



UN-REDD Programme 2025 Semi-Annual Progress Update


This report provides the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board with a narrative update on implementation from 1 January to 30 June 2025, in line with the [UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2025 Integrated Work Plan](#). It presents early results, challenges, and key developments as part of interim progress reporting. Progress is organized by country using a traffic light system. Where activities are delayed or not yet started, further details are provided on the specific challenges and the measures being taken to address them.


	Completed
	On-track
	Delayed
	Not started


	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
Country Support: Realizing, Rewarding, and Enhancing Forest Solutions (Outcomes 1-3)		
ARGENTINA Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance in Argentina has been delayed due to limited engagement from the national Sub-secretariat for Environment. Nonetheless, -progress is being made in capacity development through the Safeguards and Integrity Working Group, which continues to benefit from the active participation of several members from Argentina. Recent communications with government counterparts have also indicated interest in moving forward with the proposed training activities on forest carbon markets in the second half of the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant reduction in staff and recent leadership changes within the Sub-secretariat for Environment have considerably hindered dialogue and responsiveness from national counterparts. Efforts are currently underway to re-establish engagement at the technical level, with the aim of presenting support opportunities in a way that is more closely aligned with national priorities.
BOLIVIA Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inter-institutional dialogue between national and territorial stakeholders was facilitated to support the formulation of the REDD+ Action Plan, including the development of technical inputs (e.g., deforestation risk and multi-benefit forest models) and identification of enabling measures to address deforestation, forest fires and degradation across key regions (Chaco, Chiquitania, and Amazonia). A comprehensive review of the institutional and regulatory frameworks was also conducted. UN-REDD also helped review the National Registry of Projects and Programs (RENAPP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivia is approaching presidential elections, which introduces uncertainty and potential substantial changes that may affect the implementation of planned activities. The formulation of the REDD+ Action Plan has been promoted through a process of socialization and capacity building at both national and territorial


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	<p>regulations and identified the legal inputs for the design of a roadmap for its implementation which has enabled a knowledge exchange between the MINAM of Peru and MMAyA Bolivia to share experiences and best practices on national mitigation measures registries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial design of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) has been developed, and a first draft of a Summary of Information (Sol) has also been prepared for submission to the UNFCCC in July 2025. At the jurisdictional level, Bolivia has advanced in Charagua with the preparation of a concept note for ART, including alignment with ART TREES indicators. 	<p>levels, along with institutional coordination to support its completion and long-term sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country has made progress in establishing enabling elements; however, challenges remain in consolidating the MRV system, safeguards, and strengthening institutional and technical capacities. As part of UN-REDD technical assistance, and in collaboration with AIM4Forests, support will focus on institutional anchoring and capacity building for the institutions involved.
<p>CAMBODIA Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National dialogues on NDC 3.0 were closely aligned with the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) and its Action and Investment Plan (AIP) and integrated with the new CCCSP 2024–2033. Progresses were made in developing the climate finance framework, particularly in options for implementing the Environmental and Social Fund (ESF) alongside national BSM guidelines. The revised Carbon Market Readiness Workplan, now under the Ministry of Environment’s (MoE) review, is establishing a strong foundation for private sector engagement and facilitating the operationalization of the Carbon Crediting Secretariat and Working Group on Carbon Credit for Partnership with the Private Sector. These efforts are consolidating the technical proposal for the GCF RBP, driving the development of the REDD+ Registry, SIS, and second Summary of Information for the UNFCCC, all expected to be released in Q3. The Nesting REDD+ Pilot is progressing well under the leadership of the REDD+ Secretariat, in collaboration with key stakeholders and project developers, ensuring both social (including gender) and environmental benefits as well as high integrity in emission reductions. Cambodia strengthened its MRV system with key milestones including the draft Forest and Non-Forest Cover Map (2024), a detailed 22-class land use map, and planned field validation in Q3 2025. Capacity building included SBA training for 13 government officials (2 women), dataset translation, and a national sample-based forest area assessment to enhance transparency. In partnership with the ASEAN Social Forestry Project, 10 staff (2 females) received training on spatial data management using QGIS, covering spatial data handling. Forest monitoring improved through near real-time deforestation alerts piloted in four provinces. The 2025–2028 Priority Action Plan of the MOE’s General Directorate of Environmental Knowledge and Information was finalized for dissemination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key challenges include the complexity of the Nesting Pilot, the harmonization of REDD+ projects within the national framework, and limited in-house capacity at the MoE to consolidate progress in climate finance, carbon market architecture and MRV. While the AIP remains a critical tool, emerging evidence highlights the need for its revision and eventual update to reflect evolving policies and climate finance requirements, as well as to enhance REDD+ financial mechanisms and beneficiary distribution. To address these challenges, targeted capacity building has been provided to MoE teams, and technical support has been mobilized to advance the carbon market readiness agenda. Ongoing stakeholder consultations are reinforcing overall REDD+ implementation, while partnerships with the private sector are helping to streamline carbon market architecture. Implementation has been delayed due to limited capacity, staff shortages, and shifting government priorities. To meet tight deadlines and finalize official activity data by the end of Q3, regular meetings are being held to align on priorities, deliverables, and timelines. Addressing the


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		<p>complexity of forest degradation remains challenging given the lack of reliable data for evaluating methodologies and estimating carbon emissions. To overcome these issues, targeted training workshops and hands-on fieldwork outside the duty station are planned to ensure focused delivery of specific outputs rather than solely training.</p>
<p>CHILE Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on progress in 2024 to support CONAF's efforts to update its financial planning, including economic, governance and financial technical analysis and advisory to determine updated costs for the ENCCRV and its operation, and the identification of required institutional arrangements to access carbon financing (i.e. through ART/TREES or Article 6), a detailed workplan for the implementation of said roadmap were included in the 2025 workplan and consultants were hired for the continuation of their work. Similarly, the TA has continued to support CONAF's MRV team in a country-driven process to modernize its FREL. The latter is envisioned to carry over until 2026, consistent with Chile's reporting cycles under the UNFCCC. • Chile secured a second payment under its ERPA with the Carbon Fund, and an additional report has been agreed. With UN-REDD's support in legal matters in this process, Chile will be able to access the full \$5.1 million of results-based financing established in its 2019 ERPA. An ER Program will shortly kick off. This financing will contribute to the original envelope allocated to the fifth public tender of Chile's Benefit Sharing Plan, implemented through the RBP project by FAO as the Accredited Entity and partnership with the +Bosques. • Chile has continued to demonstrate with clear actions and leadership its commitment to the success and sustainability of the ENCCRV, and UN-REDD's technical backstopping and expertise continues to play a critical role yet adaptive management has been essential to navigate such complex political landscape. Since the second quarter of the year, a series of virtual technical sessions with SERNAFOR's team responsible for the ENCCRV were conducted to transfer the knowledge and build institutional capacities in relation to 2024 deliverables regarding economic, financial and governance assessments to inform the 2026-2030 financial plan for the ENCCRV, which proved to be an effective strategy to support the institutional strengthening and continuity of the TA despite changes in the national counterpart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD's TA has been slowed down during the first semester of 2025 as result of a series of changes in authorities and institutional transformations, which started back in the last quarter of 2024 and have not yet concluded. A new Executive Director was appointed to CONAF late last year and this immediately triggered changes in authorities, in central and regional offices. In May 2025 an institutional restructuring was officially triggered for the entry into operation of the National Forest Service (SERNAFOR) replacing the previous National Forest Corporation (CONAF) which had been until now Chile's REDD+ focal point. The entry into operation of SERNAFOR entails a split in the previous institutional structure and mandate in two, with all objectives related to conservation and protected areas being moved from its current institutional home, under the Ministry of Agriculture, to the Ministry of Environment. These series of changes in less than a year ultimately resulted in a national strike in CONAF's offices, resulting in a new change in the Executive Direction of SERNAFOR, and additional changes should be expected by the end of 2025, with presidential elections scheduled in Chile for November 2025. In the case of MRV support, while the on-going process to modernize Chile's FREL had been delayed, this is also resuming through technical sessions with SERNAFOR's


