, and most importantly, what rights Indigenous Peoples have within them.”

Throughout the event, participants explored how core principles such as self-determination, clear land tenure, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), benefit-sharing, and grievance mechanisms apply in the context of carbon trading. These rights, enshrined in frameworks like the Cancun Safeguards under REDD+, remain central as countries across Asia integrate land and forest sectors into their climate targets.

A standout example came from Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, where Ibu Rukmini of the Ngata Toro Indigenous Women's Organization helped secure a local FPIC decree in 2012. With support from UN-REDD, her community established a culturally grounded FPIC process and protected 50 hectares of ancestral forest from commercial logging. This has now become a model for integrating Indigenous-led governance into emerging carbon initiatives.

“REDD+ gave us the tools and recognition to say: this is our land, and we decide what happens to it,” said Rukmini. “We now have the confidence to engage with carbon markets on our terms.”

The story is echoed in Malaysia by Orang Asli leader Tijah Yok Chopil. “If you are informed about your rights, you can express your thoughts clearly. Otherwise, you may lose your rights if you say the wrong thing,” she warned, underlining the importance of informed participation.

Yet challenges remain. The Ikalahan of the Philippines, despite managing 15,000 hectares of ancestral forest sustainably since 1974, face exclusion from carbon finance due to eligibility rules favouring larger-scale deforestation reduction. This underscores the need to adapt financial mechanisms to recognize communities that have already preserved forests.

To address these gaps, participants outlined clear priorities: national-level capacity building, stronger government dialogue, mapping of customary lands, and grievance redress systems. UN-REDD is responding by scaling support for these actions across the region, ensuring that Indigenous voices and leadership remain at the forefront of nature-based climate solutions.

In Asia's rapidly evolving carbon economy, the message is clear: Indigenous Peoples are not just stakeholders—they are rights-holders, knowledge keepers, and climate leaders.



## Colombia's Afro-descendent communities take a step closer to securing tenure rights



In Colombia's Caribbean coastal region, the Afro-descendent community of COCOMASUR has taken a critical step toward securing its territorial rights through an innovative mapping initiative supported by the UN-REDD Programme. Using Open Tenure, an open-source land data management tool developed by FAO, the community has begun documenting individual and household-level tenure claims within its legally recognized collective territory of over 39,000 hectares.

This effort, launched in the Peñaloza Consejo in Acandí, Chocó, marks a tangible result of years of collaboration between COCOMASUR, UN-REDD, and national institutions including Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM). In 2024, community members, especially youth—received hands-on training in using Open Tenure to demarcate land parcels, record claimant data, and store information on a locally managed server. The training culminated in a field exercise mapping the land of a respected elder, Señor Córdoba, establishing a real-world application for future tenure campaigns across COCOMASUR's nine consejos.

“By equipping our youth with digital mapping tools and land rights knowledge, we're strengthening our future leadership and forest governance,” said a COCOMASUR coordinator. With their skills in place, the community is now poised to expand tenure documentation throughout its entire territory.

This mapping initiative addresses a major barrier facing Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities across the country: the lack of detailed, intra-community tenure records. Despite securing collective land titles under Colombia's 1993 Ley 70, communities like COCOMASUR face threats such as

encroachment and illegal land grabs—often linked to deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Clarifying internal land claims improves not only governance, but also protection of the forests and marine ecosystems that communities have stewarded for generations.

COCOMASUR's territory includes 13,500 hectares of tropical forest and coastal ecosystems, home to endangered species such as the Caná and Carey Sea turtles.

The community has proactively established protected areas and enforces conservation goals through its own forest monitoring efforts. Now, the mapping of tenure rights further strengthens their position to manage these resources sustainably, reduce internal conflicts, and support equitable benefit-sharing.

The project also addresses gender disparities in land tenure. By formally recognizing women's land use and ownership, COCOMASUR aims to reduce vulnerabilities traditionally faced by women during land inheritance or resource allocation. This effort aligns with UN-REDD's broader commitment to gender-responsive forest governance.

Beyond tenure, COCOMASUR is investing in future leadership. With support from its administrative centre and internet access, many young people are pursuing online university degrees in fields such as ecotourism and communications. These young leaders are returning with new skills to support both community development and natural resource management.

While COCOMASUR continues to face financial constraints and legal threats to its territory, the community's strategic use of Open Tenure has laid the groundwork for stronger local governance, better protection of biodiversity, and more inclusive decision-making.

Through its partnership with UN-REDD, COCOMASUR is demonstrating how community-led innovation, combined with digital tools and capacity building, can yield measurable progress toward sustainable forest management and climate resilience.

## Zambia enhances forest-water-climate management in Zambezi headwaters

In Zambia's forest-rich Zambezi headwaters, a groundbreaking Forests-Water-Climate (FWC) assessment is already changing how forest ecosystems are understood and managed.

With support from the UN-REDD Programme and partners, Zambia has taken a major step toward evidence-based, sustainable forest management that strengthens climate resilience and secures water resources.

The FWC assessment, delivered in 2024 through a collaboration between FAO, the University of Zambia, the Polytechnic University of Valencia, and funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), explored the intricate links between forest ecosystems, water flows, and climate regulation. The initiative was part of the UN-REDD Technical Assistance to Zambia and focused on the headwaters of the Zambezi River—the country's most ecologically significant watershed.

A key result was the creation of science-based forest management scenarios using advanced ecohydrological modelling. One promising scenario showed that low-intensity thinning of specific tree species could increase water availability and carbon sequestration, while also offering sustainable income streams from timber for communities. These findings position community forest management as a viable solution to harmonize conservation and local development objectives.

The results were shared with participants at a national workshop in Lusaka in November 2024, followed by a five-day technical training. Attendees included representatives from Zambia's Forestry Department, Meteorological Department, Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), and the national energy utility ZESCO. Chiefs, community forest managers, academia, and civil society organizations such as WWF and CIFOR-ICRAF also joined the effort, making it a rare convergence of cross-sectoral actors around landscape management.

The workshops helped mainstream forest-water-climate knowledge across institutions. Surveys indicated that a majority of participants gained new

insights on how forest management affects water regulation and carbon dynamics. Many reported they would integrate the tools and findings into forest plans, restoration projects, and carbon initiatives. The event also sparked strong interest in further capacity development on ecohydrological modelling, fire management, and payment for ecosystem services.

The intergenerational exchange was another clear success. Young professionals brought technological expertise, while elders shared indigenous knowledge, jointly reviewing how forest management plans could be improved by incorporating water and climate considerations. "This modelling exercise helped us realize what was missing in our earlier forest plans," said Steven Munyandi, a young community leader. "Now we can do better."

The technical assessment used field data and modelling tools to map out how different land-use practices impact water provisioning, carbon storage, and livelihoods. Findings showed that data-driven forest management can improve decision-making at both community and government levels, supporting Zambia's efforts to adapt to climate change while maintaining ecosystem integrity.

Through this initiative, Zambia is demonstrating how science, local knowledge, and cross-sectoral collaboration can drive transformative forest governance with measurable climate and development results.



## REDD+ Academy 3.0 turns knowledge into action

As countries accelerate climate action, REDD+ implementation is becoming increasingly technical and collaborative—requiring not only policy frameworks, but also well-equipped practitioners who can translate complex ideas into concrete results.



The REDD+ Academy’s learning labs, Communities of Practice and new learning journals are stepping up to fill this need, creating immersive, peer-driven spaces where global forest and climate professionals build the capacity to drive change on the ground.

In 2024, over 1,500 practitioners from 60 countries participated in the REDD+ Academy, which emphasizes applied knowledge, peer exchange, and long-term learning networks. These activities covered critical areas such as carbon markets, nesting, benefit-sharing, and jurisdictional REDD+ systems, preparing participants to implement climate solutions in real-world contexts.

For Aomjitr Sena of Thailand’s Royal Forest Department, joining the Academy was transformative. “REDD+ felt like another language at first,” she explained. “But everything clicked when we worked through real examples—how carbon is tracked, how finance flows, and how different actors can align to deliver results.”

This is the core of the REDD+ Academy model: a social, experiential approach that replaces lectures with scenario-based exercises, problem-solving, and group discussion. “Learning is not just about transferring knowledge,” says Tom Wambeke of the ILO’s International Training Centre, a key REDD+ Academy partner. “It’s about co-creating practical solutions and building trust.”