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		<p>MRV team and with a view to having a new FREL compliant with carbon finance standards by 2026. UN-REDD team adjusted their workplans and deliverables to prioritize institutional strengthening and to reflect the institutional restructuring in SERNAFOR in a way that the outcomes of UN-REDD's TA remain relevant and are effectively transferred and assimilated by the national counterpart, including through the elaboration of a draft informative note on the financial planning for the ENCCR 2026-2030.</p>
<p>COLOMBIA Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultancy on due diligence in the voluntary carbon market (VCM) was completed, including the development of guidelines for respecting human rights, which were reviewed and approved by Ministry of Environmental (MinAmbiente). • Technical collaboration with the National Federation of Coffee Growers was strengthened. In addition, a total of 35 companies have been trained in the OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in agricultural supply chains in Colombia; 15 companies from the coffee (Manizales), and 20 from the cocoa sector (Tumaco). Context analysis and technical training also began with a coffee cooperative in Cauca to support compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). These efforts are being complemented by the launch of the AIM4Commodities programme. • A summary document was produced on the "Peace with Nature" model for socio-environmental intervention in conflict-affected territories and deforestation hotspots. • MinAmbiente, MInAgricultura e IDEAM gained new knowledge on NDC monitoring through a training workshop on FAO's <u>NEXT tool</u>, joining efforts with AIM4Forests. MinAmbiente's technical team was strengthened through the recruitment of a new consultant for the update of ENREDD+ in the framework of the update of the NDC 3.0. • The GHG Emissions Accounting System documentation was updated, and progress was made on technical guidelines for the NREF and Maximum Mitigation Potential (PMM). • Preparatory documents are being developed to support the design of the safeguard information system (SIS) and a lessons-learned brief on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in Latin America, including Colombia. • UN-REDD continues to support the implementation of the PBR GCF Project, and other aspects related to community forest management in close linkage with MinAmbiente and IDEAM supporting REDD+ strategy implementation as well as the "Plan Integral de Contención a la Deforestación - PICD). • A safeguards specialist was hired to support the Ministry. Inputs were provided to two annexes of the decree regulating REDD+ safeguards, focused on capacity building and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD's technical assistance has experienced a slowdown during the first half of 2025 due to a series of changes in leadership and ongoing institutional transformations. The Minister of Environment was replaced in March, along with several division directors. Management changes have also led to the dismissal or non-renewal of contracts for consultants who had historical records of the institution's processes. This has necessitated holding contextual meetings/workshops, resulting in significant reprocessing and long wait times for institutional decisions. In addition to these leadership transitions, internal team changes have resulted in a shift in the Ministry's priority agenda. This has impacted the planning of participatory processes that were to be technically and financially supported by UN-REDD, causing delays in the execution of resources and in the achievement of concrete technical milestones under this workstream. Participatory processes may also face delays, as dates for several planned events remain unconfirmed. This could affect the timeline for developing training materials. While the redesign of the SIS and its alignment with the BSM is advancing, further steps depend on the approval

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	<p>environmental governance. In addition, the annex related to benefits sharing was reviewed to ensure consistency with the other safeguards. These were developed in response to Constitutional Court Ruling T-248. During the second half of the year, efforts will focus on consolidating and standardizing all annexes into a compliance guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of inputs for the design of an operational and aligned benefits distribution system, grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and safeguards information system (SIS), a concept note and agenda were developed, based on feedback and needs identified from the Ministry, to provide capacity building on benefits sharing. Analysis is currently being undertaken on resources and costs needed for an operational SIS. • Leveraged BMZ funding to align with UN-REDD TA on sustainable, deforestation-free production; promoted and adapted a digital traceability tool now in use by the first coffee cooperatives in Cauca to meet EUDR requirements; and advanced South–South exchanges with Costa Rica and Ecuador, including an upcoming field visit to strengthen peer-to-peer learning and adoption of deforestation-free practices. • Technical assistance to prepare for the focus group discussions (Indigenous People, Afro-descendants, farmers, NGO, private sector, academy, etc.) within the framework of Ruling T248, scheduled to begin in September 2025. This support including the revision of methodologies and review of the documents: i) Protocol with an ethnic perspective for the implementation of greenhouse gas mitigation initiatives in indigenous communities' territories (order 11th of T248), ii) Strategy for Training, Advising, and Supporting Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Communities, and Rural and Local Communities in REDD+ Projects (order 13th pf T248) and Comprehensive strategy for monitoring, surveillance, and control of REDD+ project operations in collective territories (order 13th T248). These documents are confidential for now 	<p>of the decree and ongoing discussions regarding its integration with RENARE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite these challenges, Colombia continues to demonstrate strong leadership and concrete actions that reflect its commitment to the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+), as well as key national processes such as forest monitoring, the application of social and environmental safeguards, and compliance with Constitutional Court Ruling T-248. In this context, UN-REDD's technical support and expertise remain critical, and adaptive management has proven essential to navigating a dynamic and complex political landscape.
<p>COSTA RICA Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica is on track making tangible progress across all the outputs outlined in its UNREDD work plan. The country systematized the development of a national carbon registry for the LULUCF sector, holding coordination meetings with the National Meteorological Institute, Climate Change Directorate, and Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal (FONAFIFO) to agree on the governance of this Registry for this specific sector. It also submitted its Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for 2020–2029 on January 6, 2025, which is currently under review by the UNFCCC. Efforts to digitize FONAFIFO's Payment for Environmental Services (PSA) program are advancing, with a consulting team being hired and alignment meetings conducted. • ICAFE was supported to create a national certification scheme for deforestation-free coffee and facilitated knowledge exchanges with Ecuador and Colombia on digital traceability tools. A roadmap and Terms of Reference were developed to explore sustainable finance for coffee, livestock, and agroforestry sectors, and engagement began with IFAD, CABI, and FMO to promote concessional credit lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges remain regarding the ART/TREES verification process, particularly in relation to the contract with Aster Global and UNDP. Following several reviews of timelines and pending deliverables, the latest review concluded that Aster Global will not receive further contract amendments.