In 2024, a Learning Lab in Lima, Peru, convened Latin American forest professionals to deepen regional understanding of carbon market integrity, financing frameworks, and nesting—the alignment of project-level REDD+ actions within national or jurisdictional systems. Participants explored how nesting supports high-integrity emissions reductions, equitable benefit-sharing, and access to results-based finance.

The lab’s outcomes were bolstered by the release of a new Learning Journal on Nesting, which distills lessons, tools, and strategies for governments and project developers navigating jurisdictional integration. It is now being used as a reference in policy discussions and training sessions across the region.

Daphne Gitonga of the African Forest Forum highlighted another lasting impact: relationships. “The value isn’t only technical—it’s in the networks. Our Community of Practice has become a vital space where practitioners keep learning, exchanging, and solving problems together.” In fact, 70 per cent of lab participants continue engagement through these communities.

Post-lab evaluations show that 80–90 per cent of participants apply lessons directly to their work—supporting REDD+ strategy development, carbon accounting, benefit-sharing schemes, and capacity-building in their own institutions. In several countries, insights from the labs have directly informed updates to national forest reference levels, safeguards approaches, and nesting frameworks.

As countries prepare for COP30 in Brazil, and as Article 6 carbon market mechanisms gain traction, the REDD+ Academy’s learning initiatives are delivering concrete value. Practitioners are now better equipped to engage with high-integrity markets, unlock climate finance, and implement REDD+ with transparency and equity.

“When we empower people with the right knowledge,” said Mario Boccucci, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, “we empower them to create lasting change—not only for forests, but for the communities who depend on them.”

## African countries eye greater economic, forest rewards through REDD+ implementation

Twelve African countries advanced their REDD+ agendas in June 2024 by validating key lessons, identifying implementation gaps, and agreeing on priority actions to access results-based payments.

These outcomes emerged from a UN-REDD and African Forest Forum (AFF) regional knowledge exchange and learning lab held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



Countries participating—Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, and Togo—shared experiences and best practices on REDD+ implementation, with a focus on removing barriers to phase-three readiness. While REDD+ progress is visible across the region, only a few countries have reached the stage of verified emissions reductions that qualify for performance-based payments.

The dual event focused on helping countries transition from early REDD+ readiness phases to the third phase of implementation, where results-based payments become accessible. While many countries have piloted REDD+ initiatives, only a few have achieved verified emission reductions and developed robust systems to secure climate finance. Through peer exchange and national consultation reviews, participants identified key institutional, technical, and policy barriers that continue to delay progress, including limited inter-agency coordination, weak safeguards, and inadequate funding mechanisms.

Over the five days, countries validated findings from national assessments and defined specific actions to overcome these gaps. They are committed to updating REDD+ frameworks,

accelerating safeguard implementation, and strengthening monitoring systems. Country representatives also agreed on the need to align forest and climate policies with clear benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure transparency, equity, and social legitimacy.

These discussions strengthened the regional understanding of what is required to operationalize REDD+ at scale and meet the eligibility criteria for performance-based payments.

The second part of the event—a learning lab on social inclusion—delivered targeted training to enhance countries' capacity to integrate equity, gender, and Indigenous Peoples' rights into REDD+ strategies. UN-REDD and partner experts provided practical tools and policy guidance on designing socially inclusive REDD+ processes, with a focus on stakeholder participation, gender mainstreaming, and legal safeguards. Participants gained new skills to ensure that REDD+ implementation not only reduces emissions but also delivers tangible benefits to communities that depend on forests.

Technical sessions highlighted the importance of robust safeguards systems to avoid social or environmental harm and to meet the requirements for results-based finance. Experts from UNDP, FAO, and UNEP-WCMC emphasized that countries must embed participatory approaches in all stages of REDD+—from planning to monitoring and benefit distribution. Presenters also reviewed global frameworks, such as the Cancun safeguards, and offered guidance on how to apply them in national contexts.

By the conclusion of the event, African countries had strengthened their implementation roadmaps and deepened collaboration on REDD+. They returned with a clearer understanding of the requirements for accessing climate finance and a renewed commitment to inclusive, results-oriented forest governance.

This regional exchange marks a step forward in Africa's journey to realize the full potential of REDD+ as both climate and development tool.

## UN-REDD partners with World Bank to deliver a successful REDD+ Knowledge Day

The 2024 REDD+ Knowledge Day led to renewed momentum for scaling up forest-based climate action, with countries committing to improve benefit-sharing systems, fast-track readiness for results-based payments, and strengthen safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Participating governments and stakeholders identified concrete actions to advance transparency, equity, and private sector engagement in REDD+ implementation, with several countries pledging to adapt lessons learned into their national strategies.

More than 140 participants from over 30 countries attended the event in Oslo, co-hosted by the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes. Delegates, including REDD+ focal points, indigenous leaders, civil society, technical experts, and donors, validated lessons from past REDD+ phases and outlined next steps to accelerate results-based climate finance.

The event helped countries troubleshoot persistent barriers to accessing results-based payments by focusing on practical strategies such as building credible Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, clarifying carbon rights, and improving inclusive governance mechanisms. Participants shared progress and challenges on transitioning from REDD+ to broader Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) approaches—particularly in aligning emission reductions with national development goals.

Discussions also reinforced the importance of equitable benefit-sharing systems. Countries including Ghana, Colombia, and Uganda shared case studies on how transparent, inclusive frameworks can incentivize sustainable land-use practices while ensuring local communities receive fair compensation. This knowledge exchange is expected to directly inform the development or revision of benefit-sharing plans in at least seven participating countries over the coming year.

A dedicated focus on social inclusion led to renewed commitments to strengthen safeguards

and expand the participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth. New partnerships were formed to scale community-driven REDD+ initiatives and embed gender-responsive approaches in policy and practice.

These outcomes will be supported by tailored technical assistance from the UN-REDD Programme and World Bank regional teams.

Participants praised the event for enabling in-depth, peer-to-peer learning and technical exchange. Ninety-two percent rated the event as excellent or good, highlighting the opportunity to share directly with other countries, experts, and program coordinators. Many requested more frequent regional knowledge exchanges with longer sessions and more space for detailed discussion.

Looking ahead, the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank will expand regional knowledge events to sustain momentum and support countries in applying what they learned. These sessions will focus on practical implementation challenges, such as jurisdictional accounting, safeguards monitoring, and mobilizing domestic and private sector finance for forest and land-use action.

The REDD+ Knowledge Day reaffirmed that meaningful progress on REDD+ hinges on learning from lived experience, unlocking finance through readiness, and putting people at the centre of forest solutions. By building coalitions across sectors and geographies, the event helped participating countries turn shared knowledge into tangible action that can drive emission reductions and deliver benefits to communities and ecosystems alike.



## UN-REDD champions forest finance at COP29

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, forest finance emerged as a key priority, with the UN-REDD Programme playing a pivotal role in shaping dialogue, catalysing partnerships, and promoting solutions that drive real impact for forests and people.

The High-Level Event on Forests, convened under the COP29 Presidency, marked a turning point. COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev announced plans for global forest action toward COP30, with forest finance positioned at the centre. UN-REDD's Head of Secretariat, Mario Boccucci, moderated the key panel on scaling up investment flows. Panellists from governments and international agencies, including Brazil's Minister of Environment Marina Silva and UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen, underlined the urgency of mobilizing the estimated US\$ 130 billion annual shortfall in forest finance.

UN-REDD made a strong technical contribution through Gabriel Labbate, who emphasized the need for robust, accessible data to unlock results-based finance. This call for action resonated with other partners, who acknowledged that new tools and tracking systems are essential to expand country access to climate finance. The event also elevated the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) and REDD+ as key vehicles for delivering funding to countries with low deforestation rates, while leveraging the UNFF Clearing House to scale coordinated forest financing efforts.

UN-REDD's leadership extended far beyond the high-level event. At the inaugural Forest Pavilion, the Programme's flagship session on Agriculture-Forestry Synergies brought together stakeholders from Ghana, Ecuador, and Viet Nam to explore how REDD+ finance is supporting deforestation-free agriculture. Participants highlighted real-world examples of how results-based payments are enabling sustainable practices on the ground—proof of how REDD+ finance can be a transformative tool for land-use change.