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first meeting was convened to develop a roadmap for the national forest traceability system, aimed at enhancing transparency and supporting the country's access to legal international markets. • UN-REDD technical assistance, through UNDP, is supporting FONAFIFO in strengthening Costa Rica's NDC implementation instruments through the launch of the updated Payment for Environmental Services (PES 2.0) system, under which new contracts are already being signed. Following a detailed gap analysis, specialized IT expertise advanced the digitalization and enhancement of FONAFIFO's internal monitoring and administrative platform. • The soil carbon consultancy is ongoing, with sampling currently underway and results expected by year-end. • In April, a "Safeguards Clinic" was held through the UN-REDD LAC Working Group on Safeguards and Integrity to support the national team in reviewing and strengthening the REDD+ grievance redress mechanism. The Clinic resulted in formal feedback and was followed by a Working Group session to share lessons learned with the broader community of practice. Also, implementation of the reporting of Non-Carbon Benefits (NCBs) is planned for the second half of the year. • A comprehensive compliance analysis of the new GCF Results-based Payment policy was developed and shared with the government to support the development of a concept note and funding proposal. Additionally, the TREES credit verification and validation process has entered its final phase, with the fourth round of findings being resolved. REDD+ lessons were integrated into the updated NDC and decarbonization plans. • Finally, under Output 4, robust gender monitoring and evaluation efforts, through the application of the W+ Standard in the Costa Rica Green Climate Fund (GCF)-financed REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) for 2014 and 2015, began in June. Estimated to be completed by December 2025, the W+ Standard will measure the impact of project activities on women's empowerment and help to incentivize and accelerate investments in women through an innovative benefit-sharing mechanism. 	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE Status: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD TA continued to provide support for the update of the REDD+ national investment framework including to establish a knowledge-sharing platform focused on sustainable agriculture best practices and zero-deforestation practices. The platform's scientific committee is currently being set up while data collection and analysis have been finalized. • Activity data for estimating annual forest loss and gain from 2021 to 2024, along with corresponding emission factors, are currently being collected. • The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) consolidation plan is currently being updated. Technical discussions with national stakeholders are ongoing to strengthen the NFMS's key pillars: a satellite land monitoring system (SLMS), a national forest inventory 	

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	<p>(NFI), and a national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to SEP-REDD+ personnel on REDD+ technical tools and carbon market mechanisms, enhancing institutional capacities for informed decision-making and effective participation in climate finance initiatives 	
<p>DRC Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD continued its technical assistance to support Tshuapa Province in preparing for access to subnational results-based payments. This included ongoing engagement to build the province’s capacity in meeting ART-TREES requirements. Further activities to deepen safeguards conformance and stakeholder engagement are planned for the second half of 2025. A gap analysis and assessment of information needs were conducted to inform the preparation of the ART-TREES registration document for Tshuapa Province. This effort focused on identifying technical and data requirements for registration, with specific attention to the carbon accounting aspects. The registration document was not finalized during the reporting period, but preparatory work contributed to advancing readiness for submission in the second half of 2025 • UN-REDD is leveraging a partnership with Korean International Development Agency (KOICA) to provide technical assistance to Haut Uele Province for ART-TREES certification under the Haut Uele REDD+ Investment Province. Safeguards conformance assessment and stakeholders’ consultation are ongoing at jurisdictional and national levels for the submission of the TREES concept planned for Q4/2025. • UN-REDD technical assistance was mobilized to support the effective implementation of the Carbon markets and NDC implementation’ project funded through CAFI. This includes the mobilization of national and international expertise and inter-institutional coordination within the government and across international partners, notably through the GIBEC (Groupe Inter-bailleurs pour l’Environnement et le Changement Climatique). • UN-REDD technical assistance was mobilized to support DRC’s access to GCF-REDD+ RBPs process. This included the organization of a policy dialogue workshop in Zongo to define a strategic approach for GCF-REDD+ RBPs resource mobilization, including the identification of actionable measures to fill existing gaps from GCF scorecard, exploration of potential integration and complementarity with existing or planned initiatives or opportunities (e.g., Tropical Forests Forever, TTF, etc.) and potential use of proceeds (e.g., Kivu-Kinshasa Green Wall). • UN-REDD supported enhancements to the DRC’s safeguards information system (SIS), with targeted improvements in safeguards reporting and a focus on strengthening gender and social inclusion dimensions. While further development of the SIS platform and refinement of the national roadmap for system improvement are foreseen, these elements are expected to advance in the second half of 2025. • Discussions were initiated with CN-REDD to explore adjustments to UN-REDD technical assistance that would support the establishment of a National REDD+ Registry. While the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The civil unrest in the Eastern part of the country compromised the implementation of the Restoration Factory enterprise incubation programme, which focuses on forest-positive entrepreneurs in Bukavu. • The slow turnaround from the government counterpart caused some delays.


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	<p>registry is not yet operational, preparatory consultations and planning have begun in collaboration with national counterparts and the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD continued implementation of the Restoration Factory enterprise incubation programme during the reporting period. A total of 59 participants and 27 mentors were engaged, and five out of eight planned modules were delivered. The programme targets forest-positive entrepreneurs and supports the development of investable business models that promote restoration, sustainable land use, and conservation. The initiative remains a central element of UN-REDD's private sector engagement strategy in DRCA full-time REDD+ Implementation Advisor was deployed to Kinshasa in March 2025 and has since been supporting the National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD). The advisor provides in-country technical and strategic support to advance REDD+ implementation and facilitates coordination across national and subnational processes, in line with the UN-REDD 2025 work plan. 	
<p>ECUADOR Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support was provided to MAATE and MAG to ensure that the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reflects ambitious REDD+ and AFOLU commitments aligned with the Paris Agreement. As part of this effort, synergies were identified between the REDD+ Action Plan and the National Forest Strategy, helping align forest and climate goals with broader national policies on conservation, restoration, and sustainable land management. Capacity building was delivered to the Interinstitutional Committee on Sustainable Production and Trade, applying international due diligence and legality standards (OECD-FAO handbook, WHISP, GROUND). Technical support also focused on quality control of the second National Forest Inventory databases, updated mapping for forest cover, and generation of deforestation-free production maps and IA tools. Progress was made in strengthening deforestation-free value chains through partnerships and commercial agreements. Follow-up was conducted on sustainable trade efforts, including coffee and cacao initiatives with companies such as Lavazza and SilvaCacao. South-South exchanges with Honduras, Ethiopia, and Vietnam further enriched knowledge transfer on sustainable production. Support for Indigenous Peoples was reinforced through the implementation of grants funded by UK DEFRA. In parallel, efforts advanced to mobilize investments for community life plans, including private sector contributions to water security and ongoing coordination to support land tenure processes. A key milestone was reached in the ART TREES process with the selection of the Validation and Verification Body (VVB). Remaining procedural issues are being addressed jointly with MAATE to ensure timely progress aligned with international requirements. Additionally, staff members from MAATE benefited from regional knowledge exchange on grievance and redress mechanisms in the context of the UN-REDD Latin America and the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador's electoral cycle and the transition of government authorities led to temporary delays in approvals and institutional coordination, affecting the rollout of REDD+. Efforts were made to maintain strong technical engagement with relevant institutions, holding follow-up meetings to ensure continuity and alignment of planned actions. Volatility in international coffee and cacao markets also affected producers' income and the stability of deforestation-free value chains. Commercial partnerships were reinforced, along with support for traceability of tools and access to differentiated markets. A concessional finance proposal was also advanced, aiming to de-risk investment and expand sustainable production in direct collaboration with MAG MAATE and Ecuador banking sector.


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	<p>Caribbean Safeguards and Integrity Working Group. The outcomes of this session are being compiled in an article pending publication on the UN-REDD website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging DEFRA and RBP financing for the <i>Planes de Vida</i>, UN-REDD technical assistance facilitated additional private sector contributions—most notably from Lavazza and IILA— to expand water access in Indigenous territories. Eight projects have been implemented, including reliable water for five more schools, improving health, education, and livelihoods. Engagement is ongoing with the IDB to further channel additional public and private resources, including potential REDD+ proceeds, to scale Indigenous Forest and livelihood plans. As part of the process to establish credit lines, UN-REDD supported the formation of a multi-stakeholder committee comprising public and private banks, the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, the Monetary Board, the Insurance Federation, UNDP, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), to promote climate concessional credit lines supporting sustainable, deforestation-free production. In addition, support has been secured from other UK-funded programs to strengthen these lines. Currently, processes are underway to consolidate them, with the participation of actors from the productive, financial, and commercial demand sectors. 	
<p>ETHIOPIA Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD worked closely with the Government of Ethiopia to advance institutional capacity on safeguards and carbon finance readiness in the context of ART-TREES. A mission to Addis Ababa in May 2025 helped align stakeholders on near-term priorities, including subnational safeguards capacity building, support to the Safeguards Information System (SIS), and technical assistance for completing the TREES registration documentation along with the TREES Monitoring plans which are slightly delayed but expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Programme also supports the government in formulating a report/white paper to inform public and private stakeholders to capitalize on available financing options for REDD+. The report/white paper will be integrating outcomes from the Africa Climate Week/Summit, it will be produced by Q4. In the meantime, Initial steps have been taken toward identifying potential buyers for surplus carbon credits and explored the development of guidance materials to support REDD+ investment engagement. South-South cooperation on policy solutions & business partnerships for deforestation-free coffee were conducted with Ecuador, including planning an initiative to integrate digital solutions for traceability of deforestation-free coffee production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institutional framework of REDD+ in the country does not enable optimization of coordination in REDD+ efforts: Ethiopia has a REDD+ Investment Programme of a total of more than USD 100M that is managed by EFD, but predominantly outside of the REDD+ Secretariat as a big part of the Programme is on Reforestation/forest landscape restoration¹ which is under another department, outside the scope of the REDD+ Secretariat mandate.
<p>GHANA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghana's participation in the LEAF Programme progressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has taken longer than envisaged to have a


¹ Aligned with the Green Legacy Initiative, having achieved 40 billion trees planted from 2019 to 2024.

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Status: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ART-TREES Validation & Verification is now in the final stages. FC submitted responses to the fifth round of findings from the ART-TREES Validation and Verification process. Major non-conformities have been resolved, and resolution plans have been approved to address the remaining minor non-conformities. ○ Legal support was provided to FC to update and sign ART-TREES-compliant Framework Agreements across the six Hotspot Intervention Areas, enabling the Validation & Verification of the TRD and TMR for the 2017–2021 crediting period. A Financing Agreement between FC, UNDP and Emergent representing the LEAF Coalition, was signed on 15th of April 2025 and in tandem with the ART/TREES verification process funding is ready to be disbursed to Ghana. A Project document for the LEAF programme which contains detailed information about what ER payments will be used for and how they will be disbursed is in an advanced draft form. Completion and signature by FC and UNDP are expected by August 2025. Key elements include a social and environmental screening and a Performance Based Payment Agreement which is also underway. The Benefit Sharing Plan for the LEAF Programme, as well as a benefit sharing framework for carbon markets in general have been completed. It provides for how the ER payments are distributed across the various stakeholders and is a fundamental part of the Project Document that UNDP will sign with the Forestry Commission • REDD+ Cost-Effectiveness Analysis piloted. In June 2025, a letter of collaboration was signed by the Chief Executive to initiate a study assessing the cost-effectiveness of various policy options to address deforestation at the jurisdictional level, under the Japan/MAFF-funded BiG-CHANCE project. • Legal implications of the EUDR assessed. Draft terms of reference for legal assistance related to EUDR readiness were drafted and shared FC. • National Forest Inventory (NFI) Design progressed. A revised NFI sampling design was finalized and shared with FC. The design introduces optimized stratification across vegetation zones and forest types, including a dedicated mangrove layer. • Technical assistance was delivered to calculate emission reductions under the Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme (GSLERP) for the 2022–2024 period. • In addition, with support from UN-REDD, robust gender monitoring and evaluation efforts began in March, through the application of the W+ Standard in the GCF-financed Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project. Estimated to be completed by September 2025, the W+ Standard will measure the impact of project activities on women's empowerment and help to incentivize and accelerate investments in women through an innovative benefit-sharing mechanism. • Ghana also participated in the UN-REDD led London Climate Week roundtable between countries that have readily available credits, and investors/buyers. The initiative was organized to enable the supply and demand side (private and multilateral donors) to engage 	<p>project document completed and signed in order to receive funds from Emergent for emission reduction payments achieved by Ghana, as a number of complimentary streams and activities need to be undertaken. Timeframes have been adjusted and a workplan have been agreed to with the FC, and work continues to progress in line with this workplan.</p>

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	<p>in open discussions on issues/key elements (including integrity, pricing, etc.) that need to be in place for achieving win-win deals.</p>	
<p>INDONESIA Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia supported on launching the concept of the Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) for NDC finance acceleration with key government parties and investors, including a Statement of Intent (SoI) signed between UNCDF, BRI-MI and UNEP outlining the continues technical assistance to be provided. A ToT on safeguards has been provided in 8 provinces in eastern Indonesia, and IT support roadmap at national level has been developed. A capacity building webinar on carbon markets organised convening 100 participants from private sector, associations, universities, development partners, carbon developer, and sub-national and national governments. Continued and expanded support for peatland restoration resource mobilization led by Gol to GCF, including the addition of new pilot areas in North Sumatra, alongside ongoing efforts in Central Kalimantan and Riau. Ongoing verification of a satellite-based peatland monitoring model, supported by field data; results are expected in August 2025, with continued coordination with the national government. Support provided to facilitate Indonesia's participation and active contribution in regional and global REDD+ events, including the Regional Deforestation Risk Mapping Workshop, Regional Forest Inventory Workshop, Global Fire Management Hub, and Regional Mangrove Day Celebration promoting the exchange of knowledge and showcasing national progress in forest monitoring and management. With the support from the UN-REDD Programme, the Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF) launched a new "Sharia-compliant Revolving Fund Facility" to support social forestry groups on 28 May 2025. This launch built on intensive preparation of internal regulations, engaged Sharia advisors and trained 59 field facilitators (7 women) who will support implementation on the ground. A discussion on Indonesia's carbon market, titled "Progress, Challenges, and Path Forwards," invited more than 100 participants and consisted of those from the national government, embassies, development partners, academia, research centers, the private sector, and carbon developers. Discussion focused on technical elements such as MRV, safeguards, and carbon pricing, and forest carbon markets. The follow-up technical discussion will be held during the Q3 and Q4 this year including nesting and ART-TREES. Bilateral discussions between Indonesia and Vietnam regarding specific topics are ongoing. ART-TREES and PFES has been discussed during the LCAW. It will be expected the learning exchange will be held during Q3-4 this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The split of the MoEF into the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forestry has resulted in some administrative delays and unclarity of roles and responsibilities, especially in the context of UN-REDD. While all three agencies will have to coordinate with both Ministries, there is an ongoing discussion of who will be the focal point ministry for REDD+.
<p>KENYA Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to explore innovating financing instruments (Bonds) has progressed with a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the County Pension Fund (CPF) Kenya. A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays on other aspects relating to Kenya advancing with ART/TREES have occurred as a

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	<p>working group has been set up and procurement process begun to support the identification of key parts of a Bond framework. Key stakeholders to support a Bond issuance have been identified and a series of meetings are taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forest Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 2016 was updated through a long process of consultation and review. The Bill has proposed significant changes, including institutional arrangements, has gone through a period of public review and is now published for the Kenyan Parliament to consider. With UN-REDD support, the products were the Bill itself and documentation on stakeholder consultation. While the provided information doesn't specify a deadline for submitting comments, the Facebook post from the State Department for Parliamentary Affairs indicates the process is ongoing and encourages prompt engagement. This work was carried over from the 2024 workplan and is now complete. • In April 2025, a capacity-building workshop was held in Kenya to support preparations for a national forest reference emissions level (FREL). This FREL could serve as the basis for either an updated submission to the UNFCCC or for establishing an ART-TREES-aligned crediting level. While Kenya has not yet confirmed a preferred standard, the necessary data has been collected, and UN-REDD remains committed to ongoing technical support. The workshop also provided training on the broader ART-TREES registration process, including the key methodological and procedural decisions involved in monitoring and reporting both emissions and removals. • The Kenya National Policy Dialogue on REDD+ took place on 27–28 February 2025, gathering 21 participants from key sectors such as forestry, climate, finance, energy, livestock, agriculture, land, and wildlife, alongside civil society, county government representatives, and development partners such as Emergent. The dialogue led to four main outcomes: (i) greater awareness among policy actors of sectoral policies and strategies relevant to REDD+; (ii) a clearer understanding of institutional and policy barriers hindering REDD+ implementation; (iii) consensus on the need for improved cross-sectoral coordination due to misalignments between agriculture, land use, and forestry policies; and (iv) the development of a stakeholder roadmap with defined roles, responsibilities, and timelines to advance REDD+ coordination and integration. 	<p>result of a lack of decision on whether to pursue the process with ART/TREES. At the time of submission of this report, the Government has taken the decision to pursue this course and therefore activities can now continue.</p>
<p>LAO PDR Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a workshop on the Lao National Safeguards Information System (LNSIS) in late 2024, the LNSIS operationalisation plan and revised “principles, criteria & indicators” (PCI) were completed. The plan integrates feedback from consultations and provides the foundation for national safeguards reporting. A Safeguards Technical Working Group (STWG) meeting was held in February 2025 to present the LNSIS, results of the ART-TREES safeguards gap assessment, and the 2025 workplan, which was subsequently revised. A final draft brief on different safeguards standards has also been prepared and is undergoing review before sharing with Lao counterparts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial restructuring is taking place, with MAFF merging with MONRE. Limited disruption is expected, as departments and divisions are expected to remain the same. Personnel cuts are expected and may have implications on government operational capacity for the short to mid-term. On the other hand, some climate change procedures may be institutionally

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR continues to engage actively in the development of forest carbon market frameworks. The national forest carbon market roadmap has been revised, reflecting updated policy directions and technical discussions. To support government understanding of carbon market mechanisms and associated integrity issues, two technical meetings were facilitated targeting relevant personnel. • Capacity building for forest monitoring and carbon accounting remains a priority. In early 2025, training was delivered to Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD) staff on the use of R for National Forest Inventory (NFI) data analysis, directly supporting in-country capacity for carbon accounting. • Preparatory work on Lao’s Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PfES) is underway in collaboration with government counterparts. Efforts are focused on initiating a feasibility study, with technical assistance and knowledge exchange provided by Viet Nam. • Progress has also been made in sustainable forest management through the development of a national forest certification system. A national consultation meeting on this topic took place in June 2025, laying groundwork for future implementation of a certification framework aligned with national and international standards. 	<p>facilitated with the merger of forestry and environment under one roof.</p>
<p>MEXICO Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of Mexico’s National Forest Monitoring System’s (NFMS) operativity and capabilities in relation to international and national requirements, was launched. In coordination with national technical teams, priority areas for improvement were identified, including forest mapping, early warnings of deforestation, activity data analysis, and the National Forest Inventory. • A draft of the Guidelines for State-Level Safeguards Reporting was submitted to CONAFOR, aligned with Mexico’s National Safeguards System (SNS). In parallel, the team provided feedback on a standardized reporting tool developed by CONAFOR, aimed at harmonizing subnational reporting practices. UN-REDD also contributed to subnational dialogue with Jalisco, strengthening synergies between the SNS and the J-REDD program under TREES. • Regarding updates on the National Safeguards Information System (SIS) and SNS, detailed feedback has been provided on the unified reporting framework developed by CONAFOR, including consideration of potential future opportunities and funding, such as LEAF. • Support is being provided to development of a GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) proposal for 2018–2019 results. UN-REDD initiated a virtual learning exchange on deforestation-free supply chains, enhancing coordination between forestry and agriculture sectors. UN-REDD is also facilitating knowledge exchange on climate finance to inform a national forest finance strategy. • On MRV, UN-REDD initiated an assessment of the operational status and technical capabilities of the NFMS in relation to both international reporting commitments and national regulatory requirements. Together with Mexico’s technical team, key priorities on MRV to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of Mexico’s 2025 Work Plan took place during a period of institutional transition within CONAFOR, as new authorities assumed their roles and initiated a process to define medium- and long-term priorities. While this context initially required additional time to align technical assistance with emerging priorities, it also created an opportunity to ensure that planned activities were fully responsive to the new administration’s vision. To support this process, an interagency mission took place in May 2025, engaging both leadership and technical teams at CONAFOR. During the mission, CONAFOR presented its 2030 vision, progress, and challenges, which provided a solid framework to refine the strategic focus of the plan. As a result, two new outputs were incorporated: Output 3.1, to support the integration of REDD+ into the updated NDC, and Output 1.3, to advance deforestation-free supply chains by fostering coordination between the forestry and agriculture sectors. The mission also

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	<p>improve NFMS efficiency have been identified, particularly in the areas of forest mapping, visualization of deforestation early warnings, activity data analysis, and improvements to the National Forest Inventory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally, the integration of REDD+ into NDC 3.0 is advancing, through support for estimating the contribution of the forestry sector, PLANT tool training, and technical guidance on emissions projections 	<p>helped address the initial complexity around safeguards planning. In-person working sessions at CONAFOR's Guadalajara offices strengthened technical capacities, improved coordination, and fostered mutual understanding. This collaborative process resulted in a more coherent and actionable 2025 Work Plan, enhancing feasibility and ownership across all components.</p>
<p>NEPAL Status: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following an additional stakeholder workshop held in April 2025, the final draft of the Nepal 1st Summary of Information (SOI) was submitted to REDD IC for final approval; a Nepali version will be prepared once Ministerial approval received. Nepal's SIS continued to advance, with updates to revised draft manual and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); introductory training for three LEAF provinces (focused on District Forestry Offices) on SIS held in April 2025; preparation of SIS indicator tables to support training and update; and initial updates made to the web platform. Feedback was provided on the final draft revised National REDD+ Strategy, including sections related to safeguards and steps to ensure that it meets safeguards requirements. A national consultant was recruited to work on Grievance Redress Mechanism and TREES Monitoring Report; initial work was carried out on review of GRM operations with preparation of workplan and inputs to legal review (carried out by CLP) Responses to ART Secretariat comments and revisions to the TRD were supported in February and May 2025 Training/support provided to Forest Research and Training Center on use of statistical tools for allometric equation development. Revised draft manual and Standard Operating Procedures for Nepal SIS developed and training provided to provincial personnel under LEAF provinces. The final draft of the Nepal 1st Summary of Information (SOI), including stakeholder consultation, submitted for Ministerial approval. Submitted second version of TREES Registration Document to ART Sect. in April 2025 Progress made on 1st TREES Monitoring Report, despite setbacks with USAID funding for mapping and confusions on removals requirements. Consultations supported on the updated National REDD+ Strategy. First round of consultations and FPIC for LEAF completed at national, provincial, and sub-national levels. 'Nepal National Dialogue on Forest Carbon and Climate Change' organized in Feb 2025 engaging cross-sectoral stakeholders on REDD+ opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges encountered in balancing LEAF buyer demands and timelines with technical procedures that require time investments and coordinating government political level buy-in on the resulting decisions to be taken. Process on carbon accounting affected by US budget cuts among partner organizations (i.e. ICIMOD and USFS) Coordination with other TA providers has been challenging, involving frequent call and written input; timelines for joint activities do not always align.

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<p>PERU Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities on nesting and carbon finance are delayed, as MINAM has prioritized the development of the national ART-TREES Registration Document (RD) (2021–2025 as the crediting period). A national consultant engaged through UN-REDD is expected to support pending activities from July 2025. • Activities on MRV are on track. UN-REDD supported inter-institutional coordination within MINAM and trained 11 technical staff (4 women) of the General Directorate of Environmental Territorial Planning and the National Forest Conservation Program for Climate Change Mitigation on Standard Operation Procedures for areas estimation under ART-TREES 2.0. The training expanded MRV coverage from the Amazon to a national scale. A technical mission in June further strengthened the estimation of uncertainties using Monte Carlo simulations, including a review of forest degradation estimates to avoid double-counting. • On safeguards, activities are on track. UN-REDD supported the country in completing the safeguards section of the ART-TREES RD, provided legal inputs to other sections, and facilitated inter-agency coordination throughout the RD completion process. UN-REDD also facilitated dialogues with national Indigenous representatives linked to the “Indigenous Jurisdictional REDD+” (RIJ) proposal, on safeguards alignment and coordination with the national REDD+ programme. Furthermore, UN-REDD contributed to strengthening MINAM’s legal and safeguards team with specialists working with MINAM. It enhanced MINAM’s capacity on REDD+ benefit-sharing through a customized two-day virtual training and feedback on operational improvements to the REDD+ Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC REDD+), contributing overall to improved stakeholder engagement. • Activities on finance are on track. UN-REDD submitted two technical concept notes to MINAM: one related to a Guarantee Fund for Indigenous Peoples and another for a Climate Fund for Indigenous Women. Both are currently under government review. • On market transactions for forest carbon, the guidelines on high-integrity forest carbon principles are on track. UN-REDD developed a report on investment and demand in Peru’s carbon market, with policy recommendations to strengthen high-integrity carbon finance. The team also conducted an Article 6 gap analysis and co-organized a regional webinar with the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre. It has supported the safeguards (see above) and carbon accounting sections of the ART-TREES RD and communications with the ART Secretariat, contributing to accounting areas, eligibility, implementation plan, and variances. Coordination with AIM4Forest is supporting peatland emissions estimates in the Amazon biome. • UN-REDD supported Indigenous women on REDD+ safeguards, gender equity, and participation, in collaboration with the national Indigenous women’s organization ONAMIAP. Activities were implemented under the framework of ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the country’s safeguards enhancement process.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay on nesting and carbon finance work is linked to the need for a more sustainable and consolidated technical team for estimating deforestation and forest degradation. In response to a request from MINAM, UN-REDD initiated capacity-building efforts with a core group of technical staff, defining long-term responsibilities for deforestation and forest degradation estimation in line with ART-TREES requirements.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With combined support from the UN Climate Promise and UN-REDD, a pilot initiative was launched to support deforestation-free & sustainable production in Indigenous territories, as an inclusive approach to implement NDC's AFOLU sector's measures. UN Climate Promise's community investments will promote Indigenous economic and territorial governance in line with NDC/AFOLU targets and JDI/REDD+ goals. 	
PNG Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papua New Guinea at GCF Board 42 became the first small island developing state in the world, and the second country in Asia and the Pacific after Indonesia, to receive a REDD+ result-based payment from the Green Climate Fund (UN-REDD blog post) . Ongoing support has continued, with the national land use and land use change assessment until the year 2022 completed, a Stakeholder consultation workshop on Article 6 organized (with Aim4Forest), and support to the NDC development process provided. Revised draft TREES Registration Document prepared (TRD) with outreach to sectoral agencies to provide additional data for both TRD and 1st TREES Monitoring Report. Together with EU-FCCB Programme, supported working session on Safeguards Information System (SIS) reporting and REDD+ Technical Working Committee meeting in April 2025, advancing safeguards information collection and draft 2nd Summary of Information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussion about the viability of vintage credits, and possible second/different ART-TREES crediting period. Challenges in obtaining SIS and ART-TREES data from some agencies; workshops, reporting forms, one-on-one meetings have been tried; currently exploring whether calls to go through difficult reporting questions could help.
REP. OF CONGO Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validated national FPIC Guidelines: Technical content approved in June 2026. This document enhances the recognition and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of activities which directly affect them. Progress on the first Summary of Information on safeguards despite some delay. However, the activity should be completed by the end of the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of legal analyses reformulated due to ongoing institutional restructuring, in light of CNREDD's position within MEF.
UGANDA Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial steps were taken to enhance Uganda's enabling environment for private-sector forest carbon investments, with a focus on improving national readiness for Results-Based Finance (RBF). Key recommendations were formulated to guide the use of proceeds from GCF RBP, including considerations related to the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and its implications for Uganda's coffee sector. This was informed by a scoping mission during the reporting period. Capacity building efforts were initiated through a tailored webinar on accessing REDD+ finance, delivered to the REDD+ Secretariat. Further sessions are planned to strengthen institutional capacity throughout the year. Progress on the TREES Registration document, and on the second Summary of Information on Safeguards. The preparatory work for establishing the SIS and for establishing the national nesting framework regarding safeguards are underway (ToR being finalized). Capacity building on Access to REDD+ Finance was also provided to the REDD+ Secretariat team via a webinar; it was agreed to organize a series of those sessions, tailored to the needs of the government counterpart for the rest of the year. On the integration of REDD+ in the national carbon market regulations, the national climate 	

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	change mechanism regulations were gazetted in January, and includes provisions on high-integrity emissions for REDD+ via ART TREES	
VIETNAM Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of the national Decree on Carbon Services has been submitted. Consultations rounds have started, including linkages with the LEAF program's Benefit Sharing Plan. Endorsement is anticipated by end-2025. Support for the preparation of the Second Monitoring Report (2023-2024) aligning with ART/TREES requirements has started. Logistic and technical support provided for the Verification & Validation (VVB) mission (by Aenor) which took place in May (12-25) including clarifications in response to VVB queries related to ART/TREES. The National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP) review report is completed. Next steps include comments/consultations and a national workshop to disseminate findings and outline next steps. The UN-REDD Team continues to provide support to VNFOREST for the coordination of the LEAF program and forest carbon-related activities. National partner, IPSARD, supported to prepare final draft LEAF Program subnational safeguards guidance and chapters related to safeguards in Program Operations Manual (POM). Update of SIS has advanced, with all background pages updated, and new safeguards information being added (as of mid-2025). Vietnam's 2nd SOI was completed in late 2024 and was submitted to VNFOREST for final comments and ministerial review; after addressing some comments, VNFOREST now considering whether to extend SOI period to end of 2024. Review of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) operations (with a focus on LEAF provinces) carried out by NGO partner, Depocen, completed in June 2025; final report with action plan for GRM strengthening prepared. Development of policies, guidance, and relevant legal documents to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, including the draft national forest carbon standard and assessment report on GHG abatement cost on LULUCF projects in the country. Assessment of carbon stocks of mangrove forests and consolidate methods and database completed, in collaboration with MARD. Results were integrated into the national coastal forest database and endorsed by the government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger of administrative levels (i.e. elimination of districts) and provinces has created some delays, with new provinces and communes expected to be 'operational' again by end of July. This was anticipated by Vietnam team, who focused on completing desk-based work and preparing for next phase of work with LEAF provinces after July (5 provinces now instead of 11) Delay in SOI submission during the period of ministerial restructure may result in VNFOREST choosing to delay further to extend the SOI period; information on how this could be done and implications (e.g. for LEAF validation & verification) process communicated to VNFOREST. Initial comments from VVB following their May 2025 mission to LEAF areas align with previous suggestions to VNFOREST on the need for more consultation and information sharing on the LEAF Program; safeguards team currently preparing options to strengthen consultation process.
ZAMBIA Status: ●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest management planning activities in Manyinga District have been initiated, starting with a stakeholder workshop in February involving local communities and the Forestry Department. Data collection has since been completed, and the Forestry Department is expected to submit a draft management plan in Q3. UN-REDD will review the draft, with final validation anticipated in Q4 2025. UN-REDD support for establishing Zambia's Safeguards Information System (SIS) has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The turnover of the key personnel (e.g. in case is the recent replacement of the National Focal point on safeguards) is an element that is beyond UN-REDD control; an approach to minimize the impact is to focus on institutional capacity (in our case, the NSTWG) rather than individuals.

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	<p>been launched, in close collaboration with the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), the Department of Forestry, and the National Safeguards Technical Working Group (NTSWG), which includes members from various sectors. The Zambia Second Summary of Information has also been completed and validated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ART-TREES and MRV workshop was successfully delivered through joint efforts with UN-REDD. Draft voluntary carbon (VC) assessments have been completed and are under review; these will inform the development of Zambia’s Forest Business Case throughout the remainder of 2025. • A Forest-Water-Climate Nexus results workshop was held in early June with over 100 participants joining online. This milestone event supports the broader science-policy interface, and work is ongoing to produce related publications and scientific papers. • An in-country mission in June included meetings with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. Discussions identified priority areas of support, including advising the Government on optimal options for selling the country’s existing carbon credits. 	
<p>ASEAN SOCIAL FORESTRY Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of mitigation assessment (MA) for social forestry (SF) continues with associated capacity development. First national MA developed for Indonesia, second draft of MA for Lao PDR. • Findings of MA for SF in Lao PDR shared for possible integration in NDC. • Support the development of business plans for selected (11) social forestry enterprises and support engagement with off takers/ financiers. • Draft Blueprint developed to guide future efforts in commercial development of social forestry enterprises in ASEAN. • Second draft of ASEAN Regional Guideline on integrating NbS in Forestry and first draft of ASEAN Regional Toolkit on integrating NbS in forestry, including SF developed. Both are being reviewed by relevant ASEAN bodies for proposed endorsement by ASEAN Senior Officials in Forestry in August 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data access is a challenge in all 3 focus countries. This is being addressed through various means including continuous engagement with focal staff, development of LoAs with relevant agencies and recruitment of consultants to support the process. • Restructuring in government agencies in 2 of the focus countries (e.g. merging of Ministries) led to delays as staff move position, and mandates changed. This is being addressed through continuous engagement with focal staff.
<p>UN-REDD & AFF PARTNERSHIP Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community of practice on “Enabling African REDD+ countries to access the International Carbon Markets” was organized from the 26th to 30th March 2025 on the UN-REDD Academy Platform Howspace. The 5-days event articulated around webinar series, engaged a total of 218 participants and 14 guest speakers from leading institutions such as UNEP, Verra, BioCarbon Standard, Blue Forest, Conservation International, AXIAN Group, Cicada Group, Bridge Carbon, Allied Offsets, and the Africa Institute for Carbon Trading and Sustainability. Participants represented a cross-section of stakeholders, including government agencies, carbon market developers, civil society organizations, community-based institutions, research bodies, and private sector actors from across Africa and internationally. • The Policy dialogue in Kenya took place in February was attended by 21 participants from 	

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	<p>sectoral administrations (forestry, climate, finance, energy, livestock, agriculture, land, wildlife), civil society organizations, development partners etc. A roadmap towards addressing gaps and disincentives between the REDD+ strategy and key sectoral policies was adopted, to improve coordination and integration of REDD+ into other development sectors in Kenya. Participants acquired new knowledge both from their peers from other countries, and from Experts from UN-REDD, UNFCCC, Emergent, using different platforms: Community of Practices platform, webinars.</p>	
<p>AIM4F Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Cambodia, UN-REDD TA in collaboration with AIM4F provided institutional capacity building in the emerging methodological approaches and tools to prepare the activity data for Charagua and assess methodological improvements of the FREL submitted. • In Colombia, AIM4F continues to support IDEAM in strengthening activity data and emission factor improvements, as well as in generating deforestation and degradation risk maps. • Stakeholder engagement in the development of Kenya’s National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was also supported under the AIM4Forests initiative, including through a workshop held in Nairobi in June. During the workshop, stakeholders discussed several issues relevant to the UN-REDD program, offering valuable input on topics such as forest monitoring, forest restoration, the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and its implications for the coffee sector, and the institutionalization of the NFMS through a country-led planning process. The technical nature of the discussions underscored the progress Kenya has made and demonstrated the country’s strong position to pursue its climate finance ambitions with support from both UN-REDD technical assistance and AIM4Forests 	
<p>ACADEMY 3.0 Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The REDD+ Academy saw good progress with registered participants growing from 1,029 in November 2024 to 2,111 by May 2025, alongside a 74% increase in user engagement. • The Nesting Learning Journal was launched through a series of regional webinars across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America to enhance understanding and support the practical application of nesting for REDD+ and forest stakeholders in all three regions. 	
<p>GREEN for Riau Status: ●</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress was made to operationalize a provincial REDD+ strategy in Riau Province, Indonesia, as a sub-national contribution to the country’s low carbon development goals. This builds on technical assistance provided in 2024 and implemented through the GREEN for Riau UN-REDD initiative. Key efforts included the completion and national publication of the SIS-REDD+ submission and Summary of Safeguards (SoS) for Riau, which was followed by Riau’s participation in a global peer learning exchange on REDD+ benefit sharing. At the technical level, a sub-national MRV/FREL process was initiated with government and stakeholder consultations, and a draft FREL roadmap was prepared. Coordination was also strengthened between the provincial government and private sector actors through a technical paper on nesting and alignment between project and 	<p>Closing the knowledge gap among the private sector, NGOs, local government, and communities on the opportunities presented by jurisdictional REDD+ is essential to prevent political mistrust and misunderstandings</p>

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	<p>jurisdictional REDD+ accounting frameworks. These steps contribute toward enabling jurisdictional REDD+ implementation and attracting investment aligned with Indonesia's national climate targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the effective implementation of REDD+ safeguards in Indonesia, efforts have been made to expand national and subnational capacities, particularly in light of jurisdictional approaches being pursued under the GREEN for Riau initiative. A training-of-trainers was conducted for eight provinces in eastern Indonesia, strengthening awareness and understanding of safeguards frameworks and their application. In parallel, a roadmap was developed to guide the further development of the Safeguards Information System (SIS), with a focus on its IT infrastructure and alignment with REDD+ implementation needs • At the subnational level, the safeguards compliance requirements against international standards are being piloted in Riau Province. This work is part of broader technical assistance to operationalize jurisdictional REDD+ and inform the nesting of project-level initiatives. The SIS-REDD+ submission and its accompanying Summary of Safeguards (SoS) for Riau were finalized and uploaded to the national SIS platform. This was complemented by the development of a national recommendation for integrating SIS information into the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and the National. These steps help ensure that safeguards information can be effectively monitored, reported, and utilized for compliance and transparency in REDD+ programming. • Technical work continued to support Indonesia's readiness for jurisdictional REDD+ results-based payments. This included the development of a technical paper on nesting and alignment between project-level and jurisdictional REDD+ accounting frameworks in Riau Province. These efforts provide a foundation for potential engagement with international standards and future mutual recognition processes, although formal consultations or submissions were not undertaken during this period • A draft paper of the technical analysis on nesting focused on the national level and Riau has been developed and shared with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forestry for feedback. This technical analysis will contribute to the development of subnational RBP piloting. Bilateral discussion between Indonesia and ART-TREES has been done during the LCAW. On 4 August 2025, there will be another discussion between ART-TREES, GREEN for Riau, the UK embassy, and related key stakeholders in Jakarta. 	
Knowledge management results (Outcome 4)		
Output 4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key highlight in this reporting period was the global exchange on REDD+ benefit sharing, which convened representatives from 17 countries spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, and was delivered in collaboration with the World Bank. The workshop fostered peer learning on benefit-sharing arrangements. • The first ever REDD+ investment roundtable held at the London Climate Action Week 	

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
Status: ●	<p>brought over 90 investors, brokers, and senior government officials to discuss how to close the forest finance gap, high-integrity jurisdictional carbon transactions and the steps needed to unlock the potential of such deals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-REDD convened three strategic meetings under the Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in Latin America and the Caribbean. These included a regional dialogue on REDD+ grievance redress mechanisms, a clinic focused on Costa Rica’s national grievance system, and an exploratory session on leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance safeguards reporting, monitoring, and follow-up. • Two thematic newsletters (March and May) and twenty-four blogs continued to deliver timely, curated content to REDD+ stakeholders worldwide, from policymakers to practitioners and community leaders. • These interconnected initiatives reflect a focused, strategic approach to knowledge management in the first half 2025; one that integrates learning, dialogue, and outreach to drive inclusive, impactful progress across the REDD+ landscape. • South-South Exchange / clinic on “Strengthening the legal preparedness of REDD+ countries in carbon transactions. Addressing legal challenges in Emission Reduction Payment Agreements (ERPAs), experiences and lessons learned”. This event addressed the legal challenges in Emission Reduction Payment Agreements (ERPAs), bringing together experiences and lessons learned from leading countries. Held on 5-6 June at FAO HQ, the dialogue provided a neutral and safe space for meaningful and open dialogue among country representatives from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nepal and Vietnam involved at different stages in ERPAs’ negotiations under LEAF and/or under the World Bank’s FCPF and Biocarbon programs. This dialogue will inform future clinics with a view to enhancing the legal preparedness of other countries embarking on similar processes • Global South-South Knowledge Exchange on Community-Based Forestry: From West Africa to the World was hosted in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 26 to 29 May 2025, and co-organized by FAO and the UN-REDD Programme. The event gathered delegates from 15 West African nations as well as participants from Brazil, Guatemala, Nepal, Indonesia, Zambia, and regional organizations. It culminated in the adoption of the Praia Joint Declaration on Community-Based Forestry, a shared, non-political commitment to scale up community-based forest governance, enhance livelihoods, and prioritize local solutions in climate and development strategies. • A results-sharing webinar was held to present findings from Zambia’s Forests-Water-Climate assessment in the Zambezi headwaters. Organized under the UN-REDD Programme with FAO and partners, the event brought together over 40 stakeholders from government, academia, and civil society. 	
Output 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated <i>Bridge to Belém</i> campaign messaging was presented with strong momentum 	

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
<p>Collective political and societal support to NbS</p> <p>Status: ●</p>	<p>during the 21 March Forest Day celebration in Nairobi, uniting UN staff and diplomats from Brazil, Costa Rica, and Switzerland under the theme, “ABCs of Forests” (A for adapting food systems to work with forests, B for balancing and sharing benefits equitably, and C for changing policies to prioritize forests in climate action).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This high-profile kick-off included the release of a campaign video, a forest-themed cooking show, an exhibit, and an op-ed published on Climate Home News titled “2025 is the year to invest in forests and the people who depend on them.” These efforts sent a strong signal: as COP30 approaches in Brazil’s Amazon, the global community must stop sidelining forests and instead embrace them as a climate super solution. • Momentum continued during London Climate Week, where UN-REDD’s support to Brazil helped elevate forest finance in global discussions. Brazil’s Environment Minister, Marina Silva, cited data from the team’s upcoming study on the state of finance for forests multiple times, <i>reinforcing</i> UNREDD’s leadership and enhancing advocacy around the Belem vision. • In addition, a series of online press briefings focused on scaling investment in jurisdictional REDD+ and mobilizing climate finance. In partnership with Forest Trends, a well-attended webinar held in February on carbon pricing further strengthened the case for valuing forests. • On 21 March, during the International Day of Forests celebration at Parco di Villa Pamphili in Rome, the UN-REDD Programme was prominently featured in FAO-led educational activities where schoolchildren explored the role of forests in food security and climate through interactive games and hands-on learning. • Innovative financing mechanisms to support the forest guardians at the grassroots (IPs & LCs) with direct access to finance and tenure rights were scoped. • Mozambique requested joining the UN-REDD partnership, to scale up their REDD+ agenda, with a focus on getting UN-REDD support to access REDD+ finance internationally, especially from the new GCF REDD+ payments’ policy scheme. • Gender monitoring was advanced through the use of the W+ Standard in the GCF-funded Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project and Costa Rica’s REDD+ RBP 2014–2015 Project. The W+ Standard measures impact on women’s empowerment and promotes gender-responsive investments through a benefit-sharing mechanism. Activities are expected to conclude by September 2025 in Ghana and December 2025 in Costa Rica. • UN-REDD hosted trainings on international advocacy for Indigenous Peoples on 17–18 April during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York. Held annually, the sessions build the capacity of first-time participants to engage meaningfully in the forum. 	
<p>Output 4.3. Digital cooperation and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD has compiled a lessons learned document highlighting its experience innovating two key AI pilot projects. The first is an AI-powered REDD+ Academy Learning Assistant that personalizes training content for users, and the second is a deforestation prediction tool 	

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
<p>frontier technologies to accelerate and enhance NbS.</p> <p>Status: ●</p>	<p>that uses satellite data and machine learning to forecast forest loss in the Brazilian Amazon. The document captures valuable insights on data quality, model limitations, user trust, and the importance of domain expertise. It also outlines future opportunities to build more integrated AI systems, leverage open-source models, and responsibly scale AI to support forest conservation and climate action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative UN-REDD/Aim4Forests regional workshop on strengthening deforestation risk assessments in Asia-Pacific was held in Bangkok from 17 to 21 March 2025 to support countries in using geospatial tools like Deforisk for data-driven forest monitoring and planning. • UN-REDD facilitated South-South cooperation on digital instruments for deforestation-free production in Costa Rica, Ethiopia and Vietnam, building on UNDP digital public goods and Ecuador pilot schemes. This area of work will enhance NDC/AFOLU policies & measures. 	