UN-REDD also brought its expertise to the Indonesia Pavilion, where Mario Boccucci underscored the business case for social forestry. Drawing on data from the ASEAN Social Forestry Programme, he demonstrated that forests under social management can yield double the emission reductions compared to unmanaged forests. This insight directly supports investor confidence and opens doors for responsible private sector engagement—an area where UN-REDD continues to lead regionally and globally.

Beyond these headline sessions, UN-REDD experts contributed to events focused on Indigenous Peoples, forest restoration, wildfire prevention, and safeguarding social and environmental standards in forest action. These interventions helped reinforce the critical role of inclusive, rights-based approaches in forest climate strategies.

In addition, Mario Boccucci's participation in the Marrakesh Partnership helped solidify cross-sector linkages between agriculture and forestry, positioning REDD+ as a mechanism for transforming land use and food systems. This interconnection is increasingly vital as countries seek integrated approaches to meet both climate and development goals.

Overall, UN-REDD's coordinated presence at COP29 ensured that forests were not only visible on the political agenda—but tied to real, scalable solutions. From shaping forest finance dialogues to demonstrating results-based impact and fostering new alliances, the Programme advanced its mission to deliver climate action through forests and people.



## ANNEX 2. ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFOLU</b>	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use	<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>AIM4Forests</b>	AIM for Forests (A4F) initiative	<b>GIBEC</b>	Inter-donor environment and climate group
<b>ART/TREES</b>	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions/ REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard	<b>GRM</b>	Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines
<b>ASF</b>	ASEAN Social Forestry	<b>HFLD</b>	High Forest, Low Deforestation
<b>BC3</b>	Basque Center for Climate Change	<b>IMR</b>	Initial Monitoring Report
<b>BSDS</b>	Benefit Sharing Distribution System Guidelines	<b>IPAM</b>	Amazon Environmental Research Institute
<b>BSP</b>	Benefit Sharing Plan	<b>ISFL</b>	Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes
<b>BTR</b>	Biennial Transparency Reports	<b>LEAF</b>	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance
<b>CAFI</b>	Central African Forest Initiative	<b>LMCC</b>	Framework Law on Climate Change
<b>CATIE</b>	The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center	<b>LUCF</b>	Land Use Change and Forest
<b>CbF</b>	Community-based Forestry	<b>LULUCF</b>	Land use, land-use change and forestry
<b>CBIT</b>	GEF-Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency	<b>MAFAP</b>	Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies
<b>CF</b>	Community Forests	<b>MDA</b>	Direct Measures of Action
<b>CFE</b>	Community Forest Enterprises	<b>MOA</b>	Memorandum of Agreements
<b>CFMGs</b>	Community Forest Management Groups	<b>MRIO</b>	Multi-Regional Input-Output
<b>CIAT</b>	International Center for Tropical Agriculture	<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, reporting and verification
<b>CPA</b>	Community Protected Areas	<b>NDCs</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>CREF</b>	Forest Emissions Reduction Contract	<b>NFI</b>	National Forest Inventory
<b>CRF</b>	Climate and Resilience Fund	<b>NFMS</b>	National Forest Monitoring System
<b>CRGE</b>	Climate Resilient Green Economy	<b>NWFP</b>	Non-wood Forest Products
<b>CSF</b>	Conservation Society Fund	<b>PEFC</b>	The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>PES</b>	Payments for Ecosystem Services
<b>ERP</b>	Emission Reductions Program	<b>PPICC</b>	Indigenous Peoples' Platform for Climate Change
<b>ERPAs</b>	Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreements	<b>RBPs</b>	Results-based Payments
<b>ERs</b>	Emissions Reductions	<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
<b>ESMP</b>	Environmental and Social Management Plan	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>EUDR</b>	EU's Deforestation-free Regulation	<b>SOI</b>	Safeguards Summary of Information
<b>FAN</b>	Foundation Friends of Nature	<b>SIS</b>	Safeguard Information System
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>TMR</b>	TREES Monitoring Report
<b>FCPF</b>	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	<b>TRD</b>	TREES Registration Document
<b>FGRM</b>	Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>FICS</b>	Financial Institutions Consultative Sessions	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>FPIC</b>	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent	<b>VVB</b>	Validation and Verification Body
<b>FREL</b>	Forest Reference Emissions Level		
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund		