

UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2026 Integrated Work Plan

30 April 2026

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Introduction

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

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

Within the scope of this ambition, the [UN-REDD 2026-30 Strategy](#) turns around four highly inter-related and mutually reinforcing outcomes: (1) Demonstrating high-integrity REDD+ results; (2) Unlocking finance for REDD+ results; (3) Enhancing climate ambition; and (4) Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation, and three cross-cutting elements: A: Social inclusion and gender equality; B: Knowledge generation and management; and C: Convening, advocacy, and communication.

This 2026 integrated workplan builds on the individual work plans produced for the different UN-REDD donors (Norway, Switzerland, and Korea), as follows:

- Norway contribution: UN-REDD 2026 Technical Assistance Workplan and Budget, which was approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board (EB) on 19 March 2026, as well as the carryover to 2026 of the 2025 TA workplan and budget, as shared with Norway in December 2025.
- Switzerland contribution: UN-REDD 2026-2030 Social Forestry
- Republic of Korea contribution: UN-REDD 2023-2027 TA for REDD+ Implementation: REDD+ Academy 3.0, approved by the EB on 31 August 2023

The 2026 workplanning process was conducted in the last quarter of 2025/first quarter of 2026 with the aim to calibrate the optimal deployment of technical assistance to countries in 2026, so to consolidate ongoing processes and harness new avenues. In this context, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) is an innovative global financing mechanism designed as a permanent facility to support the long-term conservation of tropical forests. Led by the Government of Brazil and launched at the Leaders' Summit of UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil on 6 November 2025, the TFFF has generated keen interest from tropical forest countries, including over 40 that have officially endorsed the TFFF during COP30. The opportunity and viability of UN-REDD to provide Technical Assistance are dependent on a few factors such as availability of the Operations Manual and the finalization and effective operationalization of TFFF governance arrangements as well as if additional resources become available.

This integrated workplan provides a snapshot of the UN-REDD country focus, global communications and knowledge management and core delivery in 2026.

Overall, the UN-REDD activities in 2026 will continue to contribute to advance a number of strategic commitments of the forest and climate agenda:

- Implementing policies and investments for forest solutions, including cross-sectoral approaches and multi-stakeholder processes, particularly in the agricultural and rural-development sectors
- Supporting countries to continuously improve their forest monitoring and MRV systems, in order to ensure high integrity of REDD+ action and financing, and be able to meet requirements of evolving jurisdictional standards for REDD+ results, notably ART/TREES
- Supporting countries to assess and access climate and carbon finance, both upfront for implementation of their forest solutions as well as for their forest results (REDD+)

- Promote social inclusion and gender equality in forest policies and associated climate finance, with a specific focus on indigenous peoples and local communities
- Assist countries to build the necessary support regulations and institutional arrangements to ensure the environmental integrity of the mix of carbon finance options they choose to deploy, ensuring environmental integrity and social equity
- Assist forested countries in the Global South and relevant stakeholders to explore and enhance private sector investments, including through LEAF
- Support countries to implement, monitor and enhance the forest components of their NDCs

The report is structured to provide information by country and crosscutting areas on social inclusion and gender equality, knowledge generation and management, communications, advocacy and convening. Each country section follows a similar format, presenting:

- i. strategic context: intended as an updated assessment from 2025 integrated workplan and earlier briefs.
- ii. country engagement: describing the consultations held and their outcomes.
- iii. 2026 workplan: consisting of a table with description of key deliverables mapped against the [UN-REDD 2026-30 Strategy](#).

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

1. Country support

The following country plans provide details on anticipated support to UN-REDD TA priority countries during 2026: Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Bhutan

Strategic context

Bhutan is globally recognised as a carbon-negative and strong net-sink country, with forests covering around 70% of its territory and a constitutional requirement (Article 5.3) to maintain at least 60% forest cover permanently. Forests are central to Bhutan's development model and its long-standing commitment to remain carbon neutral, providing substantial mitigation benefits, hosting important biodiversity and supporting the resilience of rural livelihoods. Bhutan's updated NDC and emerging long-term strategy emphasise the role of REDD+ and sustainable forest management in maintaining its land-sector carbon sink while managing growing emissions from other sectors. Bhutan is expected to remain carbon neutral through 2035 with GHG emissions projected at 4,454 Gg CO₂e (without LULUCF) and 8,673 Gg CO₂e (with LULUCF), both within the estimated carbon sink capacity of 10,965 Gg CO₂e. Climate efforts of Bhutan stabilise forests, glaciers and rivers that underpin water and disaster risk management for millions downstream in India and Bangladesh. If these efforts are not adequately financed, rising degradation will intensify regional flood, drought and energy risks.

Bhutan has already developed the core elements of its REDD+ framework, including a National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan, a National Forest Monitoring System with Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions, a Forest Reference (Emission) Level submission, and a Safeguards Information System (available offline and being finalised), along with a feedback and grievance redress mechanism. In addition, the country reportedly plans to submit its first Summary of Information on safeguards to the UNFCCC in Q2 2026. These readiness investments place Bhutan in a strong position to move from readiness to implementation and access results-based climate finance linked to high-integrity forest outcomes.

Opportunities under ART-TREES and HFLD

Bhutan has recently advanced towards high integrity jurisdictional forest carbon market engagement, with its new version TREES Concept Note for a national-level REDD+ programme submitted to ART-TREES in January 2025 and submitted the ART-TREES Registration Document (TRD) and ART-TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) in early February 2026. As an HFLD country with very high forest cover and low historical deforestation, Bhutan is well placed to use the ART-TREES HFLD pathway to monetise the value of conserving forest carbon stocks and is already in dialogue with prospective buyers interested in high-integrity jurisdictional forest credits. Bhutan is currently in a process of hiring a third-party validation and verification body and with only limited additional support, Bhutan can significantly advance its TREES conformance in 2026.

Overview of ART-TREES¹

HFLD crediting under TREES crediting period 2020-2024 Indicative volume: 1.0-1.5 million tCO ₂ e of ART-TREES credits ² .		
Milestone	Status	Target

¹ As of 19 March 2026

² Source: Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Bhutan Government, pers. comm. 9 March 2026

TREES Registration	Concept Note submitted; Jan 2025; TRD and TMR submitted to ART Feb 2026	ART-TREES Secretariat TRD/TMR approval Q2 2026
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Government in process of VVB procurement	V&V commenced in Q2
TREES credit issuance	In discussion with Emergent & other buyers	TREES crediting in 2027

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

The government demonstrates strong capacity and clear ownership of the process, including high-level political support, which is very positive and helps avoid bottlenecks commonly observed in many other countries. However, there are potential risks: 1) despite government rules allowing procurement, there is currently a funding gap for engaging the VVB; and 2) demand from HFLD-focused buyers may be lower than anticipated.

Country engagement

Bhutan has been a member of UN-REDD since the Programme’s establishment and received early support for REDD+. In 2012 UN-REDD provided support to Bhutan on MRV and monitoring, REDD+ governance (including corruption risk integration), benefit-sharing and related national management systems, and multiple benefits of forests and REDD+. The Programme also supported the development of stakeholder engagement guidelines, a review of policies, laws and regulations for safeguards, and contributed to a 2014 safeguards workshop aligning Cancun safeguards with FCPF requirements. In 2013, a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) providing readiness grants and technical collaboration with UN-REDD. In 2018-2019, UN-REDD provided targeted technical assistance on FREL and MRV, after which the REDD+ team under the Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, led the finalisation of the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan 2020, which sets out four Strategic Options and ten Policy Measures. Although implementation costs are estimated at around USD 55 million for a mitigation potential of about 10 million tonnes of CO₂-e over 20 years, progress has been constrained by limited dedicated finance, with the Department of Forests and Park Services continuing to build capacity and ambition largely through domestic resources.

In the context of TREES conformance, the FREL and MRV systems are meeting the requirements, while some complementary technical backstopping is still needed on safeguards to meet emerging high-integrity requirements. Through UNEPs collaboration with the Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan formally requested renewed REDD+ technical assistance from UN-REDD in 2026, focusing on ART-TREES conformance. There is also support being provided by Conservation International, and UN-REDD is coordinating the overall technical assistance. Given how advanced Bhutan already is in the ART-TREES process, the requested UN-REDD support is primarily to provide backstopping on the VVB process and final review and recommendations on safeguards-related elements (including update of the SIS). Through this model, UN-REDD supports and invests in a strong, country-owned process and in the national institutions responsible for accessing and managing results-based finance. This focused technical support has the potential to advance Bhutan’s TREES conformance and take them forward on HFLD crediting and access to jurisdictional results-based payments.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Capacity developed on Open Foris Arena to support TREES conformance, through regional platform	In collaboration with capacity building delivered to Nepal
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
SIS reviewed and updated, including revision of national clarification of the safeguards to support TREES conformance	
Bhutan's first SOI submitted to the UNFCCC	
Capacity building workshop on safeguards, VVB and the new ART-TREES 3.0 Standard delivered	
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Review of the existing Benefit Sharing arrangement completed, and recommendations provided to support TREES conformance	
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Technical support and backstopping provided on the validation and verification (V&V) process covering one single TMR	Assuming TRD and TMR submitted by Govt of Bhutan to ART Secretariat in Q1/2026 Additional resources required to cover the costs of the contract with VVB.
TREES transactions facilitated through brokering knowledge and trust between Bhutan's supply and buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits	In connection to UN-REDD "Supply-Demand" Roundtables series
Assessment of potential generation of TREES credits through PLANT (Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment & NDC Tool)	

Bolivia

Strategic context

Bolivia has included important forest related objectives as part of its [Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC 3.0\)](#) for the period 2026-2035, presented to the UNFCCC in September 2025, outlining renewed commitments in the forest and land use sector. The NDC includes a target of an 80% reduction in deforestation from its 2016-2021 baseline by 2035 and a 100% reduction within protected areas.

The country has made progress on the completion of key requirements under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. Most notably, Bolivia has prepared and submitted its first National Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) for technical assessment under the UNFCCC. Progress has equally been made on preparing and submitting a [first summary on safeguards information](#) and the development of a national safeguards action plan that includes provisions for the creation of a safeguards information system. The country has also advanced efforts to access jurisdictional climate finance and [has submitted a proposal to the LEAF Coalition](#) for 2 jurisdictions, namely the department

of Pando and the autonomous indigenous territory of Charagua. In July, the Ministry of Environment and Water submitted the TREES Concept Note for Charagua Jurisdiction.

These significant advances strengthen the enabling conditions for climate finance and reaffirm the country's commitment to international frameworks, while also supporting the national response to Plurinational Constitutional Ruling 0040/2024 Sucre, dated June 19, 2024. This ruling declares unconstitutional the phrase "...shall focus on the non-commodification of the environmental functions of the components of Mother Earth and therefore shall not include financing mechanisms associated with carbon markets," contained in Article 32.5 of Law 300 of October 15, 2012. The challenge now is to create regulations that protect the environment and respect the rights of Mother Earth, while also leveraging carbon credits to fund sustainable projects.

In this regard, as a first step, two supreme decrees were issued in 2024:

- Supreme Decree [5264/2024](#): Sets guidelines for managing and accessing climate finance.
- Supreme Decree [5270/2024](#): Amends Decree 5264 and tasks the Ministry of Economy and Finance with preparing actions for reducing greenhouse gases, including hiring necessary services

At the policy and strategic framework level, Bolivia has developed the Plurinational Forest Policy and the Forest and Climate Change Strategy, the National Strategy for Integrated Fire Management, the National Strategy for Timber and Non-Timber Products. At the same time, a financing strategy was developed for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, focused on meeting the goals set out in the NDC.

Between August and October, Bolivia held presidential elections. The new administration took office on 18 November, and government ministries and technical teams are currently undergoing restructuring. As part of this transition, the new government has initiated institutional changes, including the merger of several ministries and the appointment of new authorities and staff across key departments. Decree No. 5588 presents the organization of the executive branch and proposes the Ministry of Development Planning and Environment, while the Ministry of Rural Development absorbs the Water sector.

Under the new institutional structure established by Supreme Decree 5488, the Ministry of Planning, Development, and the Environment, through with the Vice ministry of Environment, assumes the strategic and regulatory role for the environmental and forestry sectors under the Forestry Law (Law No. 1700 in Bolivia). This role includes formulating policies on environmental conservation, biodiversity, and forest resources; designing policies for integrated forest management and the prevention and control of forest risks (including fires); proposing regulations for the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental and forest management; and overseeing forestry institutions (including the ABT)

Despite the progress made by the country to establish enabling conditions and to be ready to access different forest and climate finance, the country needs yet to consolidate the national pillars, such as the national strategy/action plan to reduce forest loss and degradation, to consolidate and operationalize the national forest monitoring, MRV and safeguards systems and to strengthen the capacities of governmental institutions, ensuring effective coordination with subnational level and stakeholders engagement process, including indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Country engagement

The 2026 workplan was developed by the UN-REDD Programme based on consultation with the UK Embassy and will be validated with the government focal point. It considers the identified strategic priorities and milestones for technical assistance, as well as the progress and the country context.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating high-integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
1.1.1 Technical backstopping and capacity building of national institutions, such as the Vice Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the National Forest Directorate, the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT), the Authority for the Supervision and Social Control of Forests and Land (ABT) and subnational institutions with key roles to demonstrate the integrity of the results, aligned with the National Plan for Economic and Social Development /PDES and the NDC.	Multi-agency coordination is essential to effectively support the government at national and subnational levels on REDD+ implementation. At the level of work planning, collaboration and synergies between UN-REDD agencies will be specifically articulated in areas where the MRV system / NFMS intersect with other components of REDD+ implementation, such as the Safeguards Information System and the benefit sharing mechanism.
1.1.2 Technical backstopping in the form of technical inputs, in relation to MRV capacities and overall eligibility, access and reporting requirements under TREES and LEAF, and technical backstopping in the preparation of TREES documentation.	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
1.2.1 Technical assistance and capacity building will be provided to support the definition of national and jurisdictional Safeguards Frameworks. This includes inputs for the design and operationalization of a Safeguards Information System (SIS), the establishment of a grievance redress mechanism for REDD+, and the assessment of safeguards in line with ART/TREES requirements.	At the strategic level of donor coordination, UNDP will facilitate coordination of these activities with other international cooperation entities, including UN-REDD agencies in order to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure complementarities. FAO will ensure the alignment with the REDD+ Action Plan.
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
1.3.1 Advisory support on options benefit sharing and social equity, including recommendations to ensure transparency and inclusion at national and jurisdictional levels.	
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
2.2.1 Technical support on analysis of the national institutional framework, considering the roles and distribution of functions in accordance with Supreme Decree 5488 on the Organization of the Executive Branch, to enable implementation of the strategy/action plan and REDD+ governance.	Multi-agency coordination (FAO and UNDP) is essential to effectively support the activity. The analysis of the national institutions framework will be closely coordinated with the relevant government agencies, such as the Vice Ministry of the Environment (VMA) and the Ministry of Productive Development, APMT (Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth), ABT (Forest and Land Oversight and Social Control Authority) and others.
2.2.2 Potential financing instruments and mechanisms identified and financing strategy to address the financial gap for implementing REDD+ action plan and the fulfilment of the targets related to the forest sector of NDC 3.0.	The financing strategy will be coordinated with the VMA's Climate Finance Directorate, and with the Ministry of Finance.
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
2.3.1 Strengthening capacities of different stakeholders including indigenous peoples, government and the private sector on financing opportunities under Articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement and High Integrity Carbon Markets (HICM).The activity aims to enhance understanding of market and non-market mechanisms, governance	UNDP and FAO will coordinate the activity utilizing existing training materials and identifying relevant opportunities throughout the year. Through the HICM, UNDP will provide support for capacity building to enhance understanding of market mechanisms, and it will be coordinated with

Deliverables	Remarks
requirements, and integrity standards, providing relevant information to support transparent and context-sensitive decision-making processes.	FAO to strengthen capacities related to Article 5 and non-market mechanisms.
Outcome 4: Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
4.1.1 Cross-sectoral dialogues and strategic institutional coordination to advance the definition of REDD+ enabling elements, promote dialogue and provide technical inputs and guidance for integrating REDD+ within national broader planning processes. Including a consolidated roadmap that reflects national priorities and strengthens coherence with the NDC 3.0 and relevant policy instruments.	UN-REDD agencies (UNDP and FAO) will ensure close coordination to deliver this activity. FAO will lead cross-sectoral dialogues will support the operationalization of key enabling elements for REDD+. This includes convening sectoral and territorial stakeholders, facilitating targeted technical discussions to strengthen implementation mechanisms, and ensuring that REDD+ actions remain aligned with national strategies and policies. FAO will also coordinate with development partners to identify synergies and enhance complementarity across initiatives. UNDP will support coordination spaces with relevant national entities, to map the national and subnational progress on REDD+ elements, offer guidance on integration, and assist in the development of a comprehensive roadmap.
4.1.2 REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan proposal presented to the new government authorities and received feedback.	To achieve this deliverable, coordination mechanisms will be established with government focal points as well as other cooperation's entities and UN-REDD agencies to define synergies and collaboration in activities.

Cambodia

Strategic context

In the last year, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has demonstrated strong national commitment to climate transparency and ambition through the submission of its first Biennial Transparency Report and the third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The updated NDC targets a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 55% by 2035, contingent on international support. Under this conditional scenario, the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector could reduce emissions by around 40 MtCO_{2e}, equivalent to 148% of projected sectoral emissions, effectively halving national deforestation and turning the sector into a net carbon sink. By 2035, industrial wood will be sourced from certified sustainable production under a national traceability system, and forest cover will increase through large-scale agroforestry, restoration, and plantation initiatives, with Community Forestry and Community Protected Areas playing a central role.

To achieve these commitments, the Government has outlined a package of practical measures across the FOLU sector of its NDC 3.0. The national-scale implementation of the REDD+ Programme remains critical, driving forest institutional strengthening, advancing land tenure security, community-based forestry, and environmental stewardship with strong leadership from local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs). The programme also ensures alignment with the Circular Strategy on Environment (2023–2028), builds on the National Nesting System pilot alongside enhanced institutional capacity to mobilize finance from multiple sources at both project and jurisdictional levels. Sustaining this momentum requires careful integration of jurisdictional and nested project-level approaches to ensure consistency and integrity across REDD+ implementation.

Maintaining this coherence is essential to safeguard the integrity of the national REDD+ system. The rapid scale-up of project activities, combined with varying monitoring and safeguard approaches,

presents risks of data inconsistency, overlapping interventions, and uneven safeguard application—potentially undermining transparency, carbon accounting, and result credibility. In parallel, national zoning and land-use planning processes have revealed overlapping claims between state and community lands, underscoring persistent weaknesses in land tenure systems. Addressing these challenges will require strengthened cross-institutional coordination, resolution of land conflicts, and clearer recognition of community land rights within the national forest governance framework.

In this context, Cambodia’s Ministry of Environment (MoE) is developing a national GCF REDD+ Results-based Payments (RBP) Funding Proposal, while exploring complementary financing mechanisms such as the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).

Initiative	Jurisdiction	Crediting period	Status as of Feb 2026
RBPs through GCF REDD+ RBP Policy	National-level proposal considering existing REDD+ initiatives	2018-2022 (GCF)	Concept Note submitted, Funding Proposal in development.

Despite solid progress in establishing REDD+ enabling conditions—integrating national frameworks with local initiatives to promote consistent results and access to forest and climate finance—the country continues to require assistance to fully operationalize its systems. Continued investments are needed to strengthen institutional and community governance capacities, operationalize the SIS and MRV systems, and reinforce subnational structures. These efforts remain critical for achieving measurable results in terms of reduced forest loss and degradation, sustaining forest landscapes, and improving the livelihoods and tenure security of Indigenous Peoples and local communities nationwide. In parallel, the government’s continued focus on tenure reform, including through community forestry and community protected areas, as reflected in their emphasis in the NDC3.0, is also reflected in their expressed interest to be a signatory of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC). UN-REDD is supporting various areas of the forest tenure reform agenda and will engage the government to better understand its plans and explore opportunities to provide technical assistance under the ILTC.

Country engagement

The implementation of this workplan is being advanced through regular coordination with the REDD+ and Carbon Crediting Secretariat under the MoE, and with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), both of which play a key role in guiding actions in the land and forest sector. At the technical level, FAO and UNDP have engaged in discussions with MAFF and MoE, respectively, to align technical assistance with government priorities for REDD+ implementation and to identify priority NDC entry points for future UN engagement, in line with Cambodia’s UN-REDD Multiyear Programming Document 2026–2030. Previously, UNDP’s engagement to support the REDD+ framework builds on earlier assistance to establish the infrastructure such as the registry and the SIS, and helps to operationalize the GHG mechanism and the Article 6 Operational Manual’s FOLU component. This strategic engagement has strengthened the institutions responsible for facilitating REDD+ projects and exploring jurisdictional approaches. Looking ahead, additional high-level meetings between MoE and MAFF, with the UN-REDD country team, could further refine the implementation of the technical assistance package and help leverage support from other partners for the agreed strategic priorities. In addition to the technical assistance, the UN-REDD supports Cambodia through the ASEAN Social Forestry project, funded by Switzerland.

Cambodia will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
<p>Update the NFMS document with latest developments, for example:</p> <p>Social Forestry -Including latest information on social forestry.</p> <p>Near Real-Time Monitoring – Operational near real-time forest monitoring outputs.</p> <p>Forest Degradation Update – Updated assessment and reporting on forest degradation.</p>	<p>Building on UN-REDD TA to develop 2024 Land cover map and activity data, including under SDC supported UN-REDD ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative.</p>
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>Support the operationalisation of the SIS across institutional and administrative levels, ensuring the environmental and social integrity of REDD+ Results to access multiple climate finance mechanisms (e.g., VCS, ART-TREES, RBPs)</p>	<p>Building on UN-REDD TA in establishing Cambodia’s SIS, the next phase will strengthen national and subnational operational capacities. This includes fostering transparent, inclusive, and accountable implementation across partners and stakeholders to support credible carbon market and jurisdictional programs.</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
<p>Support lessons on benefit sharing for social forest actions in coordination with the CASFor project.</p>	<p>This builds on FAO (CASFor/ASEAN Social Forestry) supported work 1. Impact assessment and lessons learned of social forestry (SF) models in Cambodia with focus on SFM and climate action, and 2. Assessment of Cambodia Community-Based and Social Forestry Models for women and Indigenous Peoples’ participation, representation, rights, livelihood, climate action and well-being – draft reports to be finalised Q1 2026.</p> <p>Key findings and ways forward include emphasis on addressing unclear rights and benefits undermining equitable investment in social forests.</p>
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
<p>Development of technical documents to access REDD+ results-based finances, with a focus on GCF funding opportunities, aiming at a virtuous cycle that strengthens the REDD+ institutional framework, generates new REDD+ results for the upcoming NDC, and catalyzes new carbon financing opportunities (e.g., CORSIA, ART-TREES).</p>	<p>Building on UN-REDD TA to address key gaps identified under the GCF REDD+ RBP window, current efforts focus on advancing the funding proposal, consolidating REDD+ governance and institutional systems, and channeling climate finance to jurisdictional and project-level initiatives that reinvest in sustainable forest actions.</p>
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
<p>Technical support to the REDD+ and Carbon Crediting Secretariat on establishing Mechanisms for GHG emission reductions and operationalization of the Article 6 Manual in line with NDC commitments and expand financing pathways through other REDD+ project and jurisdictional standards (e.g., ART TREES).</p>	<p>Building on the Carbon Market Readiness workplan for the FOLU sector, tailored advisory support will guide the Secretariat in implementing GHG management Mechanisms and the Article 6 Operational Manual, while identifying viable options for jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives.</p>
<p><i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i></p>	
<p>Technical support to operate and scale up a national REDD+ nesting system that ensures environmental and accounting integrity while aligning with jurisdictional crediting frameworks (RBP, JNR, ART-TREES).</p>	<p>Building on the UN-REDD-supported pilot, the next phase will strengthen government capacity to manage emission reduction transfers, registries, and reporting, and extend the nesting system to jurisdictional levels. The work embeds high-integrity accounting multi-level standards to enable transparent and consistent crediting across voluntary and compliance carbon markets.</p>
<p>Knowledge exchange on REDD+ nesting to build stakeholder understanding, share lessons from the national nesting pilot, and promote alignment with jurisdictional crediting frameworks.</p>	<p>Additional financing is required for a public event (a webinar may be considered as an alternative). UN-REDD agencies jointly with other partners</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition</p>	
<p><i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target</i></p>	
<p>Technical support to align NDC 3.0 forest measures with ongoing revisions of land and forest policy and institutional frameworks with regards REDD+ initiatives, ensuring coherence with national assessments and implementation, and carbon financial opportunities.</p>	
<p>Restoration Action Plan and Nature-based Solutions / Ecosystem-based Approach (NbS/EbA) framework established to guide implementation toward achieving the LTS4CN, NDC 3.0, and the Pentagon Strategy.</p>	<p>As per government request, UN-REDD is contributing to the development of a nationwide Restoration Action Plan and a Nature-based Solutions / Ecosystem-based Approach (NbS/EbA) framework, with a focus on key ecosystems. Norway TA will enhance technical support in developing the action plan and framework, leveraging support under TCP technical assistance, with possible support from ASEAN SF Initiative.</p>
<p>Further development of SF monitoring systems, incl. database development and Refinement of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models</p>	
<p><i>Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)</i></p>	
<p>Support the development of the next Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) for the AFOLU sector, following the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and building on government-produced data and capacity improvements.</p>	<p>Technical assistance is supporting the development of Cambodia's next AFOLU BTR under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, building on government data and capacity, with updated LULUCF maps (updated to 2024) to enhance forestry sector reporting ahead of the planned 2026 submission. UN-REDD will further complement this through continued development of SF monitoring systems, incl. database development and refinement of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models and alignment of National Forest Monitoring Systems</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
	(under SDC supported ASEAN Social Forestry and CASFor)
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
Investment plan developed, starting with scoping study, to unlock support to scaling up climate change solutions using Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA).	<p>Under the Norway TA and FAO TCP, technical support will be provided to develop the Investment Plan for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) / Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA), starting with a scoping study. This includes analyzing socio-economic and environmental benefits, quantifying investment needs, and identifying suitable financial mechanisms to support implementation.</p> <p>This will also likely link to work under SDC supported ASEAN Social Forestry project – specifically ASEAN Guidelines and Toolkit for integrating NbS in forestry, including social forestry that were endorsed by ASEAN in Q4 2025.</p>
Support the implementation of NbS practices in forestry, incl. social forestry	
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Technical advice and stakeholder consultations to integrate the National REDD+ Strategy (2017–2026) into forthcoming REDD+ financing opportunities.	Additional financing will support updating the National REDD+ Strategy, including its Policies and Measures (PAMs) and Action and Investment Plan, to reflect evolving national circumstances, deforestation drivers, market trends, and emerging project- and jurisdiction-level standards.
Policy dialogues to advance land tenure rights are supported	Additional financing is required for advancing in a platform for inter-ministerial collaboration and establishing communication mechanisms to manage land tenure conflicts and policy dialogue while creating guidelines and a strategic roadmap.
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Capacity building for IPs and LCs on community-based forest management (CBFM) advancing recognition of land-tenure rights and CBFM led by IPs.	Additional financing will empower IPs and LCs as key implementers of REDD+ and NDC forest targets by enhancing capacities, supporting land tenure security and titling processes—contributing to the Tenure Pledge—and strengthening community-based forest management drawing on IP Grants experience.
Action plan to scale Indigenous and local solutions building on tenure assessments (1. Impact assessment and lessons learned of social forestry (SF) models in Cambodia with focus on SFM and climate action, and 2. Assessment of Cambodia Community-Based and SF Models for women and Indigenous People participation, representation, rights, livelihood, climate action and well-being)	UN-REDD will also provide support through SDC supported CASFor, and ASEAN Social forestry building on tenure assessment conducted 2025, as well as NbS Guidelines and Toolkit – with key findings and ways forward highlighting need to strengthen tenure and benefits for effective CF & CPAs.
Documentation and dissemination of forest solutions led by Indigenous Peoples across provinces to inform evidence-based national REDD+ policy design, implementation and financing initiatives.	
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Social Forestry enterprises supported to access finance	Builds on “Blueprint for Accelerating Business Development in Social Forestry Enterprises (SFEs) in ASEAN” being finalised under SDC ASEAN Social Forestry project. In collaboration with FAO

Deliverables	Remarks
Baseline data and implementation modalities are established for supporting a forest-anchored value chain model for firewood in Cambodia that can be replicated for other commodities produced in Social Forestry areas across ASEAN.	In collaboration with FAO

Chile

Strategic context

Chile remains a frontrunner in the design and implementation of its REDD+ strategy, led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) through its National Forest Corporation (CONAF).³

By 2019, with financial and technical support from the FCPF and UN-REDD, Chile had met all requirements to become eligible to access to REDD+ results-based financing, consistent with the UNFCCC’s Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including fully operational MRV and safeguards information systems, and a an Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA) was signed with the FCPF, for up to USD 26 million for 5.2 million tons of emissions over the period 2018-2023, and a first payment was confirmed by the end of 2024. Since 2020, Chile is implementing [results-based finance leveraged from the Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) and its REDD-plus pilot program](#) in recognition to the emission reductions achieved in the period 2014-2016, for a total of USD 63,607,552. With FAO’s support as accredited and executing entity, Chile’s GCF RBP project – known as +Bosques - is directly implementing the ENCCR and its Benefit Sharing System, reinvesting REDD+ results-based financing with local actors in the territory in an efficient and transparent manner. To date, Chile implemented 970 territorial projects in fire prone and highly vulnerable regions in southern regions, with 98% territorial coverage in rural municipalities, and a paradigm shift in the way native forests and other ecosystems are managed, conserved and restored, is already underway. Supported by robust implementation of the environmental and social management framework, the +Bosques project is fostering full and effective participation of beneficiaries and applying a robust benefit sharing system, ultimately ensuring territorial implementation that is inclusive and gender responsive, and which is systematically being adopted by CONAF across its operations at the national and regional levels. In 2025 Chile launched the fourth public tender cycle under its benefit-sharing system, which for the first time integrated two sources of results-based carbon financing, under the +Bosques and the first cycle of Chile’s Emission Reduction Program (ERP) in the context of its Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) under the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), for up to USD 5.1 million by 2028.

Chile’s Climate Change Framework Law (LMCC) in 2022, established a carbon neutrality goal by 2050. The LMCC established the Environment Ministry (MMA) as responsible for both the regulation and registry of, inter alia, nature-based emission reduction projects. In 2024, the MMA started a process to develop complementary regulation including in relation to the entry into operation of Chile’s Emissions Compensations System (SCE) and the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. To date, Chile has entered into bilateral arrangements with Japan, Switzerland and Singapore, although none including the LULUCF sector.

Chile’s 2025 NDC update includes forests, with the LULUCF sector expected to act as a robust offset for residual emissions on the path to carbon neutrality. By 2030, Chile commits to sustainably managing and restoring 200,000 ha of native forests, foresting and restoring 200,000 ha (prioritizing native species and degraded lands), and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest

³ Soon to be replaced by the recently established [National Forest Service \(SERNAFOR\)](#)

degradation by 25% relative to 2001–2013 levels. Delivery is anchored in the ENCCRV and complemented by support for sustainable wood construction as a substitution-based mitigation strategy. Crucially, the credibility of LULUCF as an offset depends on reducing ecosystem vulnerability—particularly to forest fires—and on sustained mitigation efforts in other sectors, ensuring forests are not overburdened as the sole pathway to neutrality. The NDC also recognizes carbon valuation, though both taxes and domestic markets as key complements to achieve goals and mobilize finance. At the international level, this has advanced mainly through Article 6.2.

The [country's first Biennial Transparency Report](#) underscore persisting technical, institutional and financial challenges is to achieve Chile's sectoral NDC commitments, with positive but slow progress, such as recovery of 200,000 hectares of native forests (23%) reforestation (6.3%) With regards to the commitment to reduce emissions from degradation and deforestation of native forests, these advances are reported in the REDD+ Technical Annex (238,793 tons of CO₂e during the 2018-2019 period and 8,397,944 tons of CO₂e in the 2020-2021 period).

UN-REDD's sustained technical assistance in Chile since 2014 has strengthened the technical and institutional capacities to mobilize diverse finance sources. While both Chile's Safeguards Information System, its Forest Monitoring and Measurement System are fully operational, continuous improvements are required if Chile is to consider accessing new results-based carbon financing (e.g. under the GCF's REDD+ policy or under carbon markets, via the standard ART/TREES). The specific relevance of these financing windows will need to be reassessed in line with the new administration's plans and policies – see below. In 2026, UN-REDD will continue to provide regular technical backstopping and building institutional capacities, as well as to update the financial planning for the ENCCRV, leveraging assistance on the +Bosques GCF RBP project.

Country engagement

UN-REDD's TA was delivered as planned, with regular dialogue and exchange with government counterparts despite changes through 2025. As of March 2026, Chile's President elect, Jose Antonio Kast, will start its four year-term. To date, the incoming ministerial cabinet has been appointed, with further changes once the new government takes office. Accordingly, this planning document should be considered preliminary and updates and/or refinement should be expected. The activities included provide some flexibility to adapt to the financial and institutional architecture, as well as needs and priorities of the incoming administration. UN-REDD agencies will promptly engage with the new authorities.

To prepare the 2026 workplan, an inter-agency coordination meeting was held between FAO, UNEP and CONAF in late 2025, which allowed to discuss priorities and preliminary activities for UN-REDD's technical assistance to be delivered throughout 2026. UNEP conducted a hybrid technical mission to the country between January 20-21, 2026, adding further specificity on safeguards.

In the context of UN-REDD's TA and the series of financial and legal analysis undertaken to inform a revised financial and institutional architecture for the ENCCRV in the period 2026-2035, CONAF has facilitated closer coordination with key partners of the ENCCRV, particularly the World Bank and the FCPF, particularly in terms of exploring opportunities to monetize ERs under the ERPA. This linkage builds on the key role of the +Bosques as part of the efforts to implement Chile's emission reductions program and its NDC. Implemented by FAO, CONAF's +Bosques project will continue through 2027. While the Ministry of Environment is part of the +Bosques project, direct collaboration with the MMA in the context of UN-REDD's TA has not been feasible to date, following the country's institutional coordination arrangements between MMA and the Ministry of Agriculture, which governs CONAF. Collaboration opportunities with MMA will be further pursued in 2026, underscoring its central role in the Chilean climate governance as the responsible for Chile's NDC and implementation of Article 6.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-I integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
<p>1.1.1 Chile's national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system for the forest sector strengthened and institutionalized, and new NREF for the national level completed, to provide consistent and transparent data ensuring environmental integrity and facilitating access to multiple carbon finance opportunities.</p>	<p>This deliverable will strengthen Chile's national forest monitoring and MRV systems, in a way that emission reductions estimations and reporting meet requirements under a diversity of carbon finance opportunities. Activities include:</p> <p>Provide regular technical backstopping and build institutional capacities in SERNAFOR's MRV team, at the national and regional levels, to complete an on-going process to revise Chile's methodological approach and scenario development to generate data and estimations as the basis to modernize a multi-purpose NREF at the national level, consistent with the GHG accounting and reporting under the sectoral NDC. Regular technical backstopping and dedicated capacity building efforts will carry over throughout 2026 to pilot SOPs 1 and 2, and complete SOPs 3 and 4. TA includes in-person training to SERNAFOR's visual interpreters to assess deforestation and degradation data.</p> <p>Technical backstopping and strengthening institutional capacities regarding the preparation of MRV monitoring reports in the context of international commitments under the UNFCCC (REDD+ in Technical Annexes in 2026, 2028, 2030) or and / or in the context of access to climate finance (i.e. TREES Monitoring Reports, GCF FP).</p> <p>Technical backstopping to build institutional technical capacities to consistently and autonomously assess uncertainties of estimations, including through the development of a Montecarlo tool tailored to Chile's new NREF (under development).</p>
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>1.2.1. Safeguards Information System (SIS) strengthening package, including:</p> <p>(a) a methodological proposal to strengthen the definition, indicators, and reporting of non-carbon benefits within the SIS, aligned with TREES outcome indicators and adaptable to national and international reporting needs; and</p> <p>(b) simplified and standardized safeguards reporting formats and evidence checklists, informed by TREES requirements, , and updates for the REDD+ grievance redress mechanism for use across national and international forest and climate finance mechanisms</p>	<p>This deliverable will strengthen Chile's Safeguards Information System in alignment with TREES, while remaining applicable to a broad range of forest and climate finance mechanisms. The work will support improved design, monitoring and reporting in relation to safeguards and non-carbon benefits within the SIS.</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
<p>1.3.1 Targeted legal gap analysis and assessment of options to align Chile's benefit-sharing system with TREES carbon rights requirements</p>	<p>Building on existing analysis of emission reductions and carbon-related rights, as made available by CONAF, this assessment will focus on practical options for Chile to meet TREES requirements on these aspects, with attention to effective implementation on the ground.</p> <p>The analysis will draw on comparative experience to identify feasible legal, institutional, and contractual solutions, ensuring consistency with the GCF-RBP "+Bosques" and FCPF work, as well as non-carbon</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
	benefits indicators, and SIS strengthening under Output 1.2, in coordination with other partners.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market carbon finance</i>	
2.1.1 Institutional strengthening to enable the financial sustainability of the ENCCRV for the period 2026-2035 and resource mobilization strategy supported.	Building on the financial and institutional architecture for the ENCCRV 2026-2035, developed throughout 2024-2024 with a focus on unlocking financing opportunities via article 6 and TREES, the TA will undertake strategic financial and institutional analytical work and prepare a technical note that informs CONAF/SERNAFOR's interinstitutional efforts to include the ENCCRV as a public programme with allocated public budget.
2.1.2 Institutional and governance arrangements strengthened to enable the issuing, use and / or transfer of emission reduction units in the diversified carbon finance opportunities.	Building on the financial and institutional architecture for the ENCCRV 2026-2035, including the governance and institutional opportunities and barriers identified in relation to key carbon finance opportunities, provide technical backstopping and provide strategic advice to CONAF's efforts to strengthen the institutional arrangements required for the financial sustainability of the ENCCRV, support resource mobilization and/or enable carbon-related transactions. The scope and specific needs for this activity will be further discussed and agreed with CONAF during Q 2-3, noting on going and planned activities revolving around carbon finance opportunities for the ENCCRV, including activity 1.3.1 and TA with the WB/FCPF. Should coordination with UNEP or the WB is required, this will be further explored with, and facilitated by, CONAF.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Support Chile's engagement in regional south-south exchanges with a focus on forest financing and environmental integrity, including with a view to foster the participation of indigenous peoples in climate actions through a new forest management model.	

Colombia

Strategic context

Colombia has made notable progress in strengthening its REDD+ agenda and climate commitments, reflected in the 2020 [NDC 3.0](#) update, ambitious deforestation targets, and significant reductions in deforestation in 2022 (29%) and 2023 (36%), the lowest levels in over two decades. These results support the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) with Norway, Germany, and the UK, which was in effect until December 31, 2025. Currently, a renewal of a new JDI is underway for the 2026–2030 period, but financial commitments have not yet been established. The results are underpinned by a solid regulatory and institutional framework, including the Climate Action Law ([Law 2169 of 2022](#)), advancements in MRV and the National Forest Monitoring System, and access to Results-Based Payments through [REM I/II](#) and the [GCF REDD+ programme](#) and the [BioCarbon initiative](#) in the framework of SFL program (World Bank). The country has submitted three national FRELs and its first [Biennial Transparency Report](#) (2024), identifying priorities for technical improvement such as degradation monitoring and carbon accounting. Colombia has also advanced safeguards

implementation through its National Safeguards System, although challenges persist regarding the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, as highlighted by Constitutional [Court ruling T-248 of 2024](#). Progress in REDD+ nesting, updates to the [ENREDD+ Strategy](#) (expected in Q1 2026), voluntary carbon market regulations ([Resolution 1447 of 2018](#)), and new [Biodiversity Strategies](#) launched at COP16 further demonstrate Colombia's commitment to high-integrity climate action. Colombia marked a milestone with the signing of decrees formalizing the first eight Indigenous Territorial Entities (ETIs) in the Amazon, covering more than 7 million hectares. This progress recognizes the self-governance and autonomy of communities in education, health, and environmental management over their ancestral territories. The recognition of Indigenous Environmental Authority presents new challenges and opportunities in the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Voluntary Carbon Market, as well as their growing interest in jurisdictional REDD+ with direct access to resources, in their capacity as environmental and territorial authorities. The Pre-Consultation on REDD+ and PES with Indigenous Peoples was carried out in 2025, and the national FPIC process is expected to be completed in 2026. However, these achievements must be understood within a complex political and security context. The persistence of armed conflict in several forested regions continues to exert pressure on deforestation dynamics and constrains the effective implementation of environmental regulations and sustainable forest management policies. Fluctuations in peace negotiations with multiple armed groups have historically shown a clear correlation with changes in deforestation rates, underscoring the sensitivity of forest governance outcomes to broader security conditions. In this regard, national policies and regulatory frameworks cannot yet be implemented to their full extent across the entire territory. Additionally, the current political context, including upcoming national elections, introduces uncertainty regarding policy continuity and the consolidation of recent gains. Despite these constraints, Colombia's progress provides a strong foundation; nevertheless, remaining gaps remain in MRV capacity, safeguards, and sustainable finance, highlight the importance of sustained international cooperation, including through UN-REDD, critical to consolidating results and ensuring alignment with Articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement. Compliance with Judgment T-248 will continue to be a priority on the agenda of the MVCs, where companies will have to adjust their procedures to comply with Differential Ethnic Protocols that, by mandate of the Constitutional Court, will be an integral part of the Safeguards. The Strategy for Monitoring and Control of Projects, also ordered by the Court, must ensure environmental integrity and respect for the territorial Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Jurisdictional REDD+ can enter as a strategic catalyst to overcome the failures identified by the Court and consolidate itself as a platform of governance and not of exclusion.

These contextual factors pose potential risks for the effective implementation of UN-REDD technical assistance in 2026, particularly in terms of territorial access, institutional coordination, safeguards compliance, and financial sustainability. To address these risks, the programme will prioritize adaptive planning, strengthened inter-institutional coordination, targeted support to safeguards implementation, and flexible delivery modalities in conflict-affected areas.

Country engagement

Implementation in Colombia is supported by and coordinated with the Ministry of Environment (VOAT, DBBSE, DCCGR, SEP, and other relevant departments) and IDEAM (SEA and SEIA), and is complemented by direct engagement with local communities across a range of thematic areas, including participation and policy processes, safeguards, carbon markets, emissions accounting, environmental integrity, strategic stakeholder engagement, and the forest–agriculture nexus. Current activities are designed to continue priority actions and to advance the next steps jointly identified with institutional partners. It is expected that, during the first quarter of 2026, the jointly agreed and approved work plan will be formally shared with the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM to initiate its implementation. Given that some activities planned for 2025 will be completed during the first quarter of 2026, the continuity of AT-UN-REDD was communicated to the relevant parties during the

most recent follow-up meeting convened by the Ministry of Environment, with the participation of the three agencies and IDEAM.

For the Government of Colombia, following consultations with the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM, it is important to continue the strategic lines of action initiated in 2025, which still require ongoing assistance and technical development. These lines of action are particularly:

- Technical inputs that will allow the Government of Colombia to define a strategy for transitioning towards compliance with Resolution 1447 of 2018, based on the accounting analysis for REDD+, considering that there is evidence of an overestimation of emission reductions from private carbon market projects, which jeopardizes the availability of reductions for jurisdictional programs. To this end, formal access to the missing information in the National Registry of Emission Reductions (RENARE) is required.
- Progress and challenges of the updated National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+), which implies coordinated work with the Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services (DBBSE), in line with safeguards and REDD+ regulations.
- Continued support in defining the next steps regarding participation, within the framework of compliance with Ruling T-248 of 2024, based on lessons learned.
- Technical support in defining/adjusting the jurisdictional approach and nesting guidelines.

Colombia will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

Risk Analysis and Mitigation Measures for UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2026

In the current context, UN-REDD technical assistance in 2026 may face risks primarily of a political, institutional, and strategic nature, associated with the country's positioning regarding international initiatives such as TREES, as well as the continuity of public policies in the context of upcoming national elections. The absence of defined financial commitments for the new phase of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), together with the coexistence of multiple instruments and approaches (jurisdictional REDD+, carbon markets, and emerging governance structures such as Indigenous Territorial Entities – ETIs), creates an environment of uncertainty that may affect strategic decision-making and institutional coordination.

In addition, challenges arising from the implementation of Constitutional Court ruling T-248 of 2024, particularly regarding safeguards, FPIC, and territorial rights, as well as existing technical gaps in MRV (especially in degradation monitoring and carbon accounting, including the need to develop the new Maximum Mitigation Potential guidance under the updated FREL 2023–2027), represent critical factors for ensuring the environmental and social integrity required to access mechanisms such as TREES.

To mitigate these risks, UN-REDD technical assistance will prioritize a strategic, evidence-based approach aimed at supporting the country's decision-making processes regarding TREES and other climate finance mechanisms, including new Results-Based Payments (RBPs). This will include strengthening inter-institutional coordination, supporting the implementation of safeguards and FPIC in line with ruling T-248, and addressing technical gaps in MRV to ensure the robustness and credibility of REDD+ results. Furthermore, multi-stakeholder dialogue will be promoted, particularly with Indigenous Peoples and territorial actors, alongside the development of technical inputs to enable the country to assess, in an informed manner, the political, technical, and financial

implications of a potential engagement with TREES, in line with principles of environmental integrity, transparency, and respect for rights.

In this context, there is also a strategic need to consider a potential expansion of the scope of the Norway-supported programme, in alignment with the evolving priorities of NICFI. Such an expansion would provide an opportunity to reinforce the country’s capacity to address emerging challenges related to REDD+ integrity, safeguard implementation, and access to results-based finance, while ensuring coherence across existing instruments and initiatives. Aligning the programme with NICFI’s priorities would not only enhance its relevance in the current national and international context but also contribute to sustaining long-term engagement and support for Colombia’s forest and climate agenda.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Strengthened technical capacity for the operation of the National Measurement, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV) led by IDEAM and the Ministry of Environment, to ensure high environmental integrity in reporting deforestation and degradation results, as well as in analyses for the inclusion of new activities (e.g., restoration, sustainable forest management) in the context of forest carbon finance opportunities, FREL, REDD Technical Annexes, and INGEI. (meeting minutes, attendance lists, next steps) (By government request.	Facilitate South–South knowledge exchange by promoting structured learning and collaboration among countries through technical dialogues, regional meetings, and webinars.
Support in disseminating the PMM Zoning Guide for the NREF 2018-2022, should it be published this year by the Ministry of Environment through workshops, webinars, and media.	Participate in and support the development of the national accounting roundtable convened by IDEAM.
Technical support to refine emission accounting related to REDD+ and associated topics (updated analytical document).	Organization of virtual working meetings or workshops with IDEAM and the Ministry of Environment to review progress on accounting and nesting issues, as well as compliance with existing regulations.
Technical inputs required by the Ministry of Environment for the application of Resolution 1447/2018 by VCM projects, and to advance the nesting of MVA projects into the NREFs, including high-integrity standards (document with recommendations/inputs).	Technical assistance for the preparation of reports under REDD+, the NDCs and the National GHG Inventory (GHGI), defining roles and responsibilities within Colombia’s MRV system, including RENARE, SMByC, SINGEI and SCRR-GEI. This also includes coordination across monitoring systems for climate, biodiversity and adaptation (e.g., NDCs, ENBPA and the National Adaptation Plan). Note: Due to the nature of the information analyzed and processed, as well as the impact of the results obtained, both the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM have requested absolute confidentiality from UN-REDD regarding the information accessed and generated within the framework of the AT.
Analysis of national emissions accounting for REDD+ within the context of NDCs, aimed at strengthening transparency and environmental integrity (document and annexes)	Coordination with other cooperation initiatives in the country is essential to identify synergies and collaboration opportunities with national government counterparts. This includes other FAO-supported programmes (e.g., AIM4Forests, CBIT-Forests and AIM4Commodities) and other UN agencies.

Deliverables	Remarks
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>Consolidated technical guidance document for Colombia on REDD+ safeguards and implementation of Court Ruling T-248, including formal inputs to the Internal Committee on Social and Environmental Safeguards (CISSA) and SIS-related coordination roadmaps to guide interinstitutional processes and stakeholder engagement, supporting informed decision making on emerging carbon market regulations and nesting, helping to identify and address challenges related to project-level REDD+ implementation. The guidance will be aligned with safeguards requirements under TREES and other high-integrity standards.</p>	<p>This deliverable will provide consolidated technical guidance to support implementation of Court Ruling T-248 within Colombia’s REDD+ safeguards framework; including consideration for aligning with other national processes and commitments related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge (i.e. CBD, Nagoya Protocol and others, as appropriate). It will inform CISSA deliberations and clarify institutional coordination related to the SIS and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The guidance will support consistent application of safeguards in line with TREES and other high-integrity standards requirements, and other potential funding sources such as the World Bank and others.</p> <p>The guidance will support consistent application of safeguards in line with TREES and other high-integrity standards requirements, and other potential funding sources such as the World Bank and others.</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
<p>Advance design and methodological inputs for an operational and aligned benefits distribution system, grievance redress mechanism for REDD+.</p>	
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
<p>Regional Exchanges on Carbon Rights, Article 6 and the Indigenous Peoples' Approach.</p>	<p>Virtual spaces for exchange among Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, including governments, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, and academia.</p>
<p>Support for the application and development of pay-for-results mechanisms with high environmental integrity and effective compliance with social and environmental safeguards</p>	
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)</i>	
<p>Technical support in the development and presentation of BTR 2026 (By government request).</p>	<p>South-South exchanges and workshops between LAC countries could be planned, under the development of the BTR based on the evaluations of the BTR 2024 (challenges and lessons learned).</p> <p>At government request, FAO will support technical reviews related to the assistance provided to IDEAM through various country office projects and programs such as AIM4Forests and UN-REDD, specifically regarding consistency in reports and MRV topics.</p> <p>The UNDP, through its country office, will continue to support IDEAM in generating the BTR within the framework of existing projects.</p>
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
<p>Technical Report on REDD+ in Colombia to support the transition process with the new government, including progress and challenges from 2017 to 2026.</p>	<p>This report will draw on the products and results generated through technical assistance over the past five years, as well as key development in REDD in Colombia to provide an updated analysis of the mix of policies and processes, highlighting key options and</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
	challenges for effective implementation, high integrity results and access finance. .
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
<p>Support the formalization and consultation process for the National REDD+ Framework, REDD+ regulations, and safeguards with Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>In Colombia, an exploratory phase on land tenure will be undertaken, drawing on Ecuador’s experience, to scope opportunities for future collaboration on collective land titling processes, safeguards, and territorial governance, as enabling conditions for deforestation-free initiatives.</p> <p>This work will be limited to technical dialogue, peer learning, and experience exchange, without implementation commitments during the current phase.</p>	<p>This is a joint FAO-UNDP deliverable.</p> <p>Continue support for the ENREDD update (inter-institutional appropriation, socialization route, general agreement and finally the formal adoption of this document - Until December 2026).</p> <p>There is a risk that the updated ENREDD+ will not be formalized before the change of government. Only three months remain in the current administration, and the formal adoption of the updated ENREDD+ depends on how quickly the Ministry of Environment carries out internal ownership and mainstreaming across the relevant sectors. Holding weekly committee meetings for deforestation control, with the participation of the Vice Minister of Environmental Policy and Standardization and the Acting Minister, will allow this urgent matter to be elevated to the highest level so that appropriate decisions can be made. If the formalization process cannot be completed, it should be presented during the transition to the new government as a top priority issue to structure the planning for the next 4 years of ENREDD+ implementation.</p> <p>Support is needed to ensure that the regulatory, consultation, and updating process for the National Redundant-Derived Strategy (ENREDD+) is addressed comprehensively and coherently, despite political changes. This includes systematizing technical spaces and opportunities for social participation.</p> <p>It is essential to build upon processes previously supported by UN-REDD and to coordinate with other existing cooperation initiatives in the country to define synergies and collaboration on activities and with counterparts of the national government. This also includes other programs supported by the FAO (Forest Farm Facility - FFF).</p>
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy and governance changes supported</i>	
<p>Support to deforestation-free production and commercialization, working with local communities to pilot traceability and due-diligence tools, including MONBO, GROUND, and WHISP digital tool, and to accompany communities in the development of sustainable commercial agreements and improved access to deforestation-free markets.</p> <p>The programme will facilitate South–South exchanges among Colombia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica to share practical experiences on deforestation-free supply chains, community engagement, and market compliance. Systematization of exchanges of experiences among countries in the region.</p> <p>Presentation of the results obtained from the demonstrative exercise on being forest-positive with</p>	<p>Technical assistance provided by UN-REDD will include the organization of virtual workshops for subnational and regional experience-sharing with key stakeholders from different sectors and value chains. This will be carried out jointly by FAO and UNDP.</p> <p>Support in the design of mechanisms, the systematization of technical spaces, and social participation. UNDP will systematize the results related to the coffee value chain in departments such as Cauca using MOMBO. Meanwhile, FAO will systematize the pilot studies carried out in coffee and cocoa using WHISP and Ground.</p> <p>Likewise, it is necessary for UN-REDD technical assistance to coordinate with ongoing FAO actions in Colombia and with other cooperation initiatives in the</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
local communities, so that they can serve as recommendations for the guidelines document on deforestation-free cocoa currently being developed by the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment.	country on this topic, to identify synergies and collaboration opportunities in activities and with national government counterparts (e.g., AIM4Forests and AIM4Commodities).
Alignment of the climate & agricultural agendas (including through South-South cooperation, and building upon Ecuador's blueprint for deforestation-free production & trade)	
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
<p>Strengthened Amazonian Indigenous Environmental School.</p> <p>Mapped and prioritized Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and peasant initiatives (outside the Amazon) for integration into the Indigenous Development Network (JCI).</p> <p>Monitoring of Colombia's commitments within the framework of the ILTC, particularly in Indigenous Territories and other territories with REDD+ initiatives, will also be undertaken.</p> <p>Support for the implementation of the orders of Ruling T 248/24, support for participatory processes, formation of the expert group of the Commission for Studies on Carbon Markets (CEMCO2), Action Plan, and development of the Training, Advisory, and Support Strategy.</p>	<p>Monitoring of Colombia's commitments under the International Land Tenure Treaty (ILTC) to strengthen property rights and other territorial rights of communities living in forests and active deforestation zones (NADs) nationwide, as well as in forest and biodiversity development zones (NDFyBs) prioritized by the current government in the Colombian Amazon. This monitoring will be carried out in coordination with the Climate Change Directorate, the Forestry Directorate, and the Environmental Land Management Directorate of the Ministry of Environment, the Amazon Vision Program (REM and GCF), and the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI). Coordination will also be established with the Commission on Indigenous Peoples' Territories and the National Land Agency (ANT).</p> <p>This approach aims to strengthen territorial intervention models through public REDD+ initiatives. By guaranteeing territorial rights, it seeks to advance a territorial governance model that, in compliance with Ruling T-248, will gradually enable the development of public-private-collective agreements. This will be achieved through the Training, Advisory, and Support Strategy and the Monitoring and Control Strategy for MVC projects, building upon the technical advancements in MRV that have been made to implement the jurisdictional approach in practice. This will improve coordination, the guarantee of rights, and territorial governance.</p> <p>It is expected that CEMCO2 will be formed before July 2026 to finalize the Technical Report for Order 10 of the Ruling with its members. This action depends on the signing of a Resolution by the Acting Minister. To expedite the process, it will be proposed that the matter be brought before the weekly committee on deforestation containment, convened by the Acting Minister and the Vice Minister of Environmental Policy and Standardization. Should this resolution not be formalized by the current acting minister, it will be integrated as a priority in the technical report that will be prepared for the transition with the new government, seeking to ensure its compliance before the end of 2026.</p>
National, regional and territorial dialogues with multiple actors, consultations with indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant peoples, academic spaces, dialogues with civil society and the private sector.	
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Strengthen the technical capacities of the Government of Colombia to enhance understanding and effective use of different financing mechanisms.	

Costa Rica

Strategic context

The UNREDD technical assistance in Costa Rica is fundamentally anchored in the country's national REDD+ architecture, with the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Programme, managed by FONAFIFO, serving as the central policy instrument and institutional anchor. This programme—rooted in the Forestry Law—underpins Costa Rica's forest conservation strategy and is the primary mechanism through which climate finance, carbon markets, and results-based payments (including GCF RBP) are channeled on the ground, including in Indigenous Peoples territories, while the REDD+ Secretariat (FONAFIFO–SINAC) and MINAE provide overarching governance and policy alignment. UN-REDD's TA therefore builds on and strengthens these existing institutional pillars, particularly through the digitalization of PES, safeguards systems, MRV functions, and by enabling access to GCF, ART/TREES, and other forest finance mechanisms.

Overview of ART-TREES⁴

TREES crediting period: 2017-2021		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	TREES registration document (2017-2021) and monitoring report (2017-2019) submitted in June 2022	Submitted June 2022
Verification & Validation (V&V)	In progress reviewing the sixth round of findings	Final verification report in Q2
TREES credit issuance		Credit issuance for the 2017-2019 period in Q2

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

The unpredictability of the verification process, resulting from the iterative nature of the findings rounds and the lack of clarity regarding the definitive closure of each finding, means that it is not possible to accurately estimate when the verification will be concluded. This uncertainty has led to significant cumulative delays and represents a risk to the timely achievement of milestones planned for Q2.

Country engagement

During the fourth quarter of 2025, extensive consultations were carried out with key governmental and technical institutions, including the REDD Secretariat (which brings together FONAFIFO and SINAC), the National Meteorological Institute (IMN), the National Geoenvironmental Information Center (CENIGA), the Climate Change Office, other sectoral entities, and the National Environmental Information System (SINIA), ensuring that programme planning was aligned with ongoing national initiatives to maximize synergies and complement the activities included in this workplan. In this

⁴ As of 23 March 2026

context, two UNDP missions facilitated in-depth technical discussions with FONAFIFO regarding the country's needs and the opportunities for UN-REDD support in 2026, while specific meetings with FAO focused on supporting the strengthening of the PES system in coordination with UNDP. Furthermore, the activities reflected in this workplan were also validated through consultation spaces linked both to the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy and to the design of new national initiatives, such as the proposal that is being designed to the GCF REDD+ results-based payments new policy and the IKI ForestFlow initiative, as well as consultations carried out during the design process of the W+ Standard. The final version of the plan will be presented to the Government for approval during the first quarter of 2026 through the REDD Secretariat, which is responsible for granting formal endorsement.

Costa Rica will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Monitoring Module integrated into Costa Rica's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and national MRV system	The module will also be directly linked to Costa Rica's Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) system, enabling the use of SOC information to strengthen environmental integrity and guide incentive allocation. This deliverable is fully consistent with Axis 10 of Costa Rica's NDC, which promotes the Sustainable Agro-Landscape Initiative.
Inputs to the implementation of the national system on wood forest products transability	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
1.2.1. Non-carbon benefits (NCBs) indicators set finalized for the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and reporting for forest carbon finance, including ART-TREES, World Bank and others	This deliverable will refine and consolidate Costa Rica's indicators and methodological elements for assessing and reporting non-carbon benefits associated with REDD+ implementation. Work will build on progress made in 2025, review available socio-environmental datasets, and provide practical guidance for integrating NCB information into safeguards reporting and forest carbon finance frameworks. The updated NCB indicators will strengthen the consistency and robustness of safeguards information used to monitor and report REDD+ outcomes, including under Costa Rica's TREES programme, World Bank provisions on NCBs and others.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust in market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Support provided to strengthen the understanding of the W+ Standard building on insights from the 2025 pilot experience. Explore the potential for scaling up the standard to the program level.	Given its strong gender and women's empowerment approach, a GCF-funded REDD+ RBP project piloted the W+ Standard in 2025 with support from UN-REDD. For background, the W+ Standard is the first global standard designed to quantify and certify positive project impacts on women's social and economic empowerment, while also potentially creating a new channel to direct financial resources to women and supplementary financing for development programmes, such as REDD+. As such, this pilot will

Deliverables	Remarks
	serve to inform an evaluation of the potential to scale up this standard at the national programme level, identifying synergies with other standards, and specifically the gender requirements, particularly TREES.
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Support the development of the TREES Registration Document for the period 2022–2026, as well as for the preparation of the TREES Monitoring Report for the period 2020–2021	This will be conducted under an integrated forest-financing approach, led by the national forest financing agency (FONAFIFO).
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
Support provided for strengthening the PES system through a fully operational digital PES platform.	UN-REDD is specifically contributing to strengthening the field data module as well as other components. In 2025, UN-REDD led a gap analysis of the PES system, identifying concrete next steps and financial needs.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Support provided for the strengthening of the <i>Law for the Enhancement of the National Forest Financing Fund</i> , aimed at reinforcing the capacities of FONAFIFO and expanding its authorities and functions.	Expanding FONAFIFO's authorities and functions to enable the establishment of mechanisms for the promotion, negotiation, commercialization, mobilization, payment, and recognition of ecosystem services in forests, forest plantations, agroforestry systems, soil carbon, and marine-coastal areas, across both public and private lands.
Validated Roadmap for the Construction of the National Forest Traceability System (SNTF) - Wood Module Policy Guidelines for the SNTF	The implementation of the road map is going to be defined with other cooperation as OIRSA, Luxemburg or others with UN-REDD technical assistance
Publication about emission factors in Latin America and the Caribbean and their connection with National Forest Inventories	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Support the development of a proposal to access concessional credit lines to finance deforestation-free, sustainable production.	Provide technical assistance to relevant national counterparts in preparing a proposal to access concessional credit mechanisms to finance the transition toward deforestation-free, sustainable production systems.
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Support a gap analysis of the National Plan for the Recovery of Indigenous Territories (PLAN-RTI) and identify the priority actions to be carried out.	Previous actions include establishing a joint INDER-REDD+ Secretariat technical working group.

Côte d'Ivoire

Strategic context

With one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa, Côte d'Ivoire faces significant vulnerability to climate variability and change. Strengthening resilience to these impacts is therefore a critical challenge for the country's socio-economic development and the preservation of its natural resources and ecosystems.

To address these challenges, Côte d'Ivoire has developed several national development strategy documents, including the National Development Plan (NDP). Through the NDP, the country reaffirms its commitment to making action on climate change a national priority. The third version of Côte d'Ivoire's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), published in October 2025, marks a decisive milestone in this trajectory. It reflects the vision of a country seeking to reconcile economic growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability. With a target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 33.07 percent by 2035, and a long-term perspective of achieving carbon neutrality, Côte d'Ivoire reaffirms its strong commitment to building a green, competitive, and inclusive economy. NDC 3.0 is based on an integrated and territorially grounded approach that brings together mitigation, adaptation, and a just transition. It takes local realities into account, promotes nature-based solutions, and places women, youth, and local authorities at the heart of climate action. It is underpinned by updated scientific data and strengthened governance mechanisms that ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of climate adaptation and mitigation, Côte d'Ivoire has begun restructuring its institutional framework accordingly. Following the decree of June 26, 2024, establishing the National Commission on Climate Change under the Prime Minister, an Executive Secretariat was created to support its operations. In October 2024, the Commission became operational and published its first report on climate change. In addition to the creation of a National Climate Agency, the newly established Carbon Trade Office (created by the Decree n 2024-658 of the 1st August 2024) oversees and coordinates all national activities related to climate adaptation and mitigation and more precisely all actions related to carbon trade at different levels. However, continued support for strengthening and building the capacity of these structures remains essential, along with reinforcement of safeguards and gender responsive and socially inclusive approaches

REDD+ plays a pivotal role in achieving the country's mitigation targets. The National REDD+ Strategy aims to reduce deforestation by 80% compared to 2015 and restore 5 million hectares of forest by 2030. Support from the UN-REDD program remains necessary to support the operationalization of the REDD+ tools under finalization following extensive support from both the UN-REDD program and the PROMIRE project (mitigation GCF-funded project). Additionally, this support will help unlock potential financing opportunities by leveraging the country's emission reductions.

Country engagement

Online and in-person consultations were conducted in October with key stakeholders, including the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretary, to review progress, validate strategic orientations, and ensure alignment with national priorities.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Community-based Forest monitoring concept developed, tested and in place	Provide support to facilitate data collection by local communities for the NFMS, developed a legal gap assessment focusing on NFMS aspects to clarify institutional mandates
MRV/NFMS institutionalized	
Data-sharing arrangements set in place	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Safeguards Information System (SIS) operationalized	UN-REDD will support the development of national instruments for carbon transparency and safeguards compliance for REDD+. Implemented in concert with
Summary of Information (Sol) completed	

Deliverables	Remarks
National carbon registry finalized	the UN Climate Promise and other Project such as PROMIRE
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Support the operationalization of carbon registry and interoperability and linkage with national climate transparency system (BUR/BTR)	
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
Design and develop two ER-Programs: one in the South-East region and the second one in the North region of the country, in line with the updated National REDD+ Investment Framework	Technical assistance will be provided for the development of an emissions reduction programme.
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Strategic integration of REDD+ performance-based finance, including LEAF agreement (Emergent), REDD+ RBPs, and TREES compliance for FCPF credits. Design of a cocoa & carbon finance initiative Pilot innovative forest financing instruments, including bonds (with KPI/forests) and access to TFFF	Some of these deliverables will be done in partnership with the national Cocoa and Coffee Board.
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Develop nesting methodologies compatible with all carbon standards	Support for the adoption of a nested approach methodology, in collaboration with the PROMIRE project
Develop CN to ART TREES and develop a roadmap for the transition from FCPF to TREES compliance.	CDI has sold vintage FCPF credits to Emergent. With the change in TREES v3 in minimum area, they may be able to engage more actively, with the first step being the submission of a CN to ART. UN-REDD team is engaging closely with the country team to support the government in this process.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Strategies and policies in the framework of forest management and climate change aligned	Support the evaluation of the implementation of the “stratégie nationale de préservation, de réhabilitation et d’extension des forêts” and the REDD+ Côte d’Ivoire national strategy- lessons learned and recommendations for the update of the document
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Awareness-raising event and training sessions for businesses and cooperatives to promote the implementation of due diligence practices for reducing deforestation in agricultural supply chains and comply with market-based regulations Support to multi-stakeholders’ capacity building and policy dialogue on deforestation-free commodity production	support is provided for businesses and cooperatives in the context of EUDR Support the development of multi-stakeholders’ platforms and policy dialogues for the development and monitoring of policies
Knowledge sharing and capacity building on sustainable agriculture best practices and zero-deforestation practices	

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Strategic context

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is home to the world's largest tropical carbon sink, with 155 million hectares of forest and over 123,000 km² of peatlands storing an estimated 21.5 gigatons of carbon. These ecosystems underpin national livelihoods and global climate stability, yet deforestation and forest degradation have released an average of 534 MtCO₂e annually since 2001, driven by agriculture, logging, infrastructure expansion, and extractive industries. Under current trajectories, forest loss combined with oil and gas exploitation could emit up to 4.75 billion MtCO₂e by 2030 while climate vulnerability remains extremely high, with the DRC ranking 182nd of 185 countries on the ND-GAIN Index⁵. At the same time, improved forest management could generate substantial economic returns, delivering ecosystem service benefits of up to USD 3.8 billion annually by 2050 and yielding high returns on investment.

The DRC has articulated strong ambitions to become a “climate solutions country,” anchored in a comprehensive policy architecture including its National Strategic Development Plan, NDCs, National REDD+ Strategy, and forest, land-use, and environmental legislation. The country holds Africa's largest cost-effective mitigation potential and has demonstrated leadership in accessing results-based finance, notably through the Mai-Ndombe ERPA with the FCPF. However, significant gaps continue to constrain access to REDD+ and carbon finance, including weak cross-sectoral coordination, land tenure insecurity, limited safeguards, MRV and ERPA-related capacities, and high costs of operating in remote subnational jurisdictions. These challenges are compounded by ongoing insecurity in eastern regions, which disrupts governance, exacerbates deforestation drivers, and undermines implementation. Addressing these systemic constraints while advancing peatland governance and institutional capacity remains critical for translating the DRC's exceptional natural capital into durable climate, development, and finance outcomes.

The DRC aims to strengthen institutions, governance, technical capacity, and access to high-integrity climate finance, building on its long-standing partnership with the UN-REDD Programme since 2009. Moreover, UN-REDD's support to DRC to establish enabling conditions for credible, rights-based and high-integrity jurisdictional forest action — including strengthening REDD+ governance, safeguards systems, inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, MRV/NFMS systems, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and land/tenure considerations — will be foundational to ensuring the Green Corridor programme⁶ is implementable, socially legitimate (incl. tenure security, as highlighted by rights-based stakeholders), and financeable through high-integrity climate finance and results-based payments. UN-REDD's 2026 support contributes through safeguards and inclusion systems, and tenure/benefit-sharing analysis and recommendations aligned with ILC/ILTC priorities and relevant national legal frameworks as presented in this workplan.

While the country has demonstrated leadership in REDD+ and remains committed to mobilising results-based and private finance, it continues to face challenges in monetising emissions reductions, particularly High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) credits, due to market concerns over durability and integrity. In response, UN-REDD's support — although reinforcing institutional coordination (notably through CN-REDD), delivering targeted technical assistance on MRV, safeguards, benefit-sharing and registries, and strengthening inclusivity with particular attention to gender and Indigenous Peoples — will put a strong emphasis on helping Government to choose a pathway that demonstrates high integrity and transparency package (safeguards, BSM, clear tenure, registry, grievance, etc.), as well

⁵ Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index is a country-level indicator that measures vulnerability to climate change and readiness to improve resilience.

⁶ The Kivu-Kinshasa Green corridor is a strategic national initiative that aims to create a large (the size of France) ecological and development corridor linking eastern DRC to Kinshasa and the Atlantic coast, combining forest and biodiversity conservation, restoration, and community-based green economic development (jobs, sustainable value chains, improved livelihoods) across the landscape.

as credibility and co-benefits (improved livelihood, biodiversity conservation, provision of ecosystem services) to highlight their importance vs volume alone both on the supply and demand side. Moreover, UN-REDD’s neutral convening role brings the two sides to the table to speak the same language and move towards an agreement. The programme will also support alignment of REDD+ with national development and climate frameworks (PNSD, NDCs and Vision 2050), enhance readiness for carbon markets in coordination with major climate finance actors, and advance the sustainable management and legal protection of peatlands to ensure their emissions do not undermine national mitigation outcomes.

Overview of ART-TREES

TREES crediting period: 2019-2023 for the Tshuapa province Indicative volume: 10.5 MtCO ₂ e ⁷		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	Concept Note (Jan 2022).	TRD/TMR to be submitted by Q4 2026
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Government to procure VVB by Q1 2027	VVB work commenced by Q2 2027
TREES credit issuance	TBD	TBD

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery:

Risks that may delay the TREES delivery remain significant: 1) government institutional coordination and collaboration challenges (e.g. ARMCA and CN-REDD); 2) limited technical, human and financial capacity across key stakeholders involved; 3) security and logistical constraints that are likely to affect important TREES processes, such as consultations in remote jurisdictions like Tshuapa Province.

Country engagement

In 2025, the government of the DRC, through its National Coordination of the REDD+ mechanism (CN REDD), engaged in a policy dialogue. This activity aimed to identify areas in which the REDD+ policies (i.e REDD+ strategy) align with other sectors, including forestry, agriculture, mining, land tenure, etc. A roadmap was developed in which several potential activities were suggested. Participants carried out analyses of the strengths and weaknesses of the REDD+ policies and how they impact their respective sectors. The policy dialogue was led by the African Forest Forum (AFF) with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Government has identified land tenure security and recognition of customary rights as a strategic enabler for the implementation of the Green Corridor initiative, including ensuring social legitimacy, equitable benefit sharing, and durable forest outcomes. Land tenure considerations within the Corridor also constituted a significant element of the DRC’s contribution to the land rights commitments highlighted at COP30, reflecting the country’s intent to strengthen rights recognition and reduce tenure-related risks in priority landscapes. In this context, UN-REDD will support a more strategic approach to tenure-related work as part of its broader engagement, including through targeted analysis and recommendations on tenure and rights risks, alignment with safeguards requirements, and support to inclusive governance and benefit-sharing arrangements, including for IPLCs that the Green Corridor areas will benefit from.

A REDD+ National Registry is a country's transparent database designed for the systematic recording and management of all verifiable forest-based carbon credits and measured emission reductions resulting from REDD+ activities (e.g., stopping deforestation). This system is crucial for attracting international climate finance. DRC currently holds an outdated, obsolete and not functioning national registry. Considering the need for such an important tool, the DRC Government sought support from

⁷ Source: [DRC proposal submitted to LEAF](#)

UNEP for the revamping of the DRC National Registry. In late 2025, UNEP supported this work. The delivery of this tool to the Government will take place during Q2 2026, and it will be hosted by a structure that the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economy (MEDD/NEC) will determine.

The Safeguard Information System (SIS) for REDD+ is a hybrid reporting architecture constructed from a mix of existing and newly established data sources. Its purpose is to document how the Cancun safeguards are addressed and respected across all phases of REDD+ implementation. This essential component of national REDD+ architecture is required to meet specific UNFCCC criteria including providing transparent and consistent information to stakeholders, being country-driven and implemented nationally, and offering the flexibility needed for continuous improvement. Similarly, the DRC SIS is under reconstruction and will be updated and delivered to the Government in Q2 of 2026 along with the REDD+ National Registry and will also be hosted by a structure that the MEDD/NEC will determine.

Furthermore, the Africa Climate Week held in Addis-Ababa in September 2025 was an opportunity for the newly appointed Minister, after the government reshuffling to engage with UNEP. Both parties agreed to enhance their collaboration in support of the REDD+ mechanism. A dedicated UNEP team travelled to Kinshasa in December 2025 to meet with the minister and her team. Discussions focused on the support that the Ministry requested from the mission to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the REDD+ sector in DRC to enable the Ministry to undertake a reform aiming at improving governance and efficiency, as well as improving intra and interministerial coordination for better impacts of REDD+ in the country. Building capacity at different levels in terms of carbon market, safeguards and forest management in general was also discussed. Last but not least, exploring eventual collaboration for implementing the 2 priority programs of the Government in the Forestry sector, namely the Green corridor, and the “La foret c’est nous⁸”.

Three important points to note in UN-REDD’s approach to support DRC:

DRC’s forests must be preserved. The Congo Basin forests (60% of which are in the DRC) are one of the world’s largest tropical carbon sinks, an irreplaceable biodiversity reservoir, and a foundation for livelihoods and stability for millions of people who depend on forest landscapes for food, energy and income. At the same time, DRC is the country that lost the highest forest area in the past 5 years in the Africa Region, which makes it difficult to achieve substantial emissions reduction from the forest sector in the region without tackling the issue in DRC. Protecting forests now is far more cost-effective than trying to restore them later, and it avoids the risk of DRC becoming “locked into” a high-deforestation pathway as demographic pressure, infrastructure, agriculture, mining and charcoal demand intensify. Therefore, despite current buyers’ limited appetite for HFLD credits, REDD+ should be understood and contribute not only as a market mechanism but as a national framework that strengthens the enabling conditions for sustainable development, improving governance, land-use planning, safeguards and rights recognition, transparency, MRV systems, and equitable benefit sharing; thereby de-risking future high-integrity climate finance and helping ensure forests remain standing for long-term national and global benefits.

Stepwise approach. Although some aspects of UN-REDD support to DRC are at the national level (e.g. SIS, SOI, NFMS, registry), overall, a stepwise ART-TREES approach, starting with a sub-national jurisdictions and scaling up over time, is most appropriate for DRC because it is lower-risk, cheaper, and faster to operationalize than an immediate national rollout. It allows DRC to concentrate limited resources where readiness and leadership are strongest, and to test and strengthen key systems (MRV routines, safeguards evidence, registry procedures, benefit-sharing and grievance mechanisms) under real conditions before expanding nationwide. This generates an early proof of credibility for

⁸ “La foret, c’est nous” is a flagship Government of DRC initiative aimed at reducing deforestation and restoring forest landscapes, with stated targets to restore 8 million hectares by 2030, plant about 5 billion trees, create 1.5–2 million jobs, and support the development of certified carbon initiatives.

buyers and donors, while producing standardized tools and templates that can be replicated at scale—ultimately reducing transaction costs and making national implementation more realistic and cost-effective.

Necessity for carbon-market literacy in parallel to the ART TREES-readiness process: undertaking carbon-market literacy for DRC stakeholders, including the government, in parallel with ART-TREES readiness is essential because readiness is not only technical, but also institutional and political. Without a shared understanding of how carbon markets work and how to access markets (integrity rules, authorizations, registries, revenue flows, risks, buyer expectations, offtake negotiations), stakeholders can develop unrealistic expectations, mistrust, or resistance, which can delay implementation, undermine credibility and eventually miss opportunities. Building literacy early strengthens informed decision-making, improves coordination across ministries and provinces, and enables IPLCs, civil society and local leaders to engage meaningfully on rights, safeguards and benefit-sharing, reducing conflict and reputational risk. In short, literacy is a cost-effective way to not only protect integrity, build national ownership, and ensure that future TREES credits—when generated—are governed transparently and can be responsibly marketed, but it also builds market demand and in turn can attain a higher, fairer, price in the market.

DRC will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to develop a procedural manual for the institutionalization of the NFMS, with a view to facilitating its operationalization and obtaining public funding. (NFMS-SNSF) Define the contents of a (interministerial decree) procedural manual to operationalize the NFMS (first phase) Organize a consultation workshop to share the draft document/validate its contents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the NFMS based on those carried out by USFS and the CBIT project Define the operation of the NFMS within the MEDD and in collaboration with other ministries and institutions (to clarify the roles and responsibilities related to the NFMS) Support the formalization of an NFMS. Note: An interministerial decree is the preferred option / therefore, start with a procedural manual (2026) to inform the content of the interministerial decree.
Jurisdictional MRV: Strengthening the capacity of the provincial coordination and local government of TSHUPA (effort in the framework of the preparation of the ART-TREES registration document submission) and Assessment of the Ministerial Order No. 047/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML/05/2018 on procedure of approval of REDD+ investment and suggestions/guidelines for updating.	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Reporting Enhanced</p> <p>REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS) operationalized REDD+ Summary of Information (SoI) completed and submitted to the UNFCCC</p> <p>- By end of Q4, support RDC’s REDD+ team to complete a national safeguards implementation</p>	This will be contingent upon country-driven process that is responsive within agreed turn-around timelines to ensure relevant technical and quality assurance criteria are met in a timely manner.

Deliverables	Remarks
<p>assessment in updating the SIS, generating ART-TREES-aligned evidence to inform safeguards reporting and information to support future TREES submissions.</p> <p>- By end of Q4, the CNREDD is supported to draft, validate, and formally submit the 2nd Summary of Information (SOI), demonstrating progress in addressing and respecting the Cancun Safeguards in line with UNFCCC requirements and ART TREES safeguards criteria</p> <p>This will be contingent upon country-driven process that is responsive within agreed turn-around timelines to ensure relevant technical and quality assurance criteria are met in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Contribute to secure land tenure rights and promote social inclusion, by supporting the representation of women, Indigenous peoples and other underrepresented groups in CFCL governance, taking into consideration ILC and the Green Corridor. Coordination and synergies with key stakeholders working in this issue will be ensured.</p> <p>Provide support to develop/implement the decrees under the promising regulation dealing with IPs rights and community-based forest management, as part of the support under the ILC.</p>	<p>National analysis of land tenure rights, focusing on gender and IP representation in CFCL governance bodies.</p> <p>Field surveys to collect disaggregated data on participation and decision-making to enhance land formalization.</p> <p>Output: Recommendations for inclusive CFCL governance integrated into REDD+ safeguards.</p> <p>Implementation of decrees related to Indigenous peoples and community forest management unpacked/improved (detailed deliverables will be defined jointly with the CN-REDD)</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
<p>Benefit-sharing plan for Tshuapa province established and validated, on the basis of the national directive on benefit-sharing.</p>	<p>DRC has articulated principles, infrastructure (e.g. FONAREDD) and intentions on benefit sharing through its REDD+ framework and safeguards architecture. However, these do not amount to an operational, subnational BSP for subnational jurisdictional TREES programme (i.e., Tshuapa).</p> <p>With UN-REDD support, by end of Q4, TREES BSPlan for Tshuapa will be established building upon the deliverable above to translate the national BS directive into Tshuapa BSPlan</p>
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
<p>REDD+ RBPs concept note developed and submitted for funding</p>	<p>The country is implementing a stepwise approach for REDD+ funding: after the Carbon Fund project, the country intends to develop a new stream of REDD+ funding through the Green Climate Fund, which will provide the institutional and technical basis to access funds under the LEAF coalition in a third stage (output 2.3)</p> <p>Funding is being mobilized from various sources to develop and submit REDD+ RBPs by Q4.</p>
<p>Access results-based payments for verified REDD+ results. Assess, accelerate, and enhance NDC mitigation actions in forest and land-use sectors over time</p>	

Deliverables	Remarks
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
DRC capacity strengthened to engage in Article 6 and CORSIA transactions for ART-issued TREES credits through tailored technical support. At the same time increase trust and demand for DRC ART TREES credits.	Organize a roundtable to convene supply and demand side of international carbon markets for ART TREES credits.
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Country-tailored technical, policy, legal support provided, along with a private sector engagement support and convening, to facilitate the entry of ART TREES credits into international carbon markets	Done, in part, through a multistakeholder working group of relevant actors, both government and non-government in DRC all working to bring the ART TREES credits to international carbon markets. This will involve all UN-REDD agencies, as well as the government of DRC and demand side participants. It will be government owned but convened and organized by UNEP.
REDD+ results-based payment transactions explored. ART TREES access to market prepared through convening demand side parties interested in sales and ensuring financial literacy is equal among all stakeholders.	
Capacity on results-based finance mobilization at the national and provincial level for ART TREES strengthened, with a focus on the Tshuapa province.	Joint workshop that includes safeguards and MRV training as well as guidance on market access for credits upon issuance
Feasibility of a national level ART-TREES programme assessed	As part of the request from the Minister of Environment to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the REDD+ sector in DRC.
TREES concept note for Haut-Uele Jurisdictional REDD+ proposal submitted to the ART Secretariat, with registration document drafted	- TREES concept note is planned for validation and submission in Q1. - Leveraged funding from Korea will complement the funding from Norway for this activity
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Support an integrated forest financing strategy linked to the NDC, which includes instruments like PES and bonds, REDD+ performance finance (national and jurisdictional, including TREES compliance) and carbon markets	
Support innovative forest financing instruments, including PES, bonds (with KPI/forests)	

Ecuador

Strategic context

Ecuador has consolidated more than a decade of REDD+ readiness and implementation, positioning itself as a regional leader in results-based forest climate finance. Over this period, the country has also undergone important institutional adjustments. In 2025, the former Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) was merged with the Ministry of Energy as part of a broader government reorganization designed to streamline institutional mandates and integrate environmental and energy governance under a single ministry. This change has been administrative in nature and has not disrupted the continuity of Ecuador's REDD+, forest, and climate agenda, nor the

technical teams leading these processes. Ongoing workstreams, partnerships, and commitments under REDD+, UN-REDD, and international climate finance mechanisms have continued without interruption.

At the same time, Ecuador is currently facing significant national challenges related to insecurity and the expansion of organized crime, which have inevitably influenced broader government priorities and placed additional pressure on public institutions. These dynamics increase the overall risk environment for policy implementation across sectors. However, despite this complex context, the REDD+ Action Plan remains a strategic priority for the Ministry of Environment, reflecting the country's recognition that forest conservation, territorial governance, and sustainable livelihoods are essential not only for climate commitments, but also for long-term stability, resilience, and social cohesion in forest and rural territories.

Ecuador has successfully accessed REDD+ Results-Based Payments through the GCF pilot, the REM programme (co-financed by Germany and Norway), and most recently through engagement with ART-TREES and the LEAF Coalition. With the conclusion of PROAmazonía in 2023 and the REDD+ Results-Based Payments project scheduled to close in February 2026, Ecuador is entering a critical transition period that requires safeguarding the continuity, credibility, and institutionalization of its REDD+ systems.

At the same time, a new phase of the REM Programme (REM 3.0) is currently under negotiation, creating an important opportunity to ensure continuity of technical and financial support for Ecuador's Joint REDD+ implementation framework. In this context, close coordination with KfW and REM , and other partners will be essential in 2026 to streamline and align support across key REDD+ functions, including Jurisdictional REDD+ (JREDD) implementation, MRV systems, safeguards, and Validation and Verification Body (VVB) processes, while reinforcing coherence with ART-TREES requirements and broader international results-based finance pathways.

A central priority for 2026 is the successful completion of the ART-TREES validation and verification process, which underpins Ecuador's access to high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ credits and future results-based finance. In parallel, Ecuador is advancing the alignment of its REDD+ Action Plan (2026–2030), NDC, and forest strategy, while expanding complementary financing instruments such as concessional credit, PES mechanisms, and deforestation-free supply chains supported by digital monitoring tools, including MONBO, Whisp, Ground and others.

Land tenure and Indigenous territorial rights constitute a critical enabling condition for Ecuador's REDD+ and climate finance agenda. Ecuador has already demonstrated political commitment at the global level by participating in the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) COP event and formally adhering to the *Intergovernmental Commitment on Land Tenure*.

Building on this milestone, the country—through MAATE and in coordination with Indigenous organizations—is advancing concrete, on-the-ground titling processes in Indigenous territories, particularly within the Kutukú Shaimi Protective Forest. These efforts include participatory mapping, boundary demarcation, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, and the preparation of legal adjudication files required for collective land titles.

In parallel, Ecuador is strengthening its national land-tenure policy framework by updating regulations governing land titling within the National Forest Heritage and Protected Areas, and by supporting pre-legislative consultations with Indigenous Peoples' organizations. Technical work is also underway to systematize and monitor tenure processes through digital tools that document legal, technical, and territorial steps, enabling transparent tracking of progress and facilitating replication and scaling to additional communities and forest landscapes.

Together, these actions demonstrate Ecuador's commitment to securing collective land rights, reinforcing intercultural territorial governance, and aligning land-tenure reform with broader climate,

forest, and biodiversity objectives—consistent with REDD+ safeguards, ART-TREES requirements, and long-term results-based finance.

Overview of ART-TREES⁹

TREES crediting period: 2017-2021 Indicative volume: 24.4 MtCO ₂ e ¹⁰		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	Ecuador is in an advanced stage of readiness for ART/TREES, with most technical elements in place. The main pending step is the finalization of the ART registry account, which will enable the initiation of validation and verification (VVB).	Ecuador’s 2026 target is to complete ART registration, advance through validation and verification, and position the country for first issuance and market engagement, while consolidating key elements such as arbitration mechanisms and benefit sharing.
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Ecuador has already completed the VVB preparatory phase, including finalized ToRs, selection process design, and secured financing. The only pending step is the completion of the ART registry account, which will enable the formal initiation of the Validation and Verification process.	ART registration completed and VVB process initiated, with full operational readiness and enabling conditions in place
TREES credit issuance	Ecuador is expected to position itself at the threshold of credit issuance by the end of 2026, with VVB underway and all enabling conditions in place.	

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery 2026

As Ecuador advances toward the implementation of the ART/TREES framework, with the objective of entering the Validation and Verification (VVB) phase in 2026, several risks and uncertainties may influence the timely delivery of key milestones. While technical readiness is well advanced, the current phase increasingly depends on procedural, institutional, and external factors that are typical in the transition from readiness to verification.

Procedural and Operational Considerations: The completion of the ART registry account remains a key enabling step for initiating the VVB process. This process is currently underway in coordination with the ART Secretariat. As with similar processes, additional procedural steps or clarifications may be required, which could influence timelines.

In parallel, Ecuador has completed key preparatory elements for the VVB, including finalized Terms of Reference (ToRs), a defined selection process, and secured financing. The activation of the verification process will proceed once the registry phase is completed.

The TREES submission may also involve iterative technical exchanges to ensure full alignment with ART requirements, particularly in areas such as MRV and safeguards documentation. These are standard processes that support the robustness and credibility of the system.

Institutional and Governance Strengthening: Ecuador is advancing in the development and alignment of arbitration and grievance mechanisms, in coordination between MAE and the ART Secretariat.

⁹ As of 24 March 2026

¹⁰ Source: [TREES Monitoring Report](#)

These mechanisms are important to ensure transparency, address potential concerns, and strengthen confidence among stakeholders.

Institutional coordination across relevant entities continues to be strengthened to support efficient decision-making and implementation, particularly as the country transitions into the verification phase.

Safeguards and Enabling Conditions: Progress continues in strengthening enabling conditions related to land tenure and the implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). These efforts contribute to reinforcing legal certainty, stakeholder participation, and compliance with ART/TREES safeguards requirements.

At the same time, continued engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities remains essential to ensure alignment with benefit-sharing arrangements and to sustain trust and inclusiveness.

Financial Continuity: While financing for the VVB phase is secured, continued support will be important to sustain progress into subsequent stages, including issuance, transaction structuring, and long-term system consolidation.

Conclusion: Ecuador's ART/TREES process demonstrates strong technical readiness and institutional commitment. The current phase reflects a natural progression toward validation and verification, where procedural and governance elements are being further consolidated.

The identified risks and uncertainties are manageable and typical of this stage, and with continued coordination and support from partners such as Norway, Ecuador is well positioned to:

- Enter the VVB phase in 2026
- Strengthen enabling conditions and governance frameworks
- Progress toward credit issuance and market engagement in subsequent phases

Country engagement

Throughout 2024 and 2025, UNDP, FAO, and UNEP worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), to advance Ecuador's REDD+ agenda. This engagement supported the registration and monitoring processes under the ART TREES framework, including technical coordination on the TREES Registration Document (TRD) approved in 2024 and successive TREES monitoring reports (TMRs) as well as the policy dialogue on the post-2025 REDD+ Action Plan and financing architecture.

In November 2024, MAE approved the Terms of Reference for the ART-TREES Validation and Verification Body (VVB), leading to the selection of AENOR in May 2025, through a joint MAATE–UNDP evaluation process, AENOR was selected in May 2025. A coordination meeting held on 24 June confirmed the sequencing of VVB contract signature with the formal submission and clearance of the TRD and TMR by the ART Secretariat. In November 2025, Ecuador submitted an updated TMR with new results, ensuring continuity of the verification cycle while safeguarding the technical integrity of the TREES process.

This work is directly linked to the Ministry of Environment (MAE)'s ongoing efforts to finalise the national benefit-sharing plan, which is a core enabling condition for REDD+ implementation and for delivering on the LEAF Coalition ERPA. Through UN-REDD Programme, UNDP, FAO and UNEP are supporting MAE in advancing an integrated national REDD+ vision, using existing and ongoing projects as building blocks to articulate a coherent REDD+ agenda at country level. This includes aligning current and future investments—such as GCF results-based finance and other complementary

programmes—within a unified governance framework, anchored in the establishment of a national REDD+ unit with responsibility for implementation and benefit sharing.

A major milestone on land tenure was achieved in July 2025, when President Daniel Noboa Azín presided over the formal delivery of collective land titles to Shuar Indigenous communities within the Kutukú Shaimi Protective Forest, in Morona Santiago. This historic adjudication recognized more than 18,400 hectares of ancestral territory, consolidating legal certainty over Indigenous lands located within the National Forest Heritage. The process—supported by MAATE with technical assistance from UNDP through the REDD+ Results Based Payments Project and PROAmazonía—culminated more than a decade of community-led efforts and demonstrates Ecuador’s commitment to implementing the Intergovernmental Commitment on Land Tenure endorsed under the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership (FCLP). This milestone reinforces REDD+ safeguards, strengthens intercultural territorial governance, and anchors forest conservation outcomes in secure collective land rights.

In parallel, Ecuador has consolidated a set of concrete milestones as a regional and global pioneer in deforestation-free commodities, particularly in the coffee sector. Building on national traceability systems, REDD+ safeguards, and the deployment of MONBO, Ecuador has advanced structured South–South exchanges on deforestation-free coffee with Honduras, Ethiopia, and Viet Nam, sharing a practical blueprint that integrates geospatial verification, producer-level traceability, safeguards alignment, FPIC, and compliance with international market requirements such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

At the global level, Ecuador’s deforestation-free coffee model has been showcased through collaboration with the Lavazza Group under its Coffee Print initiative, including visibility in international sustainability platforms and south-south exchange opportunities, culminating in the renewal of an MOU to sustain and expand the partnership through 2029, expanding its reach to a broader set of coffee producing countries. Importantly, Ecuador reached an operational milestone in 2025 by exporting five containers of coffee to Italy fully compliant with deforestation-free requirements, using due-diligence and traceability mechanisms aligned with national REDD+ systems and international standards. This achievement demonstrates that Ecuador’s deforestation-free framework is not only policy-ready but already delivering verified, market-facing results.

The 2026 workplan priorities reflected below were discussed with MAE through various meetings in November and December 2025 and will be confirmed in early 2026 as the plan starts implementation, in line with UN-REDD integrated work planning guidance.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Analyze the technical aspects to update the reference level	Ensures readiness for VVB engagement and ART Secretariat review
To advance on ART-TREES Validation and Verification process	
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Technical support to maintain and operationalize REDD+ benefit-sharing arrangements linked to results-based finance	Ensures continuity and transparency during the transition period from REDD+ RBPs to ART-TREES
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Technical assistance to advance concessional finance and PES linkages complementary to REDD+ (e.g. green credit lines, PES-carbon synergies)	Builds on work with public banks and the financial sector, in synergy with the UN Climate Promise. Cofinanced with funds from GCF, UN-REDD, UKPack
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
Support the completion of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments project, extracting lessons for other REDD+ financing.	Ensuring REDD+ financing under the GCF carries lessons for a new national forest-financing strategy, which includes LEAF and private-sector engagement (see Outcome 4 below).
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target</i>	
Strategic technical support to align REDD+ Action Plan 2026–2030 with NDC targets and AFOLU priorities, Forest National Strategy and Investment Plan.	Supports integrated climate and land-use planning, in synergy with the UN Climate Promise. FAO will ensure alignment with the Forest National Strategy and Investment Plan.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Strengthening national regulatory and policy frameworks for land titling to advance ILTC implementation, within the National Forest Heritage and Protected Areas, including support to pre-legislative consultations with Indigenous Peoples' organizations.	Ensures policy coherence between tenure reform, REDD+ safeguards, ART-TREES requirements, and biodiversity objectives
<i>Output 4.1 Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a bankable proposal for climate finance focused on forest-tenure regularization Drafting support Resource mobilization support Strategic advice for COP30 Establish an institutional mechanism for forest land legalization, including pilot legalization of 3,600 hectares in Indigenous Shuar communities 	This work stream – which is the operational cornerstone of this UN-REDD proposal – will be two-fold: first, to fully legalise a total of 3,600 hectares of forested land across 6 Indigenous Shuar lands (“Centers”); then, building on this experience and others in the country, to design and establish a forested land legalization unit within the Ministry of the Environment (MAATE), in order to streamline and accelerate land tenure in forested territories.
Continued technical support to deforestation-free traceability systems and sustainable supply chains (coffee, cacao), including application of MONBO for EUDR compliance and follow-up with exporting cooperatives	Builds on MONBO deployment and due-diligence tools (OECD-FAO Handbook, GROUND, WHISP)
Conducted deforestation risk analysis and defined risk management strategies for cocoa. Facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue to align land-use and deforestation-free strategies.	
Knowledge sharing, South-South cooperation, and communication products on deforestation-free supply chains and tenure-linked governance models	Includes South-South webinars, KM products, and lessons learned on deforestation-free coffee and cocoa. FAO will support the organization of the activity – identification of the speakers and country case studies
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Regional workshop on forest positive value chains	FAO will lead the inputs for regional workshops in coordination with UN REDD agencies

Deliverables	Remarks

Key implementation considerations

Given the February 2026 closure of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments project, timely execution and sequencing of ART-TREES-related activities is a critical risk management priority. In parallel, tenure-related deliverables under Outcome 4 are designed to consolidate and scale work already underway, ensuring that land-tenure security, REDD+ safeguards, and forest governance reforms reinforce each other and provide a durable foundation for long-term climate and forest finance. UN-REDD agencies will continue close coordination with MAE and Indigenous organizations to ensure technical quality, social inclusion, and institutional sustainability beyond 2026.

Ethiopia

Strategic context

Ethiopia is a land-locked country located in the Horn of Africa, characterized by large regional differences in topography and climate. Natural resources are fundamental to its economy, with agriculture historically being the dominant sector, although its share of GDP has decreased. Ethiopia has been implementing successive five-year development plans and is currently guided by its 10-Year Development Plan (2020-2030), aiming to reach middle-income status through green economy pathways as outlined in its national Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy.

High climate ambition. Ethiopia continues to pursue high climate ambitions, with their long-term vision of achieving carbon-neutral by 2050, outlined in their Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), while advancing a climate-resilient green economy pathway in the process. In September 2025, the country submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 (2025–2035), which significantly strengthens mitigation and adaptation efforts. The new NDC commits Ethiopia to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70.3% below the revised business-as-usual scenario by 2035, of which 40.7% is unconditional, marking an increase from the earlier 68.8% target. The CRGE strategy includes milestones towards this goal, including maintaining the annual GHG emissions at the 2010 level of 150 million tons of CO₂e by 2030, which would be around 250 Mt CO₂e less than the business-as-usual forecast for 2030. The CRGE strategy follows a sectoral approach and serves as the basis for Ethiopia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). According to updated NDC, forests play a large role in the overall mitigation outcomes for Ethiopia. The largest absolute mitigation gains occur in the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector, accounting for over 77% of the total mitigation effort 2035.

Forestry sector is key to the CRGE. Forestry is identified as one of the four pillars of the Ethiopian Government's CRGE and REDD+ is recognized as a major investment instrument and one of the four fast-track programs for realizing targets set in the CRGE strategy. The CRGE serves as one of the strategic pillars of the 10-Year Development Plan and is the basis for Ethiopia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2019). Ethiopia submitted an updated NDC in 2021 that represents a clear progression in ambition. The updated NDC includes a target to reduce economy-wide emissions by 68.8% by 2030 compared to the Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario. The forestry sector, with REDD+ acting as a major mitigation lever, is expected to contribute 50% of the total emission reduction target identified in the CRGE strategy. However, Ethiopia sees climate change impacts affecting also its forestry sector and wishes to conduct climate impact assessments that would consider deforestation among other issues. The examples given "difficulties in terms of natural regeneration, increased forest fire, disease and pest prevalence during the past

few decades” do reduce forests’ carbon sink and storage capacity. (Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Green Economy: National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Implementation Roadmap, 2020).

As one of the world’s leading coffee producers, Ethiopia’s government and private sector stakeholders are working to implement innovative tools and systems to ensure increased viability of the sector, sustainable farming practices, mitigate deforestation, and improve traceability from farm to export. As part of the AFOLU measures in the NDC, the country is working on improving its sustainable coffee value chain and traceability systems and has requested that the policy and partnership solutions on deforestation-free production and trade that UNDP has conducted in the LAC and Asia-Pacific regions, in part under the framework of UN-REDD, be shared, adapted and piloted in Ethiopia including, through South-South learning and technical assistance. The Ethiopia Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), Ethiopian Forestry Development, and Ministry of Planning are prioritizing strengthening the sustainable coffee sector to maintain market access for international markets, support rural livelihoods, and contribute to NDC targets.

Ethiopia’s main policy framework supporting REDD+ efforts: Ethiopia's approach to REDD+ is guided by key national strategies and policies, including the CRGE strategy, the NDC, the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), which is a central legal and strategic document for REDD+ implementation. The NRS, officially endorsed in October 2017, was designed to meet the objectives of national forest policies and legislations, as well as relevant international agreements and conventions ratified by Ethiopia. The NRS outlines Policy Actions and Measures (PAMs) and identifies causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including underlying drivers linked to policy, legal, and institutional frameworks. The *new forest proclamation*¹¹ addresses gaps related to climate change, carbon, and forestry, but also related to ownership, incentives, and climate change; it has elaborated legally recognized bundle of rights for different tenure types¹². To further operationalize the proclamation, Ethiopia enacted the *Forest Development, Protection, and Utilization Regulation No. 544/2024*. This Regulation provides detailed legal parameters for carbon trading and outlines the management and utilization of forests, including benefit-sharing schemes and the roles of regulatory bodies.

Currently, the Ethiopian Government, via the Ministry of Planning and Development¹³, has developed a draft National Carbon Market Strategy (2025-2035), published at the end of 2025. In parallel, a draft National Carbon Market Legal framework is being developed.

Institutional framework. At the national level, the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), established in 2022, operating under the Ministry of Agriculture, is responsible for Ethiopia's efforts to enhance forest governance, promote sustainable forest management, and contribute to national and global environmental objectives. A dedicated REDD+ Secretariat, within EFD coordinates implementing actors at the regional level and monitors implementation activities, including safeguards and MRV, within its jurisdiction. Regional REDD+ Coordination Units serve as the regional counterparts to the National REDD+ Secretariat, with some regions having REDD+ Focal Persons. Lower administrative levels, such as woreda (with Woreda REDD+ Implementation Units - WRIU and Woreda REDD+ Steering Committee - WRSC) and zonal levels. Ethiopia’s land tenure system shifted from private to state ownership after 1975, giving farmers only use-rights rather than full ownership. Although the 1995 constitution reaffirmed state ownership, debates over allowing private land ownership to continue and ongoing policy reforms are needed to improve land markets and boost agricultural productivity despite persistent challenges. Despite this, the country’s National Rural Land Administration Information System (NRLAIS), an existing land registry system within the Ministry of Agriculture, is a positive effort towards addressing land ownership and use in the agriculture sector

¹¹ Enacted on 23 January 2018, and replacing the Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation of 2007.

¹² This includes giving priority to communities in certain situations and emphasizing their participation in management and benefit sharing.

¹³ MPD is now responsible for formulating policies, strategies, and legal instruments for all sectors related to development in Ethiopia.

and has the potential to be scaled up and used for other areas, like forests and tracing deforestation-free production.

Country engagement

Country engagement to develop the proposed activities has been undertaken through ongoing consultations between UN-REDD agencies at headquarters, regional, and Country Office level, and initial discussions with the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) in December 2025 and continuous dialogue at the beginning of 2026, as well as ongoing consultations with EFD, Ethiopia Coffee and Tea Authority, and the Ministry of Planning and Development. Over the past years, FAO has maintained continuous technical and strategic dialogue with EFD, including targeted consultations in December 2025 and February and March 2026, sustained engagement throughout early 2026 between FAO’s Forestry Division at headquarters, the FAO Ethiopia Country Office, and EFD. These discussions often build on regular partnership meetings with national stakeholders, including UNDP, UNEP, EFD, the Ethiopia Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), and the Ministry of Planning and Development. UN-REDD engagement will also leverage on and coordinate with larger country level coordination among implementing agencies. In this context, FAO is currently providing ongoing technical support to the Ethiopia Forest Development through a dedicated workstream aimed at advancing Ethiopia’s multi-year, national flagship REDD+ Investment Programme (RIP Phase II). This engagement includes deployment of a specialized team of experts working to strengthen and consolidate Ethiopia’s National REDD+ Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system. This comprehensive capacity development effort—covering technical expertise, institutional strengthening and infrastructure enhancement is strategically aligned with Ethiopia’s broader national priorities in forestry, climate action and agrifood systems transformation. Importantly, it positions FAO as a trusted long-term technical partner to EFD in the implementation of REDD+. More recently, FAO held meetings with EFD in February 2026, to confirm the interests on the support needed to expand the scope. Building on this strong foundation, the proposed activities aim to further expand and deepen collaboration between FAO and EFD. The proposed additional support is foreseen to unlock new knowledge to benefit national forestry sector in the area of forest financing, aspect not covered / supported in the framework of the RIP. Leveraging the current support and without duplicating ongoing efforts, the assistance would deliver the first comprehensive picture of how finance currently flows into forests and degraded landscapes—moving beyond the carbon lens to include broader finance to forests, such as, public finance and private sector, blended finance, and value-chain finance opportunities. UN-REDD will continue maintaining strong linkages with the programme, which will serve as a foundation for, and be leveraged across, additional REDD+ support provided to the country.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
System wide financial analysis of strategic pathways and financing options supporting Ethiopia achieving its forestry and climate objectives. The study will be conducted in three phases: (i) an inception workshop to introduce the study and gather stakeholder inputs, (ii) a desk study and data analysis phase involving policy review and consultations, and (iii) a national validation workshop to present and confirm the study findings with key stakeholders.	The deliverable will also contribute to country progress on REDD+ by informing Ethiopia’s forest sector resource mobilization and supporting the country unlocking new financial resources, complementary to REDD+. The activity was identified through consultations in February 2026. During a meeting with Dr. Adefris Worku, National Coordinator and Focal Person for the Green Legacy Initiative of EFD, FAO was encouraged to expand support beyond the current scope of activities. In addition, discussions with the Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa highlighted the need to include activities beyond MRV under UN-REDD, given the MRV coverage under the RIP.

Deliverables	Remarks
	The analysis was therefore proposed to go beyond REDD+ investment mapping by covering broader financing to meet Ethiopia’s climate commitments, assessing the financing gap, and support identifying pathways to mobilize additional public, private, and international finance, that complements REDD+ finance.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Public-private AFOLU partnerships developed, to sustain deforestation-free coffee value chains, in line with the NDC and policy dialogues on existing tenure and land use data systems and coordination among sectoral data systems like agriculture, forests, and coffee value chains supported.	The country is implementing a GEF-funded project on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) with a goal of preventing further forest loss, promoting restoration and integrating sustainability into coffee value chains. Additional TA, based on lessons from other UN-REDD countries like Ecuador and Costa Rica, will help address gaps to support EUDR compliance, alignment with REDD+ policies and existing data systems. UN-REDD level coordination and exchanges on commodities and tenure might also be brought in the exchanges as needed and useful.

Ghana

Strategic context

Over more than a decade of REDD+ readiness and implementation, Ghana has established one of Africa’s most advanced results-based performance systems, supported by two jurisdictional emission reduction programmes (GCFRP and GSLERP), international finance from the FCPF Carbon Fund and GCF, and policy frameworks enabling transparent safeguards, equitable benefit sharing, and accountable use of climate finance.

Building on these successes, Ghana has developed a robust ART-TREES compliant Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for its TREES accounting area, with ambitions to scale it nationally and institutionalize it within government structures, ensuring sustained access to high-integrity climate finance under REDD+ and the Paris Agreement.

Ghana submitted its first summary of information (SOI) to the UNFCCC in 2019, and its second SOI in 2024, describing the country’s overall approach to safeguards implementation. The [Safeguards Information System \(SIS\) web platform](#) has been developed. Ghana aims to continuously improve its SIS as new safeguards information becomes available. Framework Agreements are revised and updated, and a Benefit-Sharing Plan updated to comply with the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES).

With the operationalization of the Ghana Carbon Registry and the approval of the International Carbon Market and Non-Market Approaches Framework, Ghana is entering a new phase: pursuing national-level emission reductions, participating in Article 6 cooperative approaches with Switzerland, Sweden, and Singapore, and advancing ART-TREES validation as the first African supplier to LEAF.

Ghana, with UN-REDD support will become the first country in Africa to access results-based payments from the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Initiative through Emergent Forest Finance Incorporated. In November 2023 the Government of Ghana requested UNDP to play the role of Financial Intermediary to receive resources from LEAF through Emergent. The results-based payment is an amount of upto USD 21 million that will be available for emissions

reductions achieved from deforestation and forest degradation for the crediting period 2017-2021 in the TREES area. The funds will be invested in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy of 2016, which is aligned with Ghana Nationally Determined Contribution (2022) under the Paris Agreement. The REDD+ Strategy defines the jurisdictional programmes and the LEAF area constitutes three of these landscape/jurisdictional programmes, the cocoa forest mosaic landscape (GCFRP); the transitional landscape, and the Togo Plateau landscape.

The outcomes for the use of proceeds are increased equitable access to capacity building and solutions, including technologies, and enabling environment for climate and forest governance in Ghana; and direct contributions to communities, non-state actors, and government entities to enable improved agricultural yields, livelihood enhancement, and strengthened community forest governance.

In order to achieve these outcomes, the results-based programme will focus on REDD+ coordination, implementation, and overall architecture strengthened in Ghana and stakeholders engaged in improved and effective management of forests and other land uses in the Programme Area with a view to continuing a virtuous cycle of results-based payments and carbon finance.

Deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana remain closely linked to cocoa plantation expansion, despite initiatives such as the Cocoa and Forests Initiative have sought to decouple cocoa production from deforestation. In recent years, regulatory developments - including the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) - require accelerated action.

Ghana's land tenure system is shaped by the coexistence of customary and statutory frameworks, with customary authorities controlling most land and the state pursuing formalization through the long-running Land Administration Project (LAP). There is a complex interplay between tradition, local norms, and state-led reforms. For climate and forest actions, tree tenure is an important component for the adjudication of the rights bundles associated with land tenure.

Ghana's NBSAP process involves coordinated engagements across ministries, departments, and agencies for national biodiversity targets and indicators reporting. Similarly, the NDC implementation and reporting framework requires similar systematic coordination and should draw on NBSAP processes and reporting scheduled for early 2026, to reduce duplication and ensure efficiencies for the BTR submission to the UNFCCC in December 2026.

Through its combined expertise, UN-REDD is uniquely positioned to help Ghana institutionalize the MRV/NFMS system as the backbone of long-term climate finance, while also supporting diversification into emerging mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services.

Overview of ART-TREES¹⁴

TREES crediting period: 2017-2021		
Indicative volume: approximately 2 million tCO ₂ e of ART-TREES credits		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	Completed. Concept Note submitted in July 2021. TRD and TMR submitted in December 2023	
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Completed. Validation & Verification started in March 2024 and still ongoing	Q2 2026
TREES credit issuance	Imminent	Q2 2026?

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

¹⁴ As of March 2026

- It is expected that verification for Ghana's first phase of TREES delivery will be completed by Q2 2026; however if further challenges are encountered, this will be a serious risk for Ghana with respect to fulfilling the clauses of the ERPA signed with Emergent.
- Once proceeds from TREES credits are received, there will need to be careful and timely implementation and monitoring of the benefit sharing plan and risks mitigated and measured to that end. The social and environmental safeguards assessment makes provisions for these risks to be mitigated as well as the stakeholder consultations already carried out with beneficiaries regarding roles and responsibilities.

Country engagement

Online and in-person consultations were held in October and in early December with key government counterparts at the Ghana Forestry Commission (FC), namely the Climate Change Directorate (CCD) and the Resource Management Support Center (RMSC), to identify technical support needs under UN-REDD.

In 2026, Ghana aims to continue and capitalize on this policy and investment progress and realize access to climate finance, including through the voluntary carbon market and the LEAF coalition through Jurisdictional REDD+. These on-going discussions and collaboration with key government stakeholders reflect a strong commitment to aligning national and international efforts for forest-based climate solutions.

The Director of CCD, Mr. Joseph Appiah, expressed interest in incorporating livelihood support for smallholders into UN-REDD efforts, potential for engaging with Payments for Ecosystems Services. In addition, during an in-country workshop, the Director of RMSC, Mr. Atuahene, identified the validation of admitted farms in the context of EUDR as an additional potential area for support.

These engagements helped shape the priorities reflected in the workplan, which will receive final clearance from the Climate Change Directorate as the lead governmental authority for REDD+ implementation.

The Ghanaian government has addressed the issue that delayed the issuance of its ART-TREES credits, namely the need to finalize framework agreements covering the entire accounting area. The country is now aiming at completing the validation and verification (V&V) process by Q2. The workplan below is thus forward-looking, building upon this progress.

Ghana will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Enable Ghana to measure high-quality and accurate emission factors through the implementation of an NFI	Validate the National Forest Inventory (NFI) design and budget through an in-country validation workshop. Provide support to initiate the collection of plot measurements with a specific focus on savannah areas within the context of a broader NFI
Roadmap to update the National FREL developed.	With the funds from LEAF to Ghana for emission reductions in the TREES area, conduct socially

Deliverables	Remarks
	inclusive and gender-responsive stakeholder engagement efforts to develop the roadmap to update the national FREL
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>Safeguards training delivered at National, District and Regional levels to enable safeguards to be respected and reported</p> <p>Existing feedback and grievance redress mechanism for the GCFRP project operationalised for the TREES area.</p> <p>Capacity built on safeguards monitoring and reporting for ART TREES at the national level. This is part of the trainings delivered and includes updating a safeguards training manual for use at the National Level</p> <p>By Q3 2026, FC Ghana staff report increased institutional readiness to implement, monitor and report on safeguards, including ART-TREES</p>	<p>This is a joint activity.</p> <p>With the funds from LEAF to Ghana for emission reductions in the TREES area, mainstream environmental and social safeguards implementation through training District Officers and the Regional Offices (UNDP)</p> <p>This includes gender elements.</p> <p>Collaboration with UNEP to incorporate FGRM component into national safeguards training manual</p> <p>National level work as per a new agreement with FC and the delivery of an updated safeguard manual (UNEP)</p> <p>Potential for collaboration with FAO and the ART Secretariat on TREES trainings (UNEP)</p>
Third summary of information on safeguards submitted.	
Support/facilitate peer learning exchanges within the region and globally	
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Operationalization of the LEAF Benefit Sharing Plan for P4RGL project supported	The Benefit Sharing Plan for the TREES area has been developed. Project implementation will include support on the performance -based payment mechanism execution in step with the benefit sharing plan implementation.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
2026 Annual workplan and budget developed for implementation of the P4GRL Project document with results- based financing from the LEAF Coalition	Support implementation of the Jurisdictional REDD+ Programme – Payments for REDD+ to Ghana from LEAF – (P4RGL). The work includes carrying out the first independent assessment of results based on the performance-based payment agreement between Ghana and UNDP. It includes developing and implementing the annual workplan and establishing four-year project implementation and governance structure.
	Signing of the Project Document and Performance Based Payment Agreement
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Strengthen and operationalize the regulatory framework related to NFMS and carbon trading to facilitate the country's access to carbon markets in support of its REDD+ strategy and sectoral NDC	Support to the operationalization of the International Carbon Market and Non-Market Approaches Framework to engage in Article 6.2 and Article 6.4 mechanisms, and to the Ghana Carbon Registry to record and track ITMO transactions, including Corresponding Adjustments

Deliverables	Remarks
Support to the engagement in the International Carbon Market and Non-Market Approaches Framework to engage in Article 6.2 and Article 6.4 mechanisms, this will focus specifically on the commercialization of ART TREES credits into the international markets, including CORSIA.	This is a joint UNEP-UNDP activity
<i>2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Support national and subnational submissions, program implementation, and Validation & Verification of high integrity jurisdictional projects (e.g., ART-TREES) and provide guidelines for nesting subnational systems into the national framework.	This is a joint FAO-UNDP activity
Country-tailored technical and policy support to explore continuation of creditable emissions through the ART/TREES pathway.	This is a joint UNDP-UNEP activity
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information system supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
Process to update the 2016 REDD+ National Strategy begun	With the funds from LEAF to Ghana for emission reductions in the TREES area, convene a group of experts/taskforce to conduct a review and propose an update of the Ghana 2016 REDD+ Strategy.
Hotspot Intervention Areas stakeholder engaged to develop suitable knowledge products for wide dissemination in the TREES area	Knowledge product concept note developed.
Project document development for “ <i>Accelerating cross-sectoral policy-business innovation to decouple deforestation from agriculture commodity production</i> ”, aimed at supporting Ghana to scale up small-scale, deforestation-free agricultural production by enhancing policy alignment, unlocking green finance and business opportunities, and empowering smallholders in agriculture-forest frontier areas.	This project will build on the Japan-funded (MAFF) project BIG-CHANCE
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Policy review, public policy analysis, and assessment of government operations for improving and implementing cross-sectoral policies aimed at achieving deforestation-free agriculture (e.g., EUDR)	<p>This is a joint UNDP-FAO activity</p> <p>Policy support is provided in the context of EUDR readiness to address the challenges of potential for land tenure conflicts, ensuring that Ghana’s forest governance mechanisms align with both environmental protection and human rights standards, and to enable Ghana to deliver on its endorsement of the ILTC.</p> <p>For climate and forest actions, tree tenure is an important component for the adjudication of the rights bundles associated with land tenure. An analysis report will be produced</p> <p>Ghana’s NBSAP and NDC process both involve coordinated engagements across ministries, departments, and agencies for reporting. Efforts will be made to reduce duplication and ensure efficiencies for the BTR submission to the UNFCCC in December 2026.</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
<p>Support the Forestry Commission to advance with the ILTC pledge, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing an analysis of key complexities associated with tenure, particularly those arising from overlapping mandates, customary rights, and increasing land-use pressures and highlighting how these issues hinder sustainable forest management, community participation, and equitable benefit-sharing, as documented in recent national stocktaking exercises. 2. Exploring how the HIAs could provide a structured pathway for addressing these challenges, focusing on supporting the Government in operationalizing the endorsed ILTC, particularly through actions that strengthen community tenure rights and community-led forest governance. 3. Supporting development of integrated land-use plans through the HIAs as a means to reduce tenure-related conflicts while drawing on FAO's tenure support experience to help improve governance, reinforce community rights, and respond to institutional and environmental challenges identified nationally. 	<p>Analysis report produced and informed by HIAs experiences.</p> <p>UN-REDD will aim to advance all three activities in sequence, but additional resources likely to be needed for 2 and 3.</p>

Guatemala

Strategic context

The UN-REDD Technical Assistance (TA) in Guatemala is anchored in the country's climate policy framework under the Paris Agreement, notably its NDC and Low Emissions Development Strategy, which prioritize forestry and land-use measures through instruments like SIGAP, forest incentive programs, and the World Bank-supported Emissions Reductions Program (ERP). As Guatemala transitions from the FCPF into exploring future international carbon market opportunities under Article 6, UNREDD will complement ongoing World Bank efforts to evolve the ERP architecture into jurisdictional REDD+ and market aligned finance. This includes strengthening readiness for high-integrity transactions and alignment with potential bilateral partners interested in forest-based mitigation activities.

FAO's AIM4Forests program will continue to focus on strengthening NFMS and MRV systems for NDC and BTR reporting. In 2026, this technical foundation will be integrated with UNREDD's complementary Article 6 workstream, which will support the development of a strategic route map for Guatemala's future finance options. This includes assessing space for corresponding adjustments within the NDC, addressing initial Article 6 reporting needs, and ensuring coherence across institutional mandates. Strengthened governance and harmonized guidelines across MARN, INAB, CONAP, and MAGA will be essential to guarantee consistency and transparency across NDC, BTR, and emerging carbon market reporting windows.

Country engagement

During the November 2025 mission to Guatemala, the country UN-REDD focal point has led technical meetings with key government counterparts including the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the National Forest Institute (INAB), and the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), as well as technical teams from these institutions. Meetings also involved the FAO Representative in Guatemala, the University of the Valley, and the national AIM4Forest coordinator,

alongside participation in the Carbon Roundtable with representatives from multiple ministries and the Central Bank. Discussions focused on harmonizing methodologies for GHG inventories and REDD+ MRV, assessing eligibility and regulatory needs for Article 6.2 transactions, and reviewing progress on the Emission Reduction Program and NDC updates. Stakeholders in the Carbon Roundtable convened by MARN agreed on next steps, including continued monitoring of ERP results, legal adjustments for carbon market participation, and technical integration of forest data systems.

Guatemala will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Assessment of technical, institutional, and policy considerations to mobilize finance, including market and non-market results-based options and other inputs toward an NDC-integrated forest financing strategy.	Technical assistance will assess and strengthen the technical, institutional, and policy conditions required to mobilize forest finance in a coherent manner, including market- and non-market results-based options, in support of Guatemala’s REDD+ implementation, NDC commitments, and longer-term forest financing strategy. This activity will leverage lessons from the FCPF Emission Reduction Program, an ongoing Iki project and the inputs from AIM4Forests.

Indonesia

Strategic context

Indonesia plays a critical role in global climate mitigation efforts due to its expansive tropical forests, which account for over 10% of the world's remaining tropical rainforests. These forests are integral for carbon sequestration, biodiversity preservation, and supporting the livelihoods of millions, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities as well to support national-priority program of free-meals.

The preparation of Indonesia's Second NDC is guided by Asta Cita, the country's development vision, articulated in the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025-2029. Currently, the climate targets set in Indonesia’s 2031-2035 SNDC are more ambitious than those in the previous ENDC. This is evident from projected absolute emissions for 2030: under SNDC, the LCCP_L scenario is 1,345,707 GgCO₂e, and the LCCP_H scenario is 1,491,474 GgCO₂e and both lower than the 1,632,000 GgCO₂e projected under the CM2 scenario in the ENDC.

In the FOLU sector, Indonesia has set ambitious 2030 targets, including restoring approximately 2 million hectares of peatlands and rehabilitating 8.3 million hectares of degraded land. The country will continue to advance the implementation of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, which underscores the critical role of forests and REDD+. These remain key components of Indonesia’s NDC commitments for the land-use sector.

The FOLU Net Sink 2030 target represents an opportunity to transform the forestry and land-use sector into a net carbon sink and requires strategic investments in policy alignment, monitoring, and capacity-building.

Indonesia has set a target of 12.7 million hectares of forest, approximately 10% of the state forest estate, to be managed under various formal social forestry schemes. Official statistics suggest that Indonesia has allocated permits for approximately 8.3 million hectares (65.4%) of forest land, involving around 1.42 million households, as of December 2025. Achieving the 12.7 million hectares target, streamlining the licensing process, building capacities of communities to improve livelihoods through business development, market access and financial investments, alongside aligning social forestry programs with Indonesia's NDCs, food security initiatives, including the National Free Meals Program, are key priorities for the period 2026-30 and Food Self-Sufficiency target for 2027.

In tandem with the ambitious target for social forestry, the Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF) continues to spearhead the development of a sharia-compliant Revolving Fund Facility (RFF) for Social Forestry Enterprises. With most of the institutional structures and policies in place, IEF is set to introduce it in a pilot province to test and identify improvements before a fuller roll-out throughout the country.

In March 2025, the Ministry of Forestry issued Decree No. 144/2025 to establish a Special Task Force to Accelerate the Recognition of Customary Forests. Furthermore, at the United for Wildlife Global Summit and High-Level Ministerial Roundtable in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 4 November 2025, Minister Raja Juli Antoni committed to recognize 1.4 million hectares of new customary forests (Hutan Adat) by 2029. Additionally, Indonesia endorsed the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment at UNFCCC COP 30 in Belem Brazil.

The administration taking office in October 2024, declared a stronger interest towards ICVCM and the Paris Agreement's Article 6 mechanisms and as a result, efforts to align national frameworks with international standards have been strengthened. Indonesia has enacted Presidential Regulation No. 110/2025 on the implementation of carbon pricing instruments and national GHG emissions control, providing frameworks for carbon pricing instruments to support the implementation of NDC. This is a clear signal that the country is getting ready to engage more actively in carbon transactions. While bilateral cooperation discussions and mutual recognition arrangements have been explored, these are not currently a regulatory requirement under new PR 110/2025, and their role in future transactions remain uncertain. These include partnerships with Japan, and potential bilateral arrangements with Singapore, South Korea. These developments, combined with ongoing upgrades to the MRV and national registry systems dual interfaces i.e., SRNPPI for registration of policies and measures and SRUK for recording and monitoring of carbon credit transactions position Indonesia for advancements in Jurisdictional REDD+ and high-integrity based mitigation outcomes and carbon revenues that support the FOLU Net Sink 2030. Indonesia is considering emerging opportunities from initiatives such as the World Bank's SCALE, the LEAF Coalition, and future bilateral arrangements expected to expand Indonesia's access to forest carbon finance in the coming years. Recently, Indonesia has also approved the ART-TREES standard for the provinces of Riau, West Papua, South Papua, Southwest Papua, Papua, North Maluku and Central Sulawesi.

Overview of ART-TREES

Sub-National level crediting under TREES 2021-2025, piloting in Riau, with view to transition to national REDD+ implementation		
Indicative volume: In the process of FREL development for Riau Province		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	TREES Concept note under development for Riau, approved as ART-TREES pilot by national government March 2026 TREES Concept note submitted in 2025 for Papua, West Papua, Central Papua, Southwest Papua, and North Maluku as HFLD, and	TRD/TMR for Riau sub-national pilot commenced in 2026, scaling to national jREDD+ implementation

	Central Sulawesi as "traditional" REDD.	
Verification & Validation (V&V)	VVB process not yet started	V&V for Riau sub-national pilot concluded in 2027
TREES credit issuance		TREES crediting in 2027

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

There is currently a misalignment between the jurisdictional reference levels under TREES and project-based VCS baselines, meaning a robust nesting framework and rulebook are needed, along with substantial technical assistance from UN-REDD and other partners. In addition, stakeholder engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society has been challenging in other results-based finance programmes in Indonesia; for the TREES pilots, it is critical to apply lessons learned to ensure full and equal participation and social inclusion to secure long-term success and durability.

In 2025, the Government of Indonesia launched the first international carbon trade on the Indonesia exchange market for approximately 2.48m ton CO₂e of emission reduction certificates (SPE-GRK) from energy sector that have been authorized by the Minister of Environment, further signalling its intent to scale up market-based climate action. Carbon market activity has so far been limited primarily to energy sector and FOLU based credits have not yet entered the exchange.

Country engagement

Following the change in government and its renewed openness to international carbon markets, a series of consultations has been held with key development partners, including the UK, Switzerland and Norway, while the UN Resident Coordinator has been closely engaged in guiding UN-REDD support to help Indonesia navigate the technical requirements for potential market participation. The Government of Indonesia has repeatedly requested UN-REDD to support and convene knowledge exchanges on forest carbon markets, while UN-REDD has on several occasions brought together international finance and technical assistance partners in Indonesia as a neutral, trusted platform to discuss timely topics such as Article 6 implementation, nesting, and options for high integrity jurisdictional REDD+ implementation.

In addition to the technical assistance, the UN-REDD supports Indonesia through the ASEAN Social Forestry project, funded by Switzerland, the AIM4For Forests, funded by the UK Government, and the UK-funded UN-REDD Initiative in the Riau Province called "GREEN For Riau Initiative", which is establishing a subnational peat-significant jurisdictional REDD+ programme for results-based climate finance, and with the approval to use ART-TREES in early March 2026 serving as a pilot for knowledge generation contributing technical inputs to national discussions on ART-TREES alignments and significant support to the transition to national level jurisdictional REDD+ implementation. For example, a TREES gap assessment of Riau is intended to contribute to general national level readiness.

Indonesia will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

Additionally, close engagement continues with IEF on the sharia-compliant RFF. Intensive and frequent engagement and collaboration also continue with the Directorate of Tenurial Conflict Management and Customary Forests (PKTHA) in the Ministry of Forestry, the Norwegian Embassy, long-staking CSOs and Indigenous Peoples Organizations advance the customary forests ambition. The delivery for this priority commitment is reflected in both the 2025 top-up fund workplan as well as the 2026 workplan below.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
A validated spatial groundwater level (GWL) model, integrating remote sensing with field data, is applied to strengthen Indonesia's national peatland restoration monitoring systems, enhancing transparency and credibility while enabling access climate finance	
Sub-national FREL developed and aligned with the national FREL to assess potential applicability for future climate finance instruments of relevant REDD+ standard	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Sub-national REDD+ MRV systems established and aligned with the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Remote sensing data and tools are introduced and tailored to the needs of Indonesian agencies and stakeholders & Technical guidelines for peatland and mangrove landscape unit characterization and use designation, incorporating regulatory updates, ecological and socio-economic indicators, and policy-relevant data needs for transparent, robust, and resource-efficient forest and land-use planning & Improved transparency, accuracy, and resource-efficient data solutions for policymaking and reporting in peatland management and restoration, including enhanced FDRS models, refined CO2 flux estimates and Green Peatland Economy project preparation support.	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Technical support on all related safeguards documents for sub-national jurisdictional REDD+ program (this includes TREES registration document and TREES Monitoring Report; Project Design Document (PDD)/Dokumen Rancangan Aksi Mitigasi (DRAM); Benefit-Sharing Plan (BSP); Grievance Redress Mechanism System (GRMS); Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).)	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Virtual capacity building on safeguards (TREES conformance) for HFLD provinces in Papua and others, and national government, drawing upon learnings from Riau province and other TREES support provided in Asia Pacific and beyond.	Lessons from Riau, on ART-TREES 3.0 conformance, will be used to strengthening institutional capacity of national government agencies, as well as those of the provinces - West Papua, South Papua, Southwest Papua, Papua, North Maluku and Central Sulawesi, complemented by technical learnings from countries already progressing through TREES verification and validation process, including UN-REDD supported safeguards conformance in Nepal, Viet Nam, PNG, Bhutan. For HFLD, learnings will also be drawn from other regions such as Latin America.
National and sub-national safeguards reporting mechanisms strengthened and aligned with TREES conformance requirements.	Building on UN-REDD's previous support on SIS, this includes coordination with other sub-national jurisdictions - such as Jambi, East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Riau, Papua, Aceh, North Kalimantan - to support the transition to national level TREES conformance, including learnings drawn from the sub-national pilot in Riau Province which have

Deliverables	Remarks
	recently operationalised provincial Safeguards System and aligned it with the national Safeguard Information System. This will build on national-level SIS support provided under the GCF REDD+ RBP programme.
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
REDD+ benefit sharing plan operationalized, using existing practices and structure at national and sub-national level, including refining monitoring & evaluation of benefit sharing, including link to SIS-REDD+	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Institutional and governance capacities built of the domestic financial intermediary, including monitoring frameworks	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Article 6 transactions, CORSIA-eligible use, and bilateral engagement for ART-issued TREES credits advanced.	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
A national nesting framework established to support jurisdictional REDD+ implementation and explicitly aligned with the TREES standard to enable tangible progress towards TREES credit issuance.	Building on ongoing collaboration with KI on nesting UN-REDD will support by sharing practical lessons and considerations from the nesting framework piloting in Cambodia.
Technical readiness enhanced to <i>advance</i> transactions under the VCM for ART-issued TREES credits	This includes coordination support to the government to scale high-integrity carbon markets and REDD+ finance at the national level & UN-REDD acting as a platform organizing meetings in Jakarta based on government request. UNDP could explore enriching existing or on-going analysis by other partners through supplementary joint assessment of potential generation of TREES credits through the interactive PLANT (Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment and NDC Tool).
Preparation of the Project Design Document/Dokumen Rancangan Aksi Mitigasi (PDD/DRAM sub-national jurisdictional REDD+ programme) supported, and submitted to the Sistem Registri Nasional Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim (SRN-PPI) for approval	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
ART-TREES concept note for sub-national level submitted	Under GREEN for Riau Initiative
Opportunities for future TREES credit transactions facilitated and capacities built through brokering knowledge and trust between Indonesia's supply and buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits.	TREES transactions facilitated and capacities built through brokering knowledge and trust between Indonesia's supply and buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits.
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Development of a national LULUCF roadmap based on the Second NDC (2031 - 2035) and strengthen subnational consultations of a roadmap for the Enhanced NDC (2021 – 2030) which includes the LULUCF sector.	<p>The FOLU sector remains a priority for the country to achieve their NDCs and is also considered an important source to generate continuous and sustainable REDD+ results to access different climate finance, e.g., CORSIA, RBPs/RBCs, ART-TREES etc.</p> <p>The development of the national LULUCF roadmap for the Second NDC (2031 – 2035) is with the Ministry of Forestry. The subnational consultations related to the Enhanced NDC (2021 - 2030) is with the Ministry of Environment who will develop a roadmap for all sectors. The support here will focus on the LULUCF segment of this roadmap. Recognizing that most provinces have already developed a FOLU Net Sink 2030 plans, efforts will be made to ensure alignment between the MoE efforts and these provincial plans.</p>
Refinement of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models	Building on the draft sub-national and national mitigation assessments
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Advanced spatial data and analytical tools introduced and tailored to equip Indonesian agencies with the capacity to prioritize and plan forest and mangrove restoration, integrating updated regulatory frameworks, ecological conditions, and socio-economic indicators	
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Operationalization of the priorities identified in the agreed Taskforce roadmap on acceleration of tenure for customary forests with strategic international and national advocacy (preparatory phase)	<p>The 2025 top-up and 2026 grant agreement will ensure the current priorities in the roadmap are implemented with UNDP continuing to play a facilitation and coordination role with the Taskforce. Activities beyond these facilitation and coordination roles after August 2026, such as additional dialogues, meetings, trainings or additional subnational field verification and any other emerging needs would require additional resources.</p> <p>Coordination and facilitation for the full operationalization of the Taskforce roadmap to secure the means and funds needed to achieve the 1.4 million hectares of customary forests by 2029, pledged at UNFCCC COP30, is needed. For a start, this may include additional subnational field verification of MHA and HA, continuous strengthening of the regional field verification teams based on the new training modules and further conflict resolution training. This would require additional resources (implementation phase).</p>
Utilise deforestation risk identification tool (Deforisk) and restoration decision making support tool (se.plan) to support implementation of PIAPS to identify priority landscapes for social forestry in Indonesia	
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Baseline data and implementation modalities are established for supporting a forest-anchored value chain model for coffee that can be replicated for other commodities produced in Social Forestry areas across ASEAN.	

Deliverables	Remarks
Institutionalization of Sharia-compliant Revolving Fund Facility (RFF/FDB in Indonesian) within IEF for Social Forestry Enterprises, with a pilot in at least one province.	The availability of this innovative financing will ensure Social Forestry, a national flagship program, will not only address deforestation and degradation and therefore contribute to availability of REDD+ results, but also contribute to sustainable livelihoods
Vital data and analytical outputs on sustainable peatland management are generated and made accessible, enabling stakeholders to mobilize finance for peatland restoration, management, conservation, and the development of a green economy.	

Kenya

Strategic context

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

With its latest , Kenya has positioned itself as a climate leader, setting ambitious goals to slash emissions by 35% and build a resilient, [green economy by 2035](#). The NDC notes endeavours to abate GHG emissions by 35% by 2035 relative to the BAU scenario of 215 MtCO₂eq in 2035, leading to the abatement of 75.25 MtCO₂eq.

Subject to national circumstances, Kenya will mobilize domestic resources to realize 15.05 MtCO₂eq (20% of the 75.25 MtCO₂eq) of the emission reductions. The remaining 60.20 MtCO₂eq (80% of the 75.25 MtCO₂eq) will be achieved through a combination of international support, including finance, investments, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, and participation in carbon markets.

Kenya's forest and land-use policy framework in line with its AFR100 commitment, NDC targets, and priorities and reflected in the Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023–2027), commit to protecting native and public forests, restoring degraded forest landscapes, and strengthening forest management across public, community, and private lands. Implementation is driven in part through programmes, national tree-growing and restoration initiatives, including the 15-billion-tree programme and the Jaza Miti initiative, which aims to increase national forest cover to 30 percent by 2032 while supporting livelihoods through agroforestry and commercial forestry.

Kenya's climate-finance readiness for forest-based results payments is well advanced, with the country having established the core REDD+ architecture required under the UNFCCC. Kenya has embarked on REDD+ actions to drive transformational changes in its forest sector as a contribution to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation. With funding from the FCPF and technical support from UNDP, the main REDD+ elements have been put together, including a national REDD+ strategy, a comprehensive framework for safeguards, and the design of a safeguards information system, a functional multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building for REDD+ and a submission of National Forest Reference Level (FRL)

The evolving policy framework on forests and land use, with *inter alia* the Forest Conservation and Management Act, revised, with UN-REDD funding in 2024, the Devolution, Community Land and

Climate Change Acts and the Lands and updated Draft Forest Policy (also with support from UN-REDD), provide the overall vision, policies, measures, and actions to address deforestation, forest degradation and barriers to sustainable forest management in Kenya. The Kenya Government in 2023 had embarked on a consultative process to develop carbon market regulations and has updated the Climate Change Act 2016. New regulations have been issued, and the National Environment Management Authority is conferred with the role as the national designated authority for Carbon Markets.

Building on this foundation, Kenya has focused on aligning its systems with jurisdictional carbon finance requirements, including for ART-TREES. This progress was further strengthened in July 2025 through the launch of the national REDD+ Registry and Nesting Guidelines, designed to integrate project-level activities into national accounting, reduce double counting risks, and operationalize the Climate Change (Amendment) Act, 2023 and Carbon Markets Regulations, 2024.

In parallel to its climate commitments under the UNFCCC, Kenya’s forest and land-use policies also support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable forest management actions contribute directly to national biodiversity priorities, including the protection of indigenous forest ecosystems, restoration of degraded landscapes, enhancement of ecosystem integrity, and safeguarding biodiversity values within production landscapes. Documentation of these actions for Kenya’s Seventh National Report, will reinforce synergies between biodiversity and climate reporting frameworks.

Progress on ART-TREES, and Jurisdictional/national level arrangements in Kenya

Looking ahead, Kenya is considering its next step in advancing forest-related climate finance. At present, UN-REDD is encouraging Kenya to explore options with a view to sequencing and, where appropriate, stacking climate-finance opportunities while leveraging existing REDD+ investments and technical progress to support future climate outcomes. To this end, work has begun on the TREES documentation. Furthermore, Kenya has initiated a programme with the objective of enhancing the reliability of its national forest monitoring system (NFMS).

Recent MRV work supported by AIM4Forests and UN-REDD enabled the development of an updated, high-integrity reference level that expands coverage across the full suite of REDD+ activities, including deforestation, degradation, sustainable forest management, enhancement, and conservation. The Kenya Government has identified gaps and needs for refinement and has developed a roadmap to address these. Once approved, the updated FREL is expected to unlock the next phase of Kenya’s climate finance pathway, enabling formal submissions and positioning the country to progress toward high-integrity, jurisdictional-scale results-based payments.

Overview of ART-TREES

Crediting period: Tentative period 2017 - 2021 Indicative volume: TBD		
Milestone	Status	Target (2026 year-end)
TREES gaps assessment	Completed in 2023 (IMPRESS).	
CN- Concept note	Expected in 2026	Development lead by UNDP with inputs from FAO (MRV)
TRD- TREES registration document	Expected in 2026	UN-REDD to lead support for TRD
TRM- TREES monitoring report	Expected in 2027	UN-REDD to lead support for TRM
V&V - Verification & Validation	TBD	
TREES credit issuance	TBD	

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

Kenya's progress toward ART-TREES milestones is strong, but several manageable risks remain.

Ongoing UN-REDD support provides clear pathways to address these:

- Inconsistent or insufficient emission reduction evidence: Variability in emission trends may limit eligibility for crediting. UN-REDD support for enhanced MRV systems and continued monitoring helps generate more consistent, multi-year evidence of emission reductions and present the greater potential for the removals to be included in Kenya's ART/TREES submission.
- Complexity of nesting and registry implementation: Integrating project-level activities into national accounting systems will be required. UN-REDD-supported stakeholder engagement and technical guidance help clarify expectations, strengthen alignment, and support effective implementation of nesting frameworks.
- Benefit sharing and safeguards. Carbon rights and benefit sharing arrangements will need to be determined as the trajectory toward unlocking carbon finance at the jurisdictional or national scale continues. Support towards operationalizing the safeguards information system and submission of a Summary of Information on Safeguards will be required and currently funding is insufficient for this purpose. UN-REDD provides policy and legal advisory support to help refine regulations, strengthen coherence, and ensure alignment with international standards.
- Land-use pressure and competing economic priorities: Agricultural expansion and development pressures may undermine emission reductions. Improved monitoring systems supported by UN-REDD enable better targeting of interventions and inform more sustainable land-use planning.
- Climate-related risks (drought, fire): Climate variability may increase forest loss and emissions. Enhanced monitoring and early detection systems supported through UN-REDD improve responsiveness and support adaptive management to reduce impacts.

Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) and Kenya

While Kenya has not yet formally endorsed the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC), the Government has demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening community land and forest tenure through existing legal and policy frameworks. These include the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016, which enables the establishment of Community Forest Associations (CFAs), and the Community Land Act, 2016, which secures collective land rights. Complementary frameworks, such as the Climate Change (Amendment) Act, 2023 and Carbon Markets Regulations, 2024, further support clarity on carbon rights and benefit sharing.

Building on this foundation, UN-REDD support in 2026 will focus on facilitating dialogue, building consensus, and mobilizing institutional support to enable Kenya's potential participation in the ILTC. These efforts aim to strengthen community tenure security and community-led forest governance as critical enablers for sustainable forest management, climate resilience, and access to high-integrity climate finance.

Country engagement

This workplan is based on ongoing carbon markets, and REDD+ processes in the country, as well as on consultations with officials from relevant government agencies, including the Kenya Forest Service under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, and the State Department of Forestry including development partners.

The UN-REDD Programme in Kenya engages with a range of national and international partners active in the forestry and climate finance landscape. As in other countries, UN-REDD maintains close collaboration with the AIM4Forests programme, which is also funded by the United Kingdom. This collaboration is primarily operationalized through the national REDD+ and Restoration Technical Working Groups, which serve as key coordination platforms for stakeholder engagement, methodological alignment, and knowledge exchange. Both working groups have previously received support through UK PACT initiatives.

These platforms facilitate coordinated discussions on REDD+ implementation, restoration monitoring, and the continued development and strengthening of Kenya’s National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), including its role in supporting climate finance mechanisms. They also contribute to shaping the broader strategic direction of Kenya’s climate finance and forest sector engagement.

Additional key actors include a JICA-supported initiative focused on enhancing the Forest Information System (FIS), building on earlier investments, and contributing to the institutional infrastructure required to host and operationalize the NFMS. UN-REDD also collaborates with CIFOR-ICRAF on restoration and landscape monitoring efforts, with coordination largely taking place through the aforementioned technical working groups.

Conservation International, which has also received support through UK PACT, is an important partner, particularly in advancing jurisdictional nesting frameworks that link project-level activities within the voluntary carbon market to national REDD+ accounting systems.

Support from SDC will facilitate Kenya in the formalization, registry and monitoring of community forests and related formalized tenure rights. It is foreseen that this support will facilitate regional and south-south learning on monitoring of community forestry, including in Kenya.

Kenya will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
TREES safeguards compliance assessment and roadmap, as part of TREES CN.	Safeguards assessment carried out to support the Concept Note submission
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Support the development of TREES Registration and Monitoring Documents	A joint UNDP-FAO activity contingent upon GoK decision to pursue TREES registration. A decision to go ahead will require activities to start in 2026, hence the decision to include in workplan as tentative.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Advocacy for Kenya’s endorsement of the ILTC, taking into account Kenya’s efforts to strengthen community tenure systems and support community-led forest governance, and the alignment of national policies with the objectives of the ILTC.	Kenya is yet to endorse the ILTC and UN-REDD will work to advocate for its endorsement.
Leveraging ongoing agricultural demarcation activities being undertaken as part of the AIM4Commodities initiative to support accurate demarcation of community forests and consolidate	FAO developed mapping tools such as Open Foris Ground are currently being used to support the coffee sector in Kenya comply with the EUDR. These same tools can be repurposed to support the mapping of

Deliverables	Remarks
boundaries into a national registry of Community Forest Associations	CFAs and potentially linking these to the National Forest Monitoring System
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
<p>Inputs provided from the Kenya context into the CDNA, which is conducted in the hub countries to identify how to integrate the impacts of SF into climate action, nature protection and communities' livelihood.</p> <p>Targeted business development support to 2 social forestry enterprises including incubation, mentorship and capacity strengthening and monitoring.</p> <p>Clear and practical gender-responsive approaches for social forestry shared with policy makers and reported through NDC and NBSAP processes</p>	Direct grants will be identified and funding provided to scale up local solutions. Strengthening tenure and governance solutions with indigenous people's will be prioritized.
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Financial instruments and bankable solutions developed and supported to boost investments in the forest sector and local livelihoods.	With UNDP Climate Promise and BIOFIN Funds, UNDP is exploring financial instruments such as a Bonds with the private sector. In addition, county level bankable project pipelines will be developed under the framework of the World Bank Project, Financing Locally Led Climate Action. This will also enable inputs into NBSAP and NDC reporting.

Lao PDR

Strategic context

Lao PDR can be described as a prototype country for REDD+, albeit small, where financial incentives can play an important role in countering the still mounting pressures on standing natural forests. Global commodities are the main drivers of forest loss, where local communities act as the direct agents of these events, triggered by greater market dynamics and governance gaps.

The Lao government's plans and commitment for reducing deforestation and enhancing forest cover is a core strategy reflected in past and present forestry strategies. It is also reaffirmed in Lao PDR's existing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and is expected to continue as a core feature for its NDC 3.0. There are indications so far that ambitions for the LULUCF sector may be reduced in NDC 3.0, but this is not so much a reduced ambition, as it is a technical correction of the previously set ambition.

In 2025, Lao PDR accessed results-based payments for REDD+ for crediting period 2015-2018, through GCF (national scale, with JICA as the accredited entity). On-going RBP initiatives include the FCPF Carbon Fund (six Northern provinces, crediting period 2019-2024), including the rolling out of the received RBPs delivered through the government's GFLL programme, and two phases of GCF funded ex-ante investments in the same landscape delivered through GIZ. It is noted that while significant resources are mobilized to implement these initiatives, gaps will remain in ensuring a coherent national approach to REDD+ and forest carbon initiatives, which UN-REDD is well positioned to support – while avoiding duplication of efforts.

The government is engaging in the Voluntary Carbon Market in the forestry sector. VCM projects that have been broached or approved for implementation to date have not yet shown strong promise of delivering high integrity carbon credits, and on the other hand, associated integrity risks remain, in part due to the lack of due diligence requirements or set monitoring and screening procedures on the part of government. An operational manual for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is being drafted, opening the pathway towards corresponding adjustments of carbon credits from Lao. Through GGGI support, Lao PDR has established a carbon governance framework, including a Carbon Credit Decree that sets rules for managing and monitoring carbon credit activities.

Technical gaps for Lao PDR to engage coherently in forest carbon options include linking the REDD+ MRV institutionally with the NDC and its BTR reporting mechanisms through support to the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and consistent implementation of safeguards and collection of safeguards information for necessary reporting. In addition, Lao PDR may benefit from further awareness and provision of support on emerging Article 6 requirements noting Lao PDR's engagement with countries (including Korea, Singapore, Japan) in potential forestry sector collaborative approaches under Article 6.

To plug the gap in the much-required ex-ante investments for addressing REDD+ drivers, and as mechanism for ensuring sustainability for climate finance, there is strong imperative for Lao PDR to institutionalize a Payment for forest Environmental Services (PfES), echoing the experience in neighboring Viet Nam. The introduction of PfES in Lao comes at a critical timing, where in 2025 the government formally opened the political space for recognition of forestland tenure for the first time in history, which is followed with commitments towards recognition of collective customary rights over 3,000 rural communities that live in State forests lands. In this context, PfES plays a critical complementary role to forestland tenure reform by offering a way for forest owners to extend their legal rights into economic returns from forest protection on allocated land parcels and thus providing evidence base for countering the long-argued narrative that forestland allocation will cause deforestation. The Lao government puts high priority on PfES, as indicated by the 2024 notification by the Prime Minister's Office approving a pilot PfES program in Lao PDR, and the Ministerial agreement to form a PfES Steering Committee and Technical Working Group. In 2025, UN-REDD support enabled the kick-off of a PfES pre-feasibility study (to be continued into 2026), generating strong support from multi-stakeholders and across multi-sectors. In order to maintain momentum towards establishment of a PfES incentive in Lao PDR, sustained support is essential.

A furthermore strategic need is the scale up of sustainable forest-based value chains. These approaches aim to develop a sustainable stream of revenue from forests, equipping local communities with alternative options to encroaching forests for cash crop cultivation. Experience from the FCPF Carbon Fund Emissions Reduction Programme provides learning that REDD+ RBPs alone are not enough to incentivize change in land use for the long-term.

Country engagement

UN-REDD is a trusted partner to the government and broader forestry stakeholders in Lao PDR, with a strong country-based presence in this arena over the past decade. The UN-REDD presence is marked through the resident team housed within the FAO country office who have regular and close interactions with the Department of Forestry, and regional and international advisors from FAO and UNEP supporting the team technically and strategically. This enables UN-REDD to have a deep understanding and analysis of the country, sector and its actors, and to intervene with impact.

UN-REDD's legacies in Lao PDR are wide. While UN-REDD has not been directly involved in specific REDD+ RBP initiatives in Lao PDR, strong focus has been on institutions that enable REDD+ including the following areas.

- Bilateral forestry sector cooperation with Viet Nam and other Mekong countries, as legacy originating from the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 1 programme and further cultivated through

the UN-REDD Lower Mekong initiative for which tangible technical collaborations with Viet Nam include Payment for forest Environmental Services (PfES) and forest certification.

- Advisory and capacity building on REDD+ finance options and ensuring integrity in forest carbon, vis-à-vis VCM opportunities and risks.
- Capacity building and strengthening the institutional arrangements on Cancun safeguards other safeguards policies through the Safeguards Technical Working Group (STWG), Summary of Information and development and operationalisation of the country's Safeguards Information System (LNSIS). Once the LNSIS is fully operational in 2026, Lao PDR's safeguards implementation under the Warsaw Framework will be complete and aligned with TREES requirements. An ART-TREES safeguards gap assessment was conducted to inform subsequent political decision-making.
- Training and developing institutions for community forest management (“village forestry”), through strengthening the legal basis for forest and forestland tenure, monitoring and accounting of village forestry contributions to emission reductions.
- Under the ASEAN Social Forestry initiative, UN-REDD has supported the promotion and acceleration of social forestry business development by identifying successful Social Forestry Enterprises (SFEs), developing viable business and financing models, and formulating a regional Blueprint. This Blueprint provides a practical roadmap to help community-based forestry groups become commercially viable and investment-ready, while ensuring their operations remain forest- and nature-positive.
- Broader capacity building and analysis and assessments on specific technical topics such as a preliminary assessment of emission reduction potential estimation and safeguards gap assessment both based on ART/TREES 2.0, deforestation-free agriculture, trainings on carbon accounting uncertainty assessments.

Going forward, UN-REDD will support PfES as a sustainable climate financing mechanism that may prepare the country to leverage further international climate finance. Normative support will be provided on advisory on high integrity carbon finance options, REDD+ safeguards, and sustainable forest value chains development, among others mentioned above. These areas complement the efforts of other development partners, particularly that of the RBP programs ongoing and planned, including FCPF Carbon Fund, GIZ's role in the implementation of the ex-ante investments for the Carbon Fund, and GCF RBPs pilot phase delivered through JICA as accredited entity; and JICA's support on REDD+ MRV and carbon accounting. For example, on REDD+ safeguards, UN-REDD is transferring its knowledge and results, including the operationalisation of the Safeguards Information System and 2nd Summary of Information to the team supporting the GCF results-based payments programme for national REDD+ implementation.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Training on NFI data analysis using R programming language, to facilitate NFI data use for national REDD+ MRV and reporting to UNFCCC; This will strengthen ability for Lao to consistently monitor and report on LULUCF emissions/removals with cost-efficiency and high-integrity.	Complements technical assistance activities under JICA F-REDD2
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Initial outline for 2nd SOI prepared	Deliverable carried over from 2025 Complements technical assistance activities under JICA GCF REDD+ RBPs
LNSIS platform established and capacity built among government and stakeholders	Deliverable carried over from 2025. Complements proposed technical assistance activities under JICA GCF REDD+ RBPs
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Build capacity within government for understanding and enforcing criteria to ensure high integrity of forest carbon investments and trade. National (1) and technical (3) dialogues/ meetings facilitated. Guidance provided on REDD+ RBF options, including a policy brief (as a vehicle to start/support the political dialogue)	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
National carbon market mechanisms and Article 6 transactions include high-integrity REDD+ and NbS sectors	This includes key technical inputs on REDD+ to complement ongoing Article 6, VCM GGGI support to the government
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C</i>	
Further development of SF monitoring systems, incl. database development in Cambodia and Lao PDR Refinement of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR.	
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition capacity</i>	
Publication of Regional Guideline and Toolkit to 1) Support the implementation of NbS practices in forestry, incl. social forestry and; 2) Build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS practices in the AMS linked to the Guideline and Toolkit.	Guidelines and Toolkit were endorsed by ASEAN Senior Officials in Forestry and ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in Q3 2025. Discussions are ongoing to pilot the Toolkit in relevant SF landscapes in the region, including in Lao PDR
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Refinement of mitigation contribution of different social forestry models in Lao PDR.	Ongoing improvement of relevant datasets and databases for monitoring SF in the 3 countries enabling further enhancement of mitigation assessments. Draft national and sub-national SF mitigation assessments being refined. The analysis of potential SF sites will also use se.plan and Deforisk tools.
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
PfES championed across sectors beyond forestry, namely by energy and finance sectors to complement ongoing forestland tenure recognition reform, by plugging a critical gap – ie., the economic rationale for forest protection. PfES will also prepare ground for accessing further REDD+ RBPs.	PfES overall is co-financed from UNFF, GIZ, Luxembourg, GCF Readiness among others.
Regulatory compliance and sustainable practice enhance for selected forest value chains.	In collaboration with DOF, FAO, as well as RECOFTC under the ENABLE programme.

Mexico

Strategic context

Mexico remains a global leader in REDD+ implementation, anchored by its cross-sectoral approach to sustainable rural development and active forest management. The country's updated NDC sets an ambitious target to achieve zero net deforestation by 2030, promoting conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems to ensure the permanence of vegetation cover and the provision of ecosystem services. With a national goal to reduce GHG emissions by 35% by 2030, including a 3% contribution from the LULUCF sector, Mexico's commitment is reinforced by the General Law on Climate Change and its operational emissions trading system.

While Mexican REDD implementation and reporting has been national, it has focalized financing in hotspots and given its federal structure, it has allowed States to explore carbon finance opportunities if consistent with national provisions. Six Mexican states have been pioneers in advancing jurisdictional REDD+ implementation. Campeche, Chiapas, Jalisco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán have developed subnational REDD+ strategies and safeguard systems. Building on this progress, Jalisco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán have submitted concept notes to ART TREES, covering the 2017–2021 crediting period for Jalisco and Quintana Roo, and the 2019–2023 reference period for Yucatán. Additionally Quintana Roo and Jalisco have also had their proposals accepted by the LEAF coalition.

The national government is advancing a National Agenda for Deforestation Reduction, prioritizing multi-sectoral coordination, robust MRV and "safeguards systems, and expanded access to climate finance, including opportunities for subnational actors and private sector engagement. In this context, UN-REDD technical assistance for 2026-2030 will focus on strengthening institutional capacities, optimizing monitoring and reporting systems, and supporting innovative financing and partnership models to deliver high-integrity, inclusive, and scalable forest solutions. As part of this objective, UN-REDD will support CONAFOR in ensuring consistency and harmonization between subnational and national REDD+ implementation through a nested approach. This includes safeguards (through the Subnational Safeguards Reporting Guidelines), provisions to inform benefit-sharing framework arrangements, and strengthened information generation through the National Forest inventory, including improved data collection processes and enhanced complementarity between national and subnational datasets, among other elements.

While the basic institutional structure for REDD implementation is still active, budgetary restrictions in recent years have affected its reach. Accessing GCF's RBP financing can help revitalize such capacity and create an effective enabling environment for nested jurisdictional actions.

Country engagement

In April 2025 an in-person Inter-Agency Mission was convened at CONAFOR's offices in Mexico to advance the implementation of the UN-REDD annual work plan, confirm national priorities, and share key ongoing initiatives related to forest and climate change. Additional joint planning and review sessions were held in June and December, focusing on advancing the agreed workplan, reviewing progress, and identifying priorities for 2026. These consultations enabled UN-REDD agencies and CONAFOR to align technical assistance with strategic areas and needs, including continued support for accessing climate finance through the GCF Results-Based Payment (RBP) window and strengthening institutional capacities in MRV, the National Forest Inventory, and social and environmental safeguards. The development of Mexico's concept note (CN) for REDD+ RBP under the GCF, involved extensive consultations with key national institutions such as CONAFOR, SADER, SEMARNAT, and the Ministry of Finance. As result, the workplan reflects Mexico's priorities setting a clear course for the coming year.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: NFMS and MRV consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
1.1.1 Strengthened capacities to improve the generation of wall-to-wall cartographic information.	Technical support will focus on developing the national forest/non-forest map, producing base maps for deforestation-free products, and improving the visualization of early-warning deforestation alerts. Strategic collaboration with SEPAL.
1.1.2 Strengthened capacities for the sampling approach to support activity data generation and improve the operation of SNMF.	Technical support will focus on analysing the feasibility of transitioning to Collect Earth Online, reviewing the national sampling grid to improve activity data generation for the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and identifying improvements for the operation of the NFMS. Strategic collaboration with SEPAL.
1.1.3 Strengthened capacities to improve the efficiency of field data collection through the National Forest Inventory.	Technical support will focus on building capacity for optimized sampling to guide data collection for upcoming inventory cycles, supporting the migration of NFI data to the updated Arena platform, and generating inputs to inform the new strategic document for the NFI. Strategic collaboration with CBIT-Forest initiative.
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
1.2.1. Updated National Safeguards System (SNS) reporting framework implemented at the subnational level, with validated reporting guidelines and pilot applications in TREES-relevant states (Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo)	In 2026, work will focus on consolidating the National Safeguards System through the validation and practical implementation of the Subnational Safeguards Reporting Guidelines, with pilot applications in TREES-relevant states (Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo), and to optimize synergies with reporting for ISFL in Mexico. The activity will include technical exchange and capacity strengthening with these jurisdictions, ensuring that the Safeguards Information System (SIS) consistently supports jurisdictional reporting in line with national standards and TREES requirements.
Strengthen the National SIS, building on the guidance already developed to channel state-level reporting into the national system.	The work will consolidate alignment between national and state safeguards reporting, finalize technical inputs initiated with Jalisco, and extend support to other states. Efforts will also identify practical options to link the SIS with future funding sources.
1.2.2. Analysis of opportunities to integrate Non-Carbon Benefits (NCBs) into Mexico's National Safeguards System, with an emphasis on TREES-priority states (Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo)	An initial analysis will be carried out to identify opportunities, enabling conditions, and general gaps for the report of Non-Carbon Benefits information into the National Safeguards System, with a focus on Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo. The work will propose preliminary options for NCB indicators and reporting pathways, in relation to climate finance processes and TREES requirements
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
1.3.1. Analysis document on Emission Reductions Rights (ERR) and REDD+ benefit-sharing in Mexico, with a focus on TREES-priority states (Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo)	This activity will develop an analytical package and a guidance note examining how current benefit-sharing approaches and existing arrangements related to carbon rights and/or emission reductions in Mexico, including those developed under the World Bank's ISFL, relate to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the ART-TREES registration document, with an emphasis on Jalisco, Yucatán and Quintana Roo. The work will identify gaps and areas of alignment between existing practices and high-integrity forest

Deliverables	Remarks
	finance requirements, and will formulate practical recommendations to improve the clarity, coherence and transparency of information on ERR and benefit-sharing.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
<p>2.1.1 Feedback provided on CONAFOR's forest finance strategy and continuous information exchange promoted on innovative climate and forest finance mechanisms.</p> <p>Prepare at least one (1) technical feedback report with concrete recommendations on CONAFOR's proposed forest finance strategy, ensuring alignment with high-integrity forest and climate finance principles.</p> <p>Facilitate continuous information exchange throughout the year via targeted technical notes, bilateral exchanges, and other suitable modalities to keep stakeholders informed of emerging opportunities and best practices in climate and forest finance.</p>	This activity will be implemented as part of a multi-agency effort under the UN-REDD Programme.
<i>Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
Gap Analysis to Access the GCF Results-Based Payment Window conducted in alignment with the technical criteria outlined in the Scorecard of the GCF's new policy.	
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
2.4.1 Analysis of subnational states' potential against the ART TREES standard and proposal for technical assistance.	The States of Jalisco, Quintana Roo and Yucatan have already submitted Concept Notes and are working with ART TREES. In this context, an analysis will be conducted to assess the potential of subnational states in relation to the ART TREES standard (version 3.0). Based on this assessment, a proposal will be developed to provide targeted technical assistance to states, supporting their alignment with the national REDD+ framework and high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ requirements. Work will include support on safeguards aspects, aligned with activity 1.2.1.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
<p>4.2.1 Virtual dialogues delivered to promote synergies between environmental & agriculture sectors. This deliverable will inform output 2.2.</p> <p>4.2.2 Technical and policy analysis conducted to inform the development of Mexico's initiatives to reduce pressure from small scale livestock production on forests lands.</p> <p>4.2.3 Strategic policy guidance provided to build institutional and governance capacities implement silvopastoral systems in deforestation hotspots.</p> <p>4.2.4 Inclusive participatory processes promoted to ensure insight from key national and subnational stakeholders (government and non-government) in forest-livestock initiatives.</p>	<p>For 4.2.1, technical support will focus on facilitating virtual dialogues to link stakeholders in Mexico from different institutions with innovative initiatives on deforestation-free value chains and to promote cross sectoral collaboration (e.g., between livestock and forest sectors).</p> <p>For 4.2.2-4.2.4, support will focus on generating technical inputs and enabling conditions for the design and implementation of a sustainable silvopastoral program in a deforestation hotspot in Mexico. This will be done in close coordination with leading institutions (CONAFOR, SADER). All activities will be conducted following a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach.</p>
Provide evidence-based guidance to national and multilateral policy approaches on deforestation-free commodity sourcing and procurement in key importing countries and regions.	

Mozambique

Strategic context

Mozambique joined the UN-REDD Programme in late 2024. The former National Director of Climate Change (NDCC) from the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (formerly the Ministry of Land and Environment), Mr Jadwiga Massinga, communicated with the UN-REDD Secretariat to request to join the UN-REDD Programme. The UN-REDD Secretariat has welcomed Mozambique as its 61st Country in the Programme.

Mozambique has submitted a National REDD+ Strategy to the UNFCCC, and a forest reference level, which has been technically assessed in 2018 for the results-period of 2017-2020. They were the first country to receive payments (\$ US 50M) from the FCPF Carbon Fund for emission reductions in the Zambézia Province. The Country is now transitioning to national REDD+ coverage with respect to its preparations to receive results-based payment and carbon finance.

Country engagement

Activities are underway to help Mozambique prepare a national REDD+ Results-Based Payment (RBP) project for submission to the GCF, with UNDP as the Accredited Entity and two missions were held in April and December 2026. Progress has been made to initiate the project concept note, the first step of the GCF project submission. The updated REDD+ Technical Annex is finalized and is published on the UNFCCC website – UNFCCC have published the TATR. See documents [here](#).

As an African and LDC country, Mozambique is a GCF priority and represents good prospects to access climate finance from the GCF. In addition, Mozambique has requested support on ART/TREES and a strategic framework for carbon markets and is keen to explore the potential with regards to emission reductions after 2021. A key gap relates to the requirements on safeguards to be met, i.e. a summary of information on safeguards and a safeguard information system.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Technical assistance for the development of a Summary of Information on Safeguards (SIS) for submission by the country to the UNFCCC.	This will be part of the requirements for the funding proposal for Mozambique's REDD+ RBP Proposal to the GCF. It will also include advancing on the design that Mozambique has initiated on the Safeguards Information System. A TREES compliance safeguards assessment would be undertaken in relation to this deliverable to broaden funding sources.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.2 REDD+ RBPs secured</i>	
REDD+ results-based payments proposal submitted to the Green Climate Fund, in line with the Paris Agreement (art. 5).	The REDD+ Funding Proposal to the GCF will proceed if the GCF provide the green light for continuation of the process after submission of the concept note. This is in light of reversals that Mozambique has shown during the GCF Results Period
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Inputs made into the national carbon markets regulations	UNDP can provide inputs where requested into the national carbon markets regulations that are being developed by Mozambique.
Develop CN to ART TREES and develop a roadmap for the transition from FCPF to TREES compliance.	UN-REDD team will support the government in the process of assessing potential results in the period (2022-2026), considering increase in deforestation emissions between 2020 and 2021.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.4: Investments aligned and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Support to assess tenurial systems for PES provided	A PES system for Mozambique can begin with work to assess tenurial arrangements and enabling infrastructure

Nepal

Strategic context

Nepal, whilst a least developed country, has increased ambitions through its third Nationally Determined Contributions (2025) and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), committing to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The forestry sector is expected to contribute to the NDC by “maintaining 46% forest cover”, as well as “increase[d] coverage of sustainable forest management to 50% of Tarai and Inner Tarai forests and 25% of middle hills and mountain forests, including through the use of funding from REDD+ initiatives and carbon financing.”

Nepal has been on a positive trend in reducing deforestation for the past decade and more, thanks to community devolved forest management. On the other hand, forest degradation remains a challenge, and much potential is seen in forest restoration efforts through community-based forest management. In this respect, the third NDC also commits to “sustainable forest management will be expanded to degraded forest lands, including the Chure region” by 2035. Enabling policies to back these commitments include the Forestry Sector Strategy (2016–2025), and the REDD+ Strategy (2018; updated 2024), as well as the forestry legal framework.

Active forest carbon financing mechanisms in Nepal include the FCPF Carbon Fund and the Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) signed with the LEAF Coalition, both at sub-national scale. Nepal is committed to scaling up REDD+ to the national scale, and is preparing to access RBPs from the GCF for crediting periods in the past.

Overview of ART-TREES

	Jurisdiction	Crediting period	Status as of March 2026
LEAF ER Program (ART/TREES)	Sub-national - 3 provinces of Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini (overlaps in part with Carbon Fund)	2022-2026	ERPA signed (Jan 2026) Under ART/TREES registration VV for TRD and 1st TMR in 2026
FCPF Carbon Fund “ER Program for Terai Arc Landscape”	Sub-national- 13 districts in five provinces – Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini, Sudur Paschim	2018-2024	2nd VV on-going Accessed first results-based payment of US\$ 9.4 in 2025
GCF REDD+ RBPs	National	2017-2021 (or 2022-2026)	Preparation FAO support through GCF Readiness 2026-27

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

For Nepal’s LEAF ER Programme and the underpinning ART/TREES process, the outstanding challenge thus far, and potential areas of risks going forward are related to Nepal’s status as a country on the verge of High-Forest cover Low-Deforestation (HFLD), but not yet passed this threshold. This status “penalizes” Nepal with a high uncertainty rate for its activity data (increasing the ERR to set aside for

as buffer reserve), and at the same time demands Nepal to put removals at the core of its ERR potential. Removals under ART/TREES is significantly narrower in definition as compared to that of the UNFCCC or Carbon Fund, while data requirements for accounting such removals present new challenges that require institutional improvements in Nepal's forest data management starting at the local level.

Other risks and challenges include the impending Validation and Verification (VV) process, starting with the procurement process – which the government has already identified would be prohibitive to take on directly.

Partners supporting the Nepal LEAF and ART/TREES process include Emergent, the UK TAP, technical support funded under the US State Department, with UN-REDD playing the key coordination role thereof. At the request of the government, the UN-REDD Programme hosts monthly coordination calls and various technical meetings, as well as coordinating the inputs from the partners to draft the key TREES documentation (ie., TRD and TMRs). While other TA partners focus on technical aspects of the ART/TREES process, UN-REDD plays a broader facilitative role – working alongside Emergent to support the LEAF process, including support for the Financial Intermediary, the ERPA, and corresponding adjustments – consistently oriented toward empowering government leadership and building national capacity.

Sustaining this momentum, however, will also depend on whether REDD+ RBPs can deliver sufficient to incentivizes for lasting change in forest management. This in mind, bundling REDD+ RBPs with domestic Payments for Environmental Services (PES) as well as potential international forest finance opportunities such as TFFF could increase the sustainability of climate and forest finance.

Support from UN-REDD will take into account linkages with TFFF, and technical gaps it could address, if and when it becomes operational.

Nepal is active in negotiating Paris Agreement Article 6 agreements with other parties, including an agreement signed with Sweden in 2024, so far mainly in the energy sector and supported by GGGI, and on-going discussions with other countries on the forestry sector, such as Korea and Singapore. In this regard, Nepal has amended its legal framework and launched a national carbon registry to facilitate international carbon transactions, through Paris Agreement Article 6 as well as potential Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) transactions.

Finally, Nepal is defined by its culturally diverse population. According to the Nepal Federation for Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), over half of its Indigenous Nationalities are considered marginalized or highly marginalized. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) includes progressive provisions on “right to equality”, as well as the securing of rights to Indigenous Peoples to live with their respective identities, be included in decision making processes and have their traditions, culture and social practices preserved and maintained. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with local communities is required by the Environmental Protection Regulation (2020) as a prerequisite for the transfer of forest carbon. Nepal therefore also offers fertile ground for demonstrating how REDD+ can engage with and benefit such communities.

Country engagement

Since UN-REDD renewed its engagement in Nepal through the UN-REDD Technical Assistance in 2022, it has built up a strong presence in the country as a trusted partner of the government. The main intervention logic of the UN-REDD TA for the past cycle has been to support Nepal in its access to results-based payments through LEAF, by supporting the technical processes of ART/TREES. Along the way, the UN-REDD team has flexibly responded to broader associated needs of the government, extending its support including to the review and update of Nepal's National REDD+ Strategy, drafting of Nepal's first Summary of Information on Safeguards, drafting of the national guidance for FPIC for REDD+, linkages between the existing grievance redress channels and the monitoring and reporting for the REDD+ jurisdictions strengthened technical guidance note to support policy decision on LEAF

transaction pathways, and most recently, upstarting work on capacity plan for the Financial Intermediary of LEAF. Due to UN-REDD’s country-based presence (facilitated through the FAO country office) and its nature as a neutral partner in the process, the REDD+ Implementation Center (REDD IC) under Ministry of Forests and Environment requested UN-REDD to facilitate coordination among technical assistance providers for the LEAF process, such as the UK TAP, the and US Forestry Service. It will therefore be imperative that UN-REDD engages with Nepal in a comprehensive manner that will facilitate political level engagement while working with the technically mandated agencies, maintaining a neutral positing as a trusted convener.

FAO acts as the accredited entity and technical assistance provider for Nepal’s first GCF project “Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)”, which was designed with REDD+’s interventions and theory of change. There is strong potential and imperative for the UN-REDD Programme to complete the loop by supporting Nepal in the formulation of a national REDD+ RBP initiative to reinforce the financial sustainability narrative. In this regard, FAO is supporting the government to access GCF REDD+ RBPs and planned to initiate a GCF Readiness support in 2026.

Further, UN-REDD continues support on upgrading the country’s Forest monitoring and information systems to comply with ETF through tailored support on forest inventory and data management at national and community levels.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Estimation of emissions reduction and removals under the LEAF initiative	Complements the interventions carried out through 2025 top-up (without duplication).
Plug gaps in NFI: Private and public forests mapping	
Plug gaps in mapping and AD generation: CEO survey	
CF boundary delineation	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
SIS operationalized, including technical support for SIS platform update, SIS data collection, and SIS capacity building.	Deliverable partly carried over from 2025
Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in LEAF provinces strengthened, including review, guidelines and capacity building.	Deliverable carried over from 2025
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Continued engagement and consultation of stakeholders on benefit sharing under LEAF, including capacity building and support for benefit sharing plan and FPIC guidelines development / updates	Complements the interventions carried out through 2025 top-up (without duplication).
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and ICAO's CORSIA for ART-issued TREES credits advanced	This includes country-tailored technical and policy support
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Technical inputs to the VVB process, including overall introduction and training, together with ART-TREES, and learning from other countries	Using Initial lessons and recommendations for the ART-TREES validation and verification process. UNEP Support on safeguards.
A capacity building plan developed for the Financial Intermediary (FI) with consideration of what needs to be in place for LEAF and other funds, including convening and initial capacity building support provided (2 workshops held).	In close coordination with World Bank FCPF support.
TREES transactions advanced through strengthened awareness and capacity of national and provincial governments and connect to buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits. This includes Increased collaboration with the World Bank on the transition of FCPF credits to TREES.	Regional events jointly organized under UN-REDD.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.3 Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Forest management regimes and tenure typology mapped and management plans registered.	Complements the interventions carried out through 2025 top-up (without duplication).

Papua New Guinea

Strategic context

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a large area of intact forest and one of the richest levels of biodiversity globally. As a high-forest/low-deforestation (HFLD) country, PNG retains 77.8% forest cover as of 2018. Approximately 97% of PNG's land is under legally recognized customary tenure. This means that land is often owned collectively by indigenous communities based on customary practices. PNG has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world this century, with average growth rates above 6%, and the current population growth rate is 3.1% per annum. Annual rates of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation have increased from 2000 to 2012, but since 2013 substantial efforts have been made to reverse this trend, which has led to lower emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and thereby significant higher net GHG removals from the LULUCF sector over the last years¹⁵. PNG has been actively exploring approaches to incorporate climate change mitigation goals into forest and land use policy and practices. PNG has made proactive steps in contributing to the mitigation of climate change and has submitted an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in 2020 with sector-specific targets outlining the government's commitment to be 50% carbon-neutral by 2030 and entirely carbon-neutral by 2050. The country does not have an unconditional target.

To support the implementation of REDD+, PNG has also developed a set of key guidelines, covering REDD+ project development and implementation, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), benefit sharing and grievance redress. The recent BUR was submitted in May 2022 with reported REDD+

¹⁵ The latest GHG emission and removal estimates are presented in PNG's First Biennial Transparency Report (2025). [Biennial Transparency Reports | UNFCCC](#)

results 61 MtCO₂e for the period 2016 to 2018. PNG submitted the Summary of Information (SOI) of the Safeguard Information System (SIS) in 2020.

Related to accessing REDD+ Results Based Finance, during the period of 2021-2025 several opportunities have been presented to PNG and the landscape is constantly evolving. PNG has obtained results-based finance through the GCF Results Based Payment (RBP) Pilot Programme. Apart from GCF RBP, PNG is actively engaging with the LEAF Coalition and submitted an expression of interest which passed the initial screening, though no Lol or ERPA has been signed. In 2024 and 2025, the country has made substantial progress towards completing its TREES conformance and meeting safeguard requirements. PNG is preparing to submit its ART-TREES Registration Document and TREES Monitoring Report in Q1 of 2026, a commitment which was also announced during COP30 in Belem.

Related to Paris Agreement Article 6, the country has signed the first Implementation Agreement with Singapore, establishing a bilateral framework for the transfer of carbon credits with corresponding adjustments. However, much of the infrastructure is still lacking to operationalize this agreement and issue corresponding adjustments. The country has been heavily focused on developing rules for REDD+ projects, including benefit sharing and FPIC. However, there exists a discrepancy between the regulatory focus and the agreement, as Singapore is only considering accepting jurisdictional REDD+ credits. Given the current developments under GCF RBP, LEAF and implementation agreement with Singapore, the operationalization of Article 6, implementation of REDD+ RBP Pilot and LEAF programmes are expected to be an area of focus for 2026 – 2030.

Overview of ART-TREES¹⁶

TREES crediting period: National level crediting 201722 - 202621		
Indicative volume: as a HFLD jurisdiction, an estimated 56.7 MtCO ₂ eq in TREES credits ¹⁷		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	TRD submitted to ART-TREES March 2026, TMR under finalisation	ART-TREES Secretariat TRD/TMR approval Q2 2026
Verification & Validation (V&V)	VVB procurement and costs covered by EU FCCB	V&V concluded 2026
TREES credit issuance		TREES crediting 2027

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

Challenges related to nesting are evident in PNG, and UN-REDD is working closely with the EU FCCB programme and the World Bank to advance this agenda, drawing on experiences from Cambodia and Indonesia. Government capacity and political commitment are strong, but there are concerns that verification and validation will be particularly complex in a context like PNG, especially for nationwide REDD+ implementation.

Country engagement

UN-REDD's support to Papua New Guinea's REDD+ work has focused on various strategic elements including governance, MRV systems, safeguards and forest finance. UN-REDD has also acted as a coordinating and neutral convener for the CCDA (Climate Change Development Authority) and has supported stakeholder engagement processes.

Complementing the UN-REDD work, the EU-FCCB programme has begun providing technical support that complements the 2026 workplan, including strong coordination on the TRD, TMR and VVB. Remaining gaps in PNG that the 2026 UN-REDD workplan intends to address relate to REDD+

¹⁶ As of 19 March 2026

¹⁷ Estimated volume after deductions, based on latest TMR.

operationalization, update and implementation of the NDC, and the establishment and full operationalization of safeguards, benefit-sharing arrangements and FPIC. Further challenges include operationalizing nesting (building on prior UN-REDD support including drafting a REDD+ nesting system design document, development of registry and database management system), strengthening capacity on Article 6, building understanding among the private sector and investors of forest finance risks and opportunities, improving community engagement and communication on REDD+, and potentially advancing PNG's participation under TFFF after it becomes operational.

The workplan is based on regular updates and discussion with PNG CCDA (Climate Change Development Authority). This work has been programmed through technical discussions with several other stakeholders that started under the TA.

The workplan will be implemented with activities under [GCF Papua New Guinea REDD-plus RBP for the period 2014-2016](#), [AIM4Forest](#), and [EU-FCCB](#) (with the later a joint workplan to support TRD, TMR and VVB has been created).

Papua New Guinea will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Submission of PNG TRD & TMR (MRV sections)	
Technical backstopping support delivered on ART-TREES /VVB comments to TRD & TMR	UNEP technical backstopping support delivered on ART/VVB comments to TRD & TMR – using experiences from other countries
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Submission of PNG' ART-TREES TRD & TMR (safeguard sections)	Including collaboration with Climate Law and Policy contracted by the EU FCCB Programme
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Support BSD contribution under ART TREES (jointly with EU-FCCB)	Work will build on the BSD to be implemented and operationalized along with the implementation of the GCF RBP Project.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Backstopping support to CCDA on market and transaction pathways most appropriate to PNG context	Building on discussion with LEAF coalition, sovereigns, and work on article 6 and TFFF
Support the identification and development of documentation and submissions of proposals for accessing RBF in subsequent crediting periods (e.g LEAF, GCF, CORSIA, etc).	Building on work supported under UN-REDD TA
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Development of Article 6 initial report, and support inclusion of Article 6 related information in reporting	Building on assessment of prerequisites for participation in Article 6.2

Deliverables	Remarks
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Support submission of PNG TRD & TMR	Submission foreseen Q1 2026. See also OP 1.1 and OP 1.2 including technical backstopping support on ART/VVB. UNEP supporting on safeguards.
Support to technical REDD+ nesting system design including update of REDD+ nesting system design document, registry and database	Building on drafted REDD+ nesting system design document, registry and database management system established, and work with the WB in 2025. In coordination with partners (WB, UNEP, EU-FCCB and AIM4Forests)
Initial capacity built on requirements for a domestic financial intermediary	Drawing on experiences and lessons from other countries in Asia Pacific
TREES transactions facilitated through brokering knowledge and trust between PNG's supply and buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits (including regional events jointly organized under UN-REDD)	Joint support with FAO
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target</i>	
Support to PNG 2025 NDC 3.0 development (LUCF sector) and connections with CBD and NBSAPS.	Ongoing support, NDC submission scheduled for Q1, 2026
<i>Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)</i>	
Support to PNG BTR Technical Expert Review (TER)	BTR supported in 2025, and submitted 5 January 2026.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Review of environmental management, protection, and land use regulations for forest authorities and local stakeholders, with specific focus on customary tenure	With enhancements planned under GCF RBP
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Provide evidence-based guidance to develop the capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders on deforestation-free commodity production and trade	
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Documentation of lessons learned in strengthening the Forest landscapes management technical and financial capacities of customary landowners and communities	GCF RBP project aims to strengthen technical and financial capacities of customary landowners and communities for forest landscape management
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Technical support to assess the feasibility to access TFFF, including the GRM, the NFMS and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Dedicated Financial Allocation mechanism.	FAO is providing ongoing support to PNG to access TFFF, having conducted a national assessment of the results and initial eligibility under TFFF with PNGFA, and will make synergies through the implementation of the GCF RBP.
Support to operationalization of National REDD+ development and implementation guidelines provided	

Peru

Strategic context

Peru's UN-REDD Technical Assistance in 2026 is grounded in the country's strengthened climate and forest policy framework, including the launch of NDC 3.0 in November 2025, which tightens mitigation targets, sets a 2035 emissions cap of 179 million metric tonnes of CO₂, reaffirms the 2050 net-zero goal, and places Article 6 cooperation and carbon market mechanisms at the center of national climate strategy. Under Article 6 cooperative approaches and the RENAMI regulatory framework, Peru expects to authorize international transfers of mitigation outcomes as ITMOs, while retaining the option to account for up to 9 million tCO₂eq of ITMOs toward its 2035 NDC. This approach is supported by national measurement and tracking tools, including Carbon Footprint Peru and RENAMI, in line with the authorization and accounting requirements established under the RENAMI framework.

These developments build on the existing governance framework established through the Framework Law on Climate Change, the National Climate Change Strategy and the ENBCC, and are reinforced by international partnerships, including the Joint Declaration of Intent, which continues to provide policy alignment and performance-based incentives for REDD+. In 2026, UN-REDD Technical Assistance will focus specifically on supporting Peru's continued progress towards credit issuance in the context of the newly signed updated Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI). Considering the specific context of Peru, MINAM is currently in discussions with key donors to develop a 'bilateral MRV protocol', which will be closely aligned with and will build on Peru's progress in the ART-TREES process. It will remain a priority to ensure alignment and methodological consistency with the Indigenous Amazonian REDD+ submission. While the delivery of the ART-TREES Registration Document and Monitoring Report was initially planned for 2025, its timeline was affected by a combination of contextual factors, including changes in national leadership and senior government counterparts, adjustments in institutional priorities, and the need to ensure adequate coordination across relevant agencies and stakeholders. As a result, activities were adjusted to maintain technical quality and national ownership.

The consolidation of lessons from Indigenous land governance, deforestation-free production, and Indigenous-led bioeconomy initiatives provides a strategic basis for policy reform beyond project implementation. By linking tenure security and access to finance with forest conservation and economic development, this systematization lays the foundations for a new policy line in Indigenous territories that connects REDD+ with locally grounded, low-emission development pathways.

The 2026 focus also takes place in a national electoral context, which reinforces the importance of providing targeted, technically robust support that can be sustained across political transitions. Implementation will take place in coordination with national institutions and ongoing partner initiatives supporting Peru's REDD+ architecture and national REDD+ programme, while addressing institutional and policy risks associated with advancing toward credit issuance.

Country engagement

Throughout 2025, the UN-REDD Programme maintained close coordination with MINAM on the implementation of Technical Assistance and on the definition of priorities for 2026, including technical and implementation-focused missions carried out in June and October 2025. Regular exchanges were also maintained with FAO and UNDP country offices and with the UN Resident Coordinator Office to ensure alignment of UN-REDD support with broader UN system engagement. Collaboration with Norway remained strong, including with Norad and NICFI, including the special Envoy on Climate and Forests based in Lima, as well as with other JDI partners such as the United Kingdom, via its Lima Embassy, to ensure coherence on REDD+, carbon markets, and Peru's evolving NDC 3.0 and Article 6 agenda. In parallel, UN-REDD continued its dialogue with the "REDD+ Peru Group", composed of Indigenous Peoples' organizations, regarding the Indigenous Jurisdictional REDD+ proposal submitted to ART-TREES, alongside ongoing progress by MINAM on its national

TREES proposal. Moreover, UN-REDD also continued to closely follow developments related to REDD+ nesting in Peru, including recent regulations issued by SERNANP (the National Park Service), which signal that early initiatives are expected to align with the requirements established under the RENAMI. Finally, UN-REDD collaborated with MINAM on the design of a trust fund for Indigenous Peoples, contributing to compliance with a judicial ruling that mandates the effective implementation of the national climate change regulatory framework. In addition, this collaboration generated analytical and procedural inputs to support the participatory development of an Indigenous women's fund, in line with commitments announced by Peru at COP28. This engagement has also contributed to strengthening the institutional capacities of Peruvian entities, particularly MINAM and SERNANP, in areas such as carbon market readiness, safeguards implementation, and coordination across national and subnational levels. Through targeted technical assistance and policy support, UN-REDD is helping to consolidate governance frameworks, enhance inter-institutional coordination, and build the technical foundations required for sustained delivery of high-integrity REDD+ results.

Peru will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

Risk considerations and coordination with partners

Risk considerations for TREES delivery in Peru relate primarily to institutional coordination and the alignment of national and jurisdictional initiatives under the RENAMI architecture. Peru has established a relatively advanced policy and institutional framework for REDD+, including the RENAMI, the National Forest Monitoring System. In the context of its newly signed updated Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), it is in the process of developing a 'bilateral MRV protocol', which closely aligns with and will make use of Peru's advances related to the ART-TREES standard. The protocol will need to be agreed with priority between the country and JDI donors, and successful progression toward registration and credit issuance will depend on continued coordination across multiple institutions (including MINAM, SERFOR, SERNANP and regional governments), as well as sustained political commitment during the current electoral cycle. Additional risks relate to the complexity of aligning existing jurisdictional and Indigenous-led initiatives with national accounting and registry requirements. UN-REDD support therefore focuses on strengthening institutional coordination, methodological consistency, and safeguards alignment to reduce these risks and ensure that jurisdictional initiatives can transition toward nationally coherent TREES implementation.

UN-REDD's engagement in Peru is designed to complement and coordinate with a range of ongoing initiatives led by national authorities and international partners. This includes collaboration with JDI partners, engagement with the Indigenous jurisdictional REDD+ proposal submitted to ART-TREES, and coordination with programmes such as the World Bank SCALE initiative and other partners supporting carbon market readiness and forest governance. UN-REDD's role focuses on providing targeted technical assistance on safeguards integration, benefit-sharing design, and methodological alignment with ART-TREES requirements, while supporting MINAM in its broader coordination role across the national REDD+ architecture.

Where activities refer to jurisdictional implementation, these are undertaken within Peru's national REDD+ governance framework. National institutions, particularly MINAM, retain overall responsibility for accounting, registry management, and international authorization of mitigation outcomes, while regional governments and Indigenous organizations play a key role in implementation and piloting jurisdictional approaches. UN-REDD support therefore focuses on strengthening the institutional interfaces between national systems and jurisdictional initiatives, ensuring that lessons from subnational implementation can inform national-level TREES registration and future crediting cycles.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1 National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
<p>1.1.1 Development of a comprehensive roadmap to consolidate the MRV system at the national level, covering:</p> <p>1.1.1.1 Integration of all biomes into a unified MRV framework, and alignment with Grupo Peru.</p> <p>1.1.1.2 Institutional capacity-building and legal framework development. This will include support to develop legal and institutional arrangements to support the operationalization and sustainability of the MRV system.</p> <p>1.1.1.3 Capacity-building for Grupo Peru, in alignment with national protocols.</p> <p>1.1.1.4 Training on existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aligned with ART- TREES requirements to support access to Results-based Payments under the JDI, consistent with the national MRV system.</p>	<p>Support under this output will focus on consolidating a robust and nationally coherent MRV system with high environmental integrity. This includes the development of a comprehensive national roadmap to guide integration of all biomes into a unified monitoring framework and ensuring alignment with Grupo Peru registry and monitoring reports. Also, support operational reporting to respond to REDD+, ART-TREES, and UNFCCC requirements.</p> <p>This output will build capacity on MRV to MINAM and Grupo Peru, when required.</p>
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
<p>1.2.1 Operative safeguards reporting templates and tools, supporting the upgraded Safeguards Information Module (MIS), aligned with Peru's nesting approach and TREES requirements, and interoperable with RENAMI and MAC</p>	<p>In 2026, support to MINAM will focus on operationalizing the upgraded MIS design from 2025, in line with ART-TREES reporting requirements and national safeguards priorities, and in line with Peru's nesting approach.</p> <p>This will reinforce interoperability between the MIS, RENAMI and MAC, ensuring alignment with TREES, including the Indigenous Jurisdictional REDD+ (RIJ) TREES proposal. It will include the development of reporting templates and tools, including user manuals for the MIS and MAC.</p> <p>UNDP will provide support, ensuring close coordination with deliverable 1.2.2.</p>
<p>Update the MIS and indicators, and ensuring transparent, inclusive participation aligned with national and donor requirements.</p>	<p>This will support MINAM in advancing towards national ART-TREES and REDD+ Indígena Jurisdiccional priorities.</p>
<p>1.2.2 Integration of social integrity considerations in RENAMI, to complement an undergoing activity of strengthening of RENAMI under Article 6 UNDP / Switzerland cooperation project</p>	<p>Includes support to update the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and indicators (1.2.1).</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
<p>1.3.1 Core design elements of Peru's benefit-sharing framework, aligned with Peru's nesting approach and TREES requirements</p>	<p>This activity will provide focused analytical guidance on core design elements of Peru's benefit-sharing framework, including allocation logic, safeguards integration and the treatment of carbon and emissions reduction rights.</p> <p>The work will build on national processes, RIJ TREES, and ongoing ART-TREES analyses, and assess coherence with MIS, MAC, and RENAMI, in line with Peru's nesting approach. It will also consider complementarities with related analytical work under World Bank SCALE.</p>
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
4.3.1 Refined design options for financial instruments supporting climate initiatives led by Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women, aligned with the Indigenous Jurisdictional REDD+ (RIJ) TREES proposal.	This will focus on refining the technical and governance design elements of existing Indigenous-focused financial instruments and related proposals, including those designed for Indigenous women. The work will assess alignment with the RIJ TREES approach and identify potential financing opportunities under national schemes and international high-integrity forest finance. It will also promote synergies with World Bank SCALE support to Peru's jurisdictional REDD+ readiness and access to climate finances.
4.3.2 Legal analysis to support land tenure governance in Indigenous Reserves and Native Community lands	A technical analysis of overlapping land use regimes in the Peruvian Amazon, including protected areas, forestry concessions, and mining and energy concessions, to identify legal constraints and opportunities affecting Indigenous Reserves and Native Community lands. The analysis will provide general guidance and a proposed roadmap to inform future actions aimed at addressing land tenure conflicts and strengthening governance frameworks for implementing the Land Tenure Commitment. UNEP and UNDP will also support this activity. UNEP will support this activity, with a focus on carbon rights ownership, safeguards and benefit sharing aspects, in alignment with activities 1.3.1 and 4.3.1. UNDP will also support this activity with a focus on implementation feasibility, taking into account institutional mandates, considerations related to Indigenous territories, and the legal and procedural requirements associated with different forest management categories, in coordination with relevant authorities.
4.3.3 Technical, financial, and institutional guidance package for the implementation of the Land Tenure Commitment in the Peruvian Amazon	<p>A technical analysis of overlapping land use regimes in the Peruvian Amazon, including protected areas, forestry concessions, and mining and energy concessions, to identify legal constraints and opportunities affecting Indigenous Reserves and Native Community lands. The analysis will provide general guidance and a proposed roadmap to inform future actions aimed at addressing land tenure conflicts and strengthening governance frameworks for implementing the Land Tenure Commitment.</p> <p>This activity will include a focus on carbon rights ownership, safeguards and benefit sharing aspects, as well as on implementation feasibility, taking into account institutional mandates, considerations related to Indigenous territories, and the legal and procedural requirements associated with different forest management categories, in coordination with relevant authorities.</p>
4.3.4 Lessons and best practices on Indigenous Land Governance and Deforestation-Free Cocoa Production systematized and disseminated	UNDP's portfolio of locally implemented pilot initiatives, undertaken with Indigenous federations and organizations, strengthens Indigenous territorial governance and advances sustainable, deforestation-free production and broader bioeconomy solutions. Building on these experiences, UN-REDD will consolidate evidence into a results-and-lessons-learned report that distills effective approaches, enabling conditions, and scalable models to inform national policy processes, enhance climate resilience through community-led stewardship, and guide locally appropriate development pathways. UN-REDD will provide targeted technical advice to connect Indigenous

Deliverables	Remarks
	<p>governance with bioeconomy opportunities and to link local pilots with national policies and private-sector partners.</p> <p>This activity will be supported by UN-REDD technical inputs and lessons learnt in deforestation-free cocoa production value chains.</p>
<p><i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i></p> <p>4.4.1 Identification of priority areas and intervention portfolios aligned with NDC 3.0, to support the strategic allocation of resources from mechanisms such as the voluntary carbon market, Article 6, the GCF, and other climate finance sources</p>	<p>The activity will support the identification of priority areas and intervention portfolios aligned with Peru's NDC 3.0, to enable the strategic allocation of resources from the voluntary carbon market, Article 6, the GCF, and other climate finance mechanisms. Support will focus on strengthening the technical and institutional readiness required for Peru's access to upfront forest and climate finance, including the conditions needed to mobilize resources for REDD+ implementation and forest-positive investment.</p> <p>Implementation will be carried out in close collaboration with AIM4Forests to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. This activity will also include the analysis of safeguards and benefit-sharing aspects.</p>

Republic of the Congo

Strategic context

The UN-REDD Programme supported Congo with the design and approval of its National REDD+ Strategy, the planning of its investments for the land-use and forestry sector (including cost-benefit analyses of REDD+ options), formulation of Policies and Measures, reforms of the country's Policies, Legislation and Regulation, and the formulation of the Nationally Determined Contribution submitted to the UNFCCC.

The Republic of Congo has made significant progress in implementing its National REDD+ Strategy:

- Since 2019, the Republic of Congo has been participating in the World Bank's Carbon Fund pipeline with emissions reduction programmes in the departments of Sangha and Likouala that are ongoing.
- In 2019, the Republic of Congo and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) signed a Letter of Intent to implement the REDD+ Investment Programme (IP). As a result, several programmes have been developed, focusing on the themes of sustainable land use planning, promotion and deployment of sustainable agroforestry practices for the production and consumption of wood energy, development of a national forest monitoring system, and stakeholders' engagement. Some of these initiatives have been funded since 2020.
- Several other projects implemented with support from bilateral cooperation agencies (AFD, FCDO, etc.) or multi-lateral donors (EU, GCF, etc.) are aligned with the National REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ IP.
- A Forest Carbon Task Force was created by Decree no. 2022-1923 of 26 December 2022, responsible for regulating and monitoring the country's engagement in their carbon market.

The Task Force evaluates and approves programmes, projects and prices linked to carbon credits.

In addition, Congo has expressed its interest in the LEAF initiative which aims to mobilize funds from potential emissions reduction under the high forest low deforestation (HFLD) modality. Following the confirmation of its interest and validation of the application by LEAF, the Republic of Congo has started to reflect on the technical content of the concept-note for its submission.

The country has requested support from UN-REDD experts to strengthen its capacity for planning REDD+ investments. This includes enhancing decisions-making processes to review, negotiate and implement land use decisions aligned with the strategic objectives of the National REDD+ Strategy, as well as developing funding mechanisms and mobilization strategies for REDD+ initiatives.

Overview of ART-TREES¹⁸

TREES crediting period: 2022 -2026 Indicative volume: approx. 8-9 Mt		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	To be submitted It will include the first monitoring report	Concept note submitted by June 2026. When validated, submit the registration document by February 2027 (approx.)
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Comment: VV body to be identified by the national counterpart. How the national counterpart will support the costs needs to be clarified.	2027 (first trimester approx.)
TREES credit issuance	1 year after the submission of the VV report	2028 (first trimester approx.)

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

More financial and technical upfront support needed to reinforce the institutional capacities to operationalize the TREES standard requirements, such as those dealing with C&I Safeguards (weak staff capacities).

Country engagement

Since the start of The UN-REDD Programme partnership with the Republic of Congo in 2011, the Programme has been instrumental in the design of REDD+ tools and institutional frameworks as well as in institutional capacity strengthening necessary for the mobilization of financial resources to ensure the progressive implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy and its IP. Over the years, the Programme's support has been focused on the strengthening of national capacity to develop and manage policies related to land-use and the mobilization and engagement of multiple stakeholders. Efforts include the development and operationalization of the national forest monitoring systems, clear allocation of carbon rights and benefit sharing arrangements, and the safeguards information systems amongst other tools and the strengthening of governance structures.

The UN REDD Programme has provided and will continue to offer support to Congo across multiple areas, leveraging the extensive expertise of FAO and UNEP. Key areas of support include land formalization, NFMS institutionalization, clarity on carbon rights and benefit-sharing arrangements, governance and policy alignment and strengthening, capacity building related to article 6 and TFFF, access to climate finance, with a focus on maximizing their potential valorization through various approaches.

¹⁸ As of xx March 2026

The UN-REDD Programme will complement ongoing efforts to secure climate finance, working alongside multiple technical partners. This support is highly appreciated by the country for its flexibility and responsiveness to national priorities and the evolving context.

Support from UN-REDD will take into account linkages with TFFF, and technical gaps it could address, if and when it becomes operational.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
<p>Develop a legal gap assessment focused on NFMS aspects to clarify institutional mandates, strengthen financial commitments, and establish data sharing and management mechanisms as needed.</p> <p>Provide technical inputs to preparation of first REDD+ Technical Annex.</p> <p>Training on the national forest inventory - second stage with the implementation of new tools (with sectoral ministries).</p>	<p>Scope of support to Technical Annex to be assessed, in collaboration with SNIAF.</p> <p>Capacity building: training on new inventory methods. Possible field testing of the method.</p>
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Support for TREES registration document (draft)	Support for drafting safeguards within the TREES framework (SIS summary)
Capacities strengthened in safeguards under the UNFCCC and TREES.	Organization of an online session on safeguard assessment tools as part of the series of virtual capacity-building sessions.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
<p>Update of legal texts on the REDD+ process (Order 113, Decree 2015-260 of February 27, 2025; Decree No. 2022-1923 of December 26, 2022)</p> <p>Conducting a study focusing on the terms and conditions for trading credits pursuant to Article 184 of Law No. 33-2020 of July 8, 2020</p> <p>Conducting a study on the tax on the sale of forest carbon credits pursuant to Article 185 of Law No. 33-2020 of July 8, 2020</p>	<p>UN-REDD will first analyse the finance law adopted on 31 December 2025, and check if the law regulates the terms, conditions and taxes for trading carbon credits.</p> <p>In case of need, we will subsequently respond to the request formulated by the CN-REDD and elaborate recommendations to move forward with the implementation of articles 184 and 185 of the forest code.</p>
Legal review and analysis of forestry legislation and support for drafting processes where necessary, particularly in the context of defining and strengthening carbon legislation.	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
<p>Organization of online training courses</p> <p>Audience: National institutional counterparts and targeted experts involved in REDD+ ER programmes at country level</p>	<p>Priority topics to be identified with REDD+ coordinator, but could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on Article 5 and other articles of the Paris Agreement related to the REDD+ process - Registry & VCM - Benefit-sharing aspects - NDC

Deliverables	Remarks
	- Ex-Act - Sessions dealing with Carbon rights and Article 6 took place in 2025.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Training and guidance on the use of open tenure to map tenure boundaries and claims focusing on 13 districts	Continuation of open tenure actions in 2025, in coordination with PREFOREST.

Uganda

Strategic context

Uganda's development and climate priorities are anchored in its Vision 2040, the Third National Development Plan (NDP III), and the National Green Growth Development Strategy (2017–2030), which collectively aim to transform the country into an upper-middle-income economy while safeguarding natural capital and increasing resilience to climate change. Forests and land use are central to this agenda, with NDP III identifying Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change as a priority programme area, including ambitious targets to increase national forest cover to 21 percent by 2030 and 24 percent by 2040.

Uganda's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) confirms that the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector is the pillar of the country's mitigation effort, accounting for approximately 82.7 percent of the total mitigation target by 2030. REDD+ is therefore a strategic instrument for achieving national climate goals, while also delivering broader development benefits such as improved forest governance, enhanced livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

Institutionally, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) with the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) remains the lead authority for REDD+, through the REDD+ Secretariat, working closely with the Climate Change Department, the Environment Support Services, the National Forestry Authority (NFA)¹⁹ and other sector institutions. The legal and policy framework is underpinned by the National Climate Change Policy (2015), the Climate Change Act (2021), the National Forest and Tree Planting Act (2003), and the ongoing revision of the National Forest Policy.

In 2025, Uganda finalized its Climate Change (Climate Change Mechanisms) Regulations, creating new opportunities for accessing carbon markets while also generating an urgent need for developing guidelines to operationalize it.

The joint UN-REDD mission to Uganda in December 2025 confirmed that Uganda has made substantial technical progress towards accessing high-integrity results-based finance, particularly under the ART TREES standard. Safeguards requirements for ART-TREES registration are approximately 90 percent complete, while the MRV component is around 80 percent complete, with remaining gaps clearly identified and technically manageable within 2026. Progress has also been made on REDD+ registry development, safeguards information systems, and planning for implementation of the recently approved GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payments programme.

At the same time, the mission highlighted emerging strategic risks and uncertainties that shape the 2026 context. In particular, the long-term agreement signed in March 2025 between the Government of Uganda and East African Carbon Company (EACC) introduces potential overlaps and inefficiency

¹⁹ NFA is now integrated as part of the Forest Sector Support Department

with existing government-led REDD+ processes and with UNREDD’s long-standing role as a neutral, government focused technical partner. Clarification from the Government on the scope of this agreement—especially with respect to ongoing national initiatives such as ARTTREES registration and GCF RBP implementation—is a critical precondition for sustained and effective UNREDD engagement.

Against this backdrop, UN-REDD’s strategic value in Uganda for 2026 lies in: (i) consolidating and safeguarding the integrity of government-led REDD+ systems (MRV, safeguards, registry and governance); (ii) supporting Uganda to complete and operationalize ART TREES registration, as well as providing technical assistance to the country during the validation and verification processes; (iii) strengthening national capacity to operationalize new climate and carbon market regulations in line with ART TREES; and (iv) supporting informed, sovereign decision-making on access to forest carbon finance that balances market opportunities with environmental integrity, social safeguards and long-term national interests.

Overview of ART-TREES

TREES crediting period 2022-2024		
Indicative volume: 2.2 - 10.1 million tCO ₂ e ²⁰		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	Concept Note approved (Jan 2023)	TRD/TMR to be approved Q4 2026
Verification & Validation (V&V)	Government planning to procure VVB	VVB procured by end of Q4
TREES credit issuance	TBD	TBD

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

The main risk is the implication of the partnership between the Government and EACC that might compromise UN-REDD support for the TREES process until clarified by the Government. (2) Despite the advanced TRD/TMR draft, delays in turn-around, on the part of GoU, during the iterative process of the UN-REDD TA, may retard finalizing the key TREES documents, if not addressed properly. During a December 2025 mission, however, discussions took place to make the process more efficient and minimize delays in GoU validation through investment in enhanced GoU bandwidth in the form of a core team, supporting the National REDD+ Focal Point at the MWE.

Country engagement

Uganda has been UN-REDD partner country since 2010, with sustained collaboration spanning REDD+ readiness, system building and transition towards results-based finance. UN-REDD support has been instrumental in establishing core elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including the National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Emission Level submission, the Safeguards Information System and Summary of Information, and the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan.

Engagement during the 2021–2025 phase increasingly focused on enabling Uganda to access high integrity results-based finance, including compliance with ART TREES requirements and preparation of a GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payments submission for the pilot phase. The December 2025 joint mission—bringing together FAO, UNEP and UNDP with the REDD+ Secretariat and senior MWE leadership—served as a pivotal stocktaking moment. It confirmed strong ownership and technical commitment within government institutions, while also identifying concrete lessons, bottlenecks, and priority actions to carry forward into 2026.

²⁰ Leaf proposal

The mission reaffirmed the value of UN-REDD’s integrated, multiagency engagement model, which allows safeguards, MRV, registry, policy coherence, and access to finance workstreams to be addressed in a coordinated manner. It also highlighted the importance of maintaining UNREDD’s role as an independent, neutral advisor working with government leadership—particularly in a rapidly evolving carbon market landscape.

For 2026, country engagement will be guided by the following principles:

- **Government led and demand driven support:** UNREDD engagement will remain anchored in formal government requests and priorities, with particular emphasis on confirming Uganda’s position regarding the scope of private sector involvement in ongoing and future REDD+ initiatives.
- **Continuity and completion:** critical activities most notably finalization of ART TREES Registration and Monitoring Reports (TRD and TMR), including legal sections—will be prioritized in 2026.
- **Institutional strengthening:** Engagement will focus on strengthening the REDD+ Secretariat and associated MWE departments through hands-on technical support, embedded expertise (on safeguards, MRV, access to finance, registry, JREDD initiatives), and structured capacity development rather than ad hoc inputs.
- **Strategic dialogue on finance and markets:** UN-REDD will support Uganda to navigate ART TREES validation and verification, and broader carbon market options in a way that preserves national policy space, safeguards environmental and social integrity, and aligns with United Nations’ norms.
- **Enhanced coordination and learning:** Building on lessons from 2025, UN-REDD will promote regular joint planning and review sessions with government counterparts, as well as targeted exchanges with the ART Secretariat and peer countries.

Through this engagement approach, and pending the EACC bottleneck unlocking, UN-REDD’s 2026 support to Uganda is positioned as a transitional yet decisive phase: consolidating past investments, mitigating emerging risks, and enabling Uganda to move credibly from readiness to results—while ensuring that REDD+ remains firmly embedded within national institutions and long-term development priorities.

Uganda will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

The workplan presented in this document is indicative. As reflected in the findings of the December 2025 mission, details of engagement by UN-REDD in 2026 will be subject to further clarification regarding the implications of the Government–EACC agreement for existing and planned REDD+ activities, including the national ART-TREES process and the crediting period included in the agreement. Accordingly, finalization and implementation of the 2026 workplan will be contingent upon receipt of an official Government position on the above and confirmation that UN-REDD technical assistance will remain in demand and viable value-added proposition.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	

Deliverables	Remarks
Final activity data estimates for deforestation and forest degradation until 2024	Including deforestation and forest degradation
Support consolidation and sustainability of NFMS capacities for various purposes, including access to carbon finance	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Institutions strengthened and capacity built on safeguards monitoring and reporting	<p>By end of Q1, embed a core group safeguard leads within relevant national departments for on-site support and integration.</p> <p>By end of Q2, designed and delivered role-specific safeguards training programmes, including on ART TREES, for national REDD+ institutions, technical agencies, and implementing partners (>20 participants) and training materials formally adopted for ongoing use.</p> <p>Support/facilitate at least one peer learning exchange(s) within the region.</p>
Uganda's Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Reporting enhanced	<p>By end of Q2 2026, support Uganda's REDD+ team to complete an update of the SIS infrastructure, strengthening the SIS as an integrated safeguards database by aligning indicators, data flows, and documentation requirements to UNFCCC Cancun Safeguards enabling consistent, auditable safeguards reporting across standards including for ART TREES. This will include training and handover for SIS administrators, host institution and data collection providers to ensure operational sustainability.</p> <p>By end of Q2, the National REDD+ Secretariat is supported to draft, validate, and formally submit the 2nd Summary of Information (SOI), demonstrating progress in addressing and respecting the Cancun Safeguards in line with UNFCCC requirements and ART TREES safeguards criteria</p>
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
Roadmap benefit-sharing arrangements mechanisms for TREES jurisdiction	By end of Q4, TREES BSM refinement subject to Government confirmation following the roadmap to update the national BSM ahead of TREES.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i>	
Targeted support to the GoU and relevant stakeholders provided to strengthen confidence, trust, and market demand for Uganda's ART-TREES credits	This is done to prepare the country for when the ART TREES credits are issued so there will be no lag time between issuance and sales of excess ART TREES credits
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
ART TREES transactions supported and facilitated with increased capacity through technical support on engaging with CORSIA and Article 6.	Before issuance this takes the shape of pre-payment structures and forward offtakes through convening demand side parties interested in sales and ensuring financial literacy across all stakeholders
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Voluntary carbon markets (VCM) for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ through ART TREES transactions facilitated.	

Deliverables	Remarks
TREES Registration and Monitoring Documents finalized	MRV inputs (Including deforestation and forest degradation) and annexes
Strengthened safeguards for compliance and markets readiness	<p>During the mission in Dec. 2025, UN-REDD agencies agreed to pool resources and technical assistance to Uganda to complete Section 6 (FAO to lead and guide on country drafted review) and UNEP to technical assistance resulting in the completion and quality-assured submission of Section 7 (Safeguards) of the national-level TREES Registration and Monitoring Reports, demonstrating safeguards conformance.</p> <p>Submission to ART will be contingent upon the country meeting the relevant technical and quality assurance criteria; all technical assistance is provided in support of a country-led, nationally determined process, and responsibility for final content and submission decisions rests with the national authorities</p>
Government capacity strengthened for REDD+ results-based payments and international carbon markets (including CORSIA) for ART TREES issued credits	
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition</i>	
REDD+ Register operationalized and capacity built for relevant stakeholders to ensure effective operationalization and alignment with National Carbon Register and the 2025 Climate Change Mechanisms Regulation (CCM). Capacity built for REDD+ stakeholders on CCM Regulation to support effective operationalization and coordination with the AFOLU sector.	The registry has been developed but further work is needed to finalize it and coordinate with the Climate Change Department as well as gather inputs from key stakeholders like project proponents, REDD+ stakeholders, etc.
Policy coherence analysis based on the public expenditure analysis on forestry in Uganda.	<p>An LoA signed with the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (CSIR-FORIG) to develop an “Analytical framework on Policy Coherence to halt deforestation: Aligning public expenditure and cross-sectoral strategies to halt deforestation in the AFOLU Sector”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inception Report was shared with the Government in Dec 2025. • Workshop on March 2026 for Country Level Expert Meetings • Final report in May 2026.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Public-private partnerships fostered to develop a pipeline for deforestation-free value chains and enhanced traceability, in line with national priorities.	Carrying forward recommendations from the ER PINS and associated consultations, forest friendly value chains provide an opportunity to scale up livelihood activities and prevent deforestation.

Viet Nam

Strategic context

Viet Nam joined UN-REDD in 2009, progressed steadily towards REDD+ readiness, and through transformational changes in the forestry sector enhanced its ability to benefit from results-based payments for REDD+. In 2023, Viet Nam received \$51.5 million from the World Bank’s Forest Carbon

Partnership Facility (FCPF) for verified emissions reductions. This payment, the largest ever by FCPF, rewarded Viet Nam for reducing 10.3 million tons of CO₂ between 2018 and 2019. The program currently benefits 70,055 forest owners and 1,356 communities via a transparent benefit-sharing plan. Viet Nam generated 16.2 million tons of reductions - exceeding its contracted volume - positioning the country to sell surplus credits on carbon markets or use them for its climate commitments. Additionally, the World Bank agreed to purchase an extra 1 million tons of CO₂, further strengthening Viet Nam's role in global carbon markets. Implementation of the upcoming NDC 3.0 is crucial, where the LULUCF sector continues to play a significant role for Viet Nam to meet national targets. Moreover, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) seventh national report for Viet Nam is due in February 2026, noting progress towards implementing the national targets established under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

On the sidelines of COP26, Viet Nam signed a Letter of Intent with LEAF/Emergent and was among the first countries to join ART by submitting the TREES Registration Document (TRD) and 1st TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) in 2024. The Validation and Verification Body (VVB) process has now concluded its second round for the first monitoring period (2021–2022). The drafting of the second Monitoring Report, covering three years (2023–2025) goes along with the Benefit Sharing Plan and the Decree on Regulations for Forest Carbon Sequestration and Storage Services which will govern carbon credit trading and payment mechanisms. Specifically for LEAF transactions, the Program Operations Manual (POM) and LEAF safeguards guidance have been developed and training delivered, while Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) was piloted and strengthened in LEAF provinces. Viet Nam Forest Fund (VNFF) has built institutional capacity on safeguards implementation & monitoring and is about to finalize its Action plan for managing LEAF credits.

Notably, in the first monitoring period, Viet Nam achieved emission reductions exceeding commitment under the Letter of Intent (LOI), creating an opportunity to consider selling additional carbon credits to LEAF or other buyers aligned with TREES standards. This opens up significant potential for mobilizing REDD+ finance for Viet Nam. In parallel, Viet Nam is assessing NDC financing avenues, including results-based finance, private sector engagement through voluntary carbon markets, as well as Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and other international market mechanisms. Viet Nam aims to officially operate its national carbon market by 2029, following a pilot phase from 2025 to 2028, as stipulated in the revised legal framework under the Environmental Protection Law and Decree 119/2025/NĐ-CP. This market is expected to prioritize high-quality carbon credits, transparency, and integrity, particularly for forest carbon, supported by strong MRV systems and alignment with international standards. These efforts complement the ART/TREES process and position Viet Nam to leverage both international and domestic carbon markets for climate finance.

Country engagement

UN-REDD has served as the dedicated technical assistance provider for TREES conformance, including the key advancements made, and engages closely with VNFOREST, assigned as the REDD+ focal agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE). The Forest Protection and Development Fund (VNFF) was proposed by VNFOREST as the Financial Intermediary (FI), and Emergent has conducted an Internal Capacity Assessment (ICA). UN-REDD is continuing consultations and working closely with VNFOREST and VNFF to fulfil all recommendations from Emergent's Institutional Capacity Assessment (ICA) report. UN-REDD is also supporting stakeholders' consultations at the subnational level, including facilitating communication channels to convey information effectively to local communities as recommended by VVB findings. Close communication is kept with stakeholders and partners, including with Emergent, and with regular exchanges with local embassies (Norway, UK, among others) and other TA providers in the country.

In addition, two new large-scale REDD+ initiatives are starting: (1) the GCF RBP pilot under JICA (SNRM2), expected to be approved by the GCF Board in March 2026, and (2) an IFAD program

beginning in early 2026 that will provide dedicated funding to VNFOREST for REDD+ readiness. Consultations with both programs have been held to ensure complementarity with UN-REDD support. UN-REDD has been requested by VNFOREST to continue providing technical backstopping support while contributing to stakeholder coordination in the country. The status of UN-REDD TA planning and implementation is also being updated regularly with the UNRC. Moving forward, UN-REDD support will also include transitioning from subnational (FCPF/LEAF) programmes to national level crediting and architecture (e.g. through national-level, TREES-compliant NFMS, benefit sharing mechanism, carbon registry, etc.).

Viet Nam will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the AIM4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD’s 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

Overview of ART-TREES

Crediting under TREES 2021 – 2025, covers 11 contiguous provinces in the Central Highlands and South-Central Coast regions: Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Lam Dong. Estimated volume: approximately 9.328 MtCO ₂ eq of ARTTREES credits.		
Milestone	Status	Target
TREES Registration	TRD and TMR submitted to the ART in 2024	ART-TREES Secretariat TRD/TMR approval Q2 2024
Verification & Validation (V&V)	2 nd round of VVB response to be submitted in late March/early Apr 2026	V&V concluded in 2026
TREES credit issuance	ERPA negotiations with Emergent ongoing	ERPA Signed with LEAF in 2026; TREES crediting in late 2026/ early 2027

Risk assessment of TREES delivery

The ERPA negotiation process with the LEAF Coalition and the issuance of forest carbon credits in Vietnam are currently hindered the following risks: 1) regulatory delays in approval of Carbon Decree; and 2) complexities with Safeguards data collection especially on the outcome indicators and conformance plan which need the final decision from GOV.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Data and spatial analysis training, comply with TREES conformance requirements	Strengthen MRV for ART/TREES and NDC reporting; link to domestic carbon market readiness
Evaluation of Emission Reduction Impacts from PFES Implementation	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Stakeholder engagement mechanisms for safeguards are technically supported, and their activities and outputs comply with TREES conformance requirements. This also responds to Verification and Validation Body (VVB) findings to ensure inclusive participation	This includes technical backstopping, consultations to be organized by VNFOREST (through the support from JICA GCF RBPs and IFAD). This work will ensure alignment with the work on benefit-sharing

Deliverables	Remarks
Safeguards Information System (SIS) operationalised, and capacity built on SIS within government	Building on support in 2025
Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) piloted and strengthened in LEAF provinces	Building on support in 2025
2 nd Summary of Information (SOI) finalized and submitted to UNFCCC	
Supplementary protocols developed for integration with the POM (Programme Operations Manual for LEAF), including 'Free, Prior & Informed Consultation' in the Viet Nam context	Aligned with the new carbon decree
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
TREES-compliant Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) finalized	Including an evaluation of REDD+ benefit sharing structure and recommendations for improvement for TREES conformance, taking into consideration the ongoing support provided to the government to develop the forest carbon decree aligned with ICA recommendations for VNFF and ensuring gender and social inclusion. This work will ensure alignment with safeguards elements.
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and ICAO's CORSIA for ART-issued TREES credits advanced	Country-tailored technical and policy support
Promoting high integrity within the standards for forest owners on engaging in carbon markets and promoting a jurisdictional approach	UNDP will provide the HIVCMs toolkit and the nesting experiences in other countries.
A fully functional National Carbon Registry in place to connect the domestic and international carbon finance market, such as ART-TREES.	Linking the National Registry with UNFCCC, Voluntary carbon registries, ITMO platforms
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
TREES credits issued under the VCM, with a portion delivered to LEAF and support provided to market the surplus remaining eligible credits.	UN-REDD's significant support in speeding up VVB process, second monitoring period (2023–2025), to support issuance of credits Along with UNEP, FAO will also support on coordination, and technical and policy advice to the government to scale high integrity carbon markets and REDD+ finance at the national level.
TREES conformance for LEAF ERPA validated and verified	UN-REDD agencies will support legal advice.
VNFF Action plan for LEAF financial intermediary operational and implemented	FAO will support this work by strengthening the M&E system for PFES, including the integration of carbon services
VVB concluded through technical inputs, in addition, training and lessons learned delivered for broader Viet Nam stakeholders, in coordination with ART-TREES	Using <u>Initial lessons and recommendations for the ART-TREES validation and verification process</u> This online learning exchange will benefit additional countries in the region
TREES transactions advanced through strengthened awareness, capacity and overall carbon market literacy of key stakeholders by provinces within the TREES accounting area (This work is anticipated to include increased	Expanding upon safeguards-specific stakeholder engagement, this broader info-sharing deliverable responds to the shared NICFI-UN-REDD observation: that general information sharing on ART/TREES is a need in this country (similar to Nepal)

Deliverables	Remarks
collaboration with the World Bank on the transition of FCPF to TREES).	
TREES transactions, beyond LEAF, facilitated through brokering knowledge and trust between Viet Nam's supply and buyers interested in jurisdictional high integrity REDD+ credits	Regional events jointly organized under UN-REDD. Work will include brokering knowledge and building trust with potential buyers.
Outcome 3: Enhancing Climate Ambition	
<i>Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target</i>	
An improved national database on mangroves in coastal provinces and cities of Viet Nam to support NDC 3.0 implementation and improve access to climate finance, such as ART-TREES, RBPs, CORSIA etc. Support to NDC will also include addressing risks related to the loss of mangroves by recent climate disasters.	Assessment of the national mangrove database completed in 2025 and ensure data are regularly updated with high accuracy and reliability to support the implementation of NDC 3.0 in the LULUCF sector. In addition, technical support on assessing recent loss and damage of mangrove forests, develop a financial mobilization plan for restoration and management.
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.2: Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Traceability, data collection and related finance strengthened to advance deforestation-free commodity production and trade	Supports drivers of deforestation agenda and private sector engagement Benefits from global lessons learnt from other countries.
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
A rapid assessment of land tenure issues in Viet Nam in the context to forest carbon credits and market development Based on the above, a policy paper to provide actionable recommendations on benefit sharing arrangements, with focus on forest carbon credits, based on each specific tenure arrangement	Undertake an assessment focusing on legal clarity of carbon ownership, an intangible asset, within the existing legal framework (Land Law and Forestry Law) as well as diverse existing arrangements over forest and land rights. Including implications and mitigation risks on ethnic minorities and LCs (including whether their land rights should be strengthened). <i>Comprehensive assessment would require additional resources</i> Work will include technical inputs on legal clarity of forest carbon rights in the context of existing tenure arrangements. This will build on the legal assessment done by FAO and the legal framework under ART-TREES.
Scoping land & forest tenure reforms in the context of NDC implementation and in view of the national forest financing framework, with focus on ethnic minorities and local communities	This work, in line with the CoP 30 Forest and Land Tenure pledge, as well as the International Land Tenure Commitment under the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), will build connection to the existing law and arrangements on forest and land rights, including implications for ethnic minorities and local communities. If the scoping is successful with the government, an assessment of forest tenure issues and options with a focus on ethnic minorities, would be conducted.

Zambia

Strategic context

The Government of Zambia's National Green Growth Strategy (2024–2030) provides a framework for climate-compatible, resilient, and inclusive development, to which the UN-REDD programme has been a central contributor through long-term support for REDD+ readiness, including the REDD+ National Strategy, NFMS, FREL (2016, 2011), SIS, SOI and safeguards instruments. This foundation also

positions the programme to address persistent deforestation pressures and climate-related risks through strengthened MRV systems, institutionalised NFMS functions, and enhanced stakeholder coordination at national and subnational levels.

Concomitant to this REDD+ progress, Zambia has also made important developments on its forest policy framework, including a strong commitment to enable decentralised forest governance, through:

- provincial and district forest offices (PFO, DFO)
- formalization of Community Forestry Management Groups (CFMGs) and the recognition of their forest tenure rights.

The policy framework on carbon trade has also evolved including the Forest Carbon Stock Management Regulations (CSM, 2021) the Green Economy and Climate Change Act (GECC Act, 2024) and the Zambia Carbon Market Framework (CMF, 2025) with the key elements for operationalizing carbon market and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement now in place, with several important bilateral Article 6 purchase agreements already signed. These advances are complemented by ongoing efforts to strengthen resilience to macroeconomic and climate shocks, including through district-level forest management planning (e.g. Manyinga DFMP), which supports adaptive land-use practices, sustainable value chains, and reduced pressure on forest resources.

Climate/Carbon finance readiness, Progress on ART-TREES, and Jurisdictions/national level arrangements in Zambia

In 2021, Zambia submitted a national-scale proposal to participate in [LEAF](#), leveraging national REDD+ readiness efforts, which was accepted. However, the identification of buyers was pending evidence of emission reductions against Zambia's FREL, which have not been confirmed by the regular analysis undertaken by the UN-REDD programme since then.

The situation is partially related to the complex economic situation of the country due to several interlinked factors: a sovereign debt crisis in the COVID-19 era, droughts severely reducing agriculture production (2024, 2025), and a major electricity shortage caused by reduced hydropower generation. Together, these pressures have exacerbated the main drivers of forest loss in Zambia—agriculture and charcoal production—thereby making the achievement of emission reductions in the forest sector more challenging and increasing the risk of maladaptation to climate change.

In this context of climate vulnerability, efforts have been focused on enhancing mitigation efforts at the subnational level, with the aim of generating high-integrity jurisdictional-scale emission reductions and enabling future scaling-up at the national level. These efforts – which place particular emphasis on supporting forest communities (CFMGs) and decentralized government institutions as key climate actors- include:

- [REDD+ Jurisdictional programme in Eastern province](#), developed through the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Program (ZIFL-P, 2018-2024), and the Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Program (EP-JSLP, from 2024). The programme - funded by the World Bank's BioCarbon Fund - has recently finalised its first draft Emission Reductions Monitoring Report to be verified by a third -party body.
- [REDD+ Jurisdictional programme in Muchinga province](#), under the Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development ([TRALARD II](#), 2026-2030) of the World Bank. This programme is in design and early implementation stage, and aims to generate high-integrity and ART-TREES compliant emission reductions.
- [REDD+ Jurisdictional programme in North Western province](#). The UN-REDD programme has informed and supported the development of a jurisdictional model of climate action in North Western province, which is the most forested province of the country and hosts the headwaters of the Zambezi river, through:

- 2024-2025. Development of a strong project proposal for consideration by Green Climate Fund (GCF), which unfortunately has not been prioritized and alternative sources of funding are currently being sought.
- 2025. Assessment of Community Forest Management Groups (CFMG) in North Western Province, Zambia. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7952en>
- 2025-2026. Selection and assessment of key forest value chains in North Western province (publication forthcoming)
- 2025. Rural finance assessment in North Western Province, Zambia <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7026en>
- 2025. Finance options to enable community forestry and climate action in North Western province, Zambia <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd6991en>
- 2025-2026. Forest-Climate Business case (publication forthcoming).

In parallel to jurisdictional initiatives, an increasing number of private sector forest carbon initiatives are also being implemented, working with communities in reducing deforestation. Such projects would eventually be “nested” within the provincial program to align carbon accounting. UN-REDD support will primarily focus on supporting the Zambian Government to develop the tools and methods to facilitate the production of high-integrity jurisdictional scale carbon credits that align with Zambia's climate finance expectations effectively completing the building blocks to transition to a national approach.

Both jurisdictional programmes and private forest carbon projects have significantly contributed to the recent registration of many Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs), with more than 400 currently registered, and to the associated formalization of community tenure rights of over 11 million hectares of forest landscapes. In doing so, REDD+ initiatives support national efforts toward decentralised forest governance and community empowerment as forest and climate key actors.

Partially thanks to all these initiatives, recent monitoring shows that, after years of increasing emissions, Zambia is beginning to see declining forest-related emissions at the sub-national level, as evidenced by:

- the ISFL monitoring results in Eastern Province (https://www.biocarbonfund-isfl.org/system/files/2025-12/EPJSLP_1st%20ER_Monitoring%20Report_Dec.%202025_0.pdf).
- Carbon calculations undertaken in 2025 with support from UN-REDD and AIM4Forests indicate a reduction in emissions at both national and subnational scales following a period of increase, with particularly strong signals observed in Muchinga and North-Western Provinces.

Should the Government of Zambia decide to pursue the registration of a jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD+) programme under the ART-TREES standard in either Muchinga or North Western Province, UN-REDD will support the preparation of the required TREES Registration Document (TRD) and the TREES Monitoring Report (TMR). Targeted technical assistance on MRV and safeguards to support the registration process and entry into results-based payment transactions will also be provided.

Overview of ART-TREES

Crediting period: Muchinga crediting period tentatively planned for 2019 – 2023		
Crediting period: North Western province results suggest 2019 – 2023 but this is TBD		
Estimated volume: Muchinga TBD		
Indicative volume: North Western province TBD		
Milestone	Status	Target (2026 year-end)

TREES gaps assessment	Completed in 2024 (AIM4Forests).	In 2026, a gap analysis of Zambia’s national and jurisdictional safeguards framework against ART-TREES is foreseen, and a time-bound action plan to address identified gaps.
CN- Concept note	TBD	For Muchinga province, activity to be led by TRALARD 2 team with inputs from UN-REDD
TRD- TREES registration document	J-REDD programme Muchinga being designed and initiated with the support of the World Bank. J-REDD programme North Western province has been supported by UN-REDD in the last years, and the development of registration documents could potentially be supported by UN-REDD in 2026	Commenced, upon Government’s decision to pursue registration of jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD+) programmes under the ART-TREES standard (already decided for Muchinga Province)
TRM- TREES monitoring report	TBD	For Muchinga province, activity to be led by TRALARD 2 team with inputs from UN-REDD
V&V - Verification & Validation	TBD	For Muchinga province, activity to be led by TRALARD 2 team with inputs from UN-REDD
TREES credit issuance	TBD	For Muchinga province, activity to be led by TRALARD 2 team with inputs from UN-REDD

Risks and uncertainties of TREES milestone delivery

While Zambia is showing promising early results in emission reductions that could support access to climate finance, several manageable risks remain. These risks also present clear opportunities for targeted project interventions to strengthen long-term outcomes:

- Infrastructure development (Lobito Corridor): Increased economic activity may place additional pressure on forest landscapes, including sensitive areas such as headwaters in North Western Province. However, this also presents an opportunity to proactively engage districts and communities in sustainable forest management (SFM), land-use planning, and integrated landscape approaches, ensuring development is aligned with conservation and climate objectives.
- Limited management capacity: Resource constraints may affect effective forest governance and enforcement. Ongoing project support to NFMS, capacity building, and institutional strengthening at multiple levels will help improve management effectiveness and long-term sustainability.
- Political cycle (2026 elections): The upcoming election may temporarily slow decision-making processes. However, the positive policy and institutional momentum developed in recent years provides a strong foundation that can be sustained beyond the election cycle through continued investment, stakeholder alignment, and technical support.

Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) and Zambia

Since 2018, the Government of Zambia committed to recognize local communities, including women and girls, as historical guardians of forests and biodiversity, and essential leaders in the fight against climate change. Zambia’s Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) established under the Forest Act No. 4 of 2015 and operationalized through the Forest (Community Forest Management) Regulations, 2018 (Statutory Instrument No. 66 of 2018), provide a formal mechanism to strengthen community forest tenure rights. These policies and guidelines support the strengthening of forest tenure rights of communities, as a critical step to support their role in conserving forests and biodiversity, and achieving global climate goals.

As highlighted by the 2025 UN-REDD study on CFMGs²¹, strengthening community tenure systems and supporting communities' forest stewardship role is a long-term process, in which continuous technical and financial support is a critical factor, particularly in the early stages. Forest carbon projects are now driving this process in Zambia through the rapid establishment of CFMGs, which has resulted in formalized forest tenure rights for over 400 communities (over 11 million ha of community forests formally registered). The scale of this decentralised recognition of community forest tenure provides a significant opportunity to expand and strengthen community-led forestry for climate action and sustainable local development.

In 2025, UN-REDD initiated a study on the impact of forest carbon projects on local communities, whose initial findings reveal that forest carbon projects are playing a catalytic role in the formalization of community forest tenure rights in Zambia, including the participatory demarcation of community forests boundaries. The study has also identified some vulnerabilities such as:

- Inaccurate forest boundaries: Errors in mapping and limited GIS capacity result in poorly defined and sometimes overlapping community forest areas and registry records.
- Limited understanding of carbon agreements: Communities often lack clarity on the long-term (30–40 year) implications of carbon agreements, including potential restrictions on land use, tenure rights, and autonomy.
- Dependence on external actors: Heavy reliance on project developers and partners can weaken the development of community-led governance and management systems.
- Scale of community forests: Large, aggregated community forest areas (sometimes spanning 50+ villages) can complicate effective governance and decision-making.
- Legal ambiguity: Inconsistencies between forest and carbon market legislation create uncertainty around community tenure rights and the transfer of rights to external actors.
- Limited district capacity: Weak institutional capacity at district level constrains monitoring and enforcement, leading to reliance on project-driven oversight

The study will be finalised and completed in 2026, resulting in the joint development of recommendations to strengthen the contribution of forest carbon initiatives to community tenure security and community-led forest governance and management. Sustained, long-term support will be essential to translate these recommendations into practice, ensuring lasting institutional capacity, effective implementation, and durable community benefits.

2026 UN-REDD TA in Zambia

On the basis of the above and in line with the TA provided in previous years, 2026 UN-REDD TA - including funding from Norway, from the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) and from UK-funded AIM4Forests- will continue supporting Zambia in its efforts to reduce forest emissions and mobilize climate finance, building on strong collaboration with government institutions, country team, catalytic niche, strong partnerships, and with particularly attention to community-led action.

(1) Demonstrate REDD+ results (i.e. Warsaw framework & ART-TREES)

The support to Zambia's NFMS toward delivering quality data for MRV and multiples uses will be channelled through AIM4Forests where the bulk of the support will focus on enabling the required MRV for the successful establishment of an ART-TREES baseline in the Muchinga province. Should it be required both AIM4Forests and UN-REDD will also support similar activities in the North Western

²¹ Lundu, C., Bradley A. & Ruiz-Villar, M. 2025 Community forest management groups in North Western province, Zambia. Assessment report. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7952en>

Province. While support to safeguards strengthening, monitoring and reporting will be undertaken by UN-REDD.

(2) Unlock finance for REDD+ results and accelerating progress to ART-TREES, including through REDD+ jurisdictional programmes towards upscaling mitigation at national level,

- Capacity development to national and sub-national institutions on forest carbon finance options and requirements (e.g. compliance & quasi-regulated markets, ART-TREES, GCF RBP, VCM), conveying benefits and opportunities for informed-decision making.
- Development of the components of TREES registration documents (TRD) to facilitate the registration of Jurisdictional REDD+ programmes (J-REDD+) in Muchinga province -and/or potentially in North Western province -for entry into results-based payment transactions (e.g. ART-TREES).
- Transactions facilitated under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the context of the NBS & the AFOLU sector, particularly REDD+.
- Exploring linkages between ongoing carbon-based initiatives and opportunities under Article 6 and other international carbon markets; assessing requirements and making recommendations to make carbon initiatives alignment with compliance markets under article 6.
- Continue resource mobilization efforts to support a REDD+ Jurisdictional programme in North Western province, grounded on the proposal and studies supported by UN-REDD.

(3) Enhancing mitigation action to achieve REDD+ results, through a jurisdictional model of climate action led by government institutions and forest communities (CFMGs), with focus on:

>> Supporting Government leadership and coordination of REDD+ forest carbon initiatives at national and subnational level:

- Contribution to FD's coordination role of forest carbon initiatives and actors through UN-REDD support to the co-chairing of the Forestry Subsector working group, under the Cooperating Partners Climate change and Environment working group in Zambia
- Institutional capacity development at national and subnational level on MRV, carbon calculations, subnational management plans, and safeguards.
- Continuous legal support to review of the Forest Act, considering NFMS institutionalization, and addressing aspects related to forest/carbon rights and CFMGs.

>>> **Strengthening tenure security and Community-led forest governance and management, and related national engagement and implementation of the ILTC:**

- Advocacy for Zambia's endorsement of the ILTC, taking into account national efforts to strengthen community tenure systems and support community-led forest governance, and the alignment of national policies with the objectives of the ILTC.
- Finalization of the ongoing study on the impact of forest carbon projects on forest communities. The findings of the study will be discussed and validated with all stakeholders, resulting in recommendations to enhance forest carbon project's impact on community tenure systems and community-led forest governance and management.
- Guidelines for the Government and Checklist for communities on forest carbon projects and communities, building on the findings of the study, and reinforcing safeguards. The Guidelines will particularly focus on safeguarding community tenure rights and ensuring that carbon projects are supportive to community-led forest governance and management processes.

- Legal and Policy review and recommended reforms of national legislation on forests and carbon trade to safeguard community forest tenure rights in the long-term, including the review of the Forest Act.
- Calculation of forest carbon emissions by tenure regimes, aiming to assess the climate impact of the recognition of community forest tenure rights in Zambia, and thus advocate for upscaling efforts to expand tenure security and community-led forest governance and management.
- (*preliminary activities, currently proposed under SDC funding and pending approval*) Support to the geospatial demarcation and registration of community lands and forests in a national registry, and support the government in monitoring progress for national and international reporting.

>>Strengthening the forest-water-climate (F-W-C) nexus at both institutional and implementation level, as a critical pathway for addressing Zambia’s climate vulnerability. This integrated approach enhances the role of forests in mitigating climate change, climate-induced droughts and floods, and related impact on food security, agriculture, energy and overall economic resilience. Related UN-REDD TA in 2026 includes:

- Report on the F-W-C study and related modelling supported by UN-REDD in 2024 and 2025
- Brief for communities in forested headwaters.
- Scientific paper to highlight successful use of F-W-C models for the first time in Africa, already presented in several international fora.
- Continuous resources mobilisation efforts for a F-W-C project in North Western province, where the forested headwaters of the Zambezi river are located.

Country engagement

The programme held a series of national, regional, and international consultations between October 2024 and late 2025 to define priorities for 2026. Initial UN-REDD consultations in October 2024 shaped indicative programming for 2026–2030, responding to requests from the Forestry Department for support to strengthen district-level forest management and implementation of REDD+ activities. In May–June 2025, a UNEP UN-REDD mission and ART-TREES training engaged senior government officials, technical working groups, development partners, and local communities to assess Zambia’s needs related to REDD+ integrity, safeguards, and financing options.

Further strategic engagement continued through late 2025, including high-level discussions at FAO Headquarters in Rome, a UN-REDD regional workshop in Lusaka on benefit-sharing mechanisms with international and African partners, and targeted technical workshops on carbon accounting and forest management planning. These engagements, alongside meetings with the British High Commission, the World Bank, and the Forestry Department, informed and concluded with agreement on UN-REDD and AIM4Forests priorities and planning for 2026.

Collaboration with World Bank on J-REDD+ in Muchinga: AIM4Forests provides enhanced forest cover monitoring capacity in Muchinga province, supporting TRALARD 2 project of the World Bank, including improved activity data collection, and safeguards for development of a jurisdictional project. Aside from TRALARD 2, synergies and collaboration with the SCALE and ENABLE projects are also planned.

Co-chairing Forestry Subsector Working group – under Cooperating Partners' Climate Change and Environment working group in Zambia: The UN-REDD team supports donor coordination, engaging with multiple bilateral and multilateral partners (including UK, the EU delegation, Finland, Germany,

the Czech Republic, France, and more) to enhance, coordinate, align, and leverage forestry sector and REDD+ efforts.

Collaboration with UK Land Facility: UN-REDD works alongside this programme to enhance Forestry Department's capacity to manage processes around recognition and monitoring of Community Forestry Management Groups via development of a web-based database/portal designed to capture improved documentation of land tenure, REDD+ activities, and community governance-led forest management planning. Climate Investment Fund project in NW Province: UN-REDD implements complementary activities to this project focused on Zambezi Basin climate resilience, including jurisdictional approaches to community forest management, secured by land tenure, as well as F-W-C activities designed to support water and livelihoods security.

The European Delegation: The EU has signed an EU/Zambia Forest Partnership, under which multiple projects are being implemented and/or developed, often with elements to support tenure-driven community forest management., alignment with potential carbon standards, and livelihood enhancement. UN-REDD works to align activities and advocate for project outputs to align with Zambia's REDD+ strategy.

Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscapes Project: UN-REDD shares information, research and lessons to inform project activities and support progressive collaboration for jurisdictional project implementation.

Agence Française de Développement, GIZ and Czech programming: UN-REDD coordinates closely with bilateral projects, supporting research, implementation modalities, capacity building for FD, and information sharing, particularly with regard to forest livelihoods, forest inventory methodologies, and broader CFMG engagement and support.

SDC: Support from SDC will support Zambia in the formalization, registry and monitoring of community forests and related formalized tenure rights. It is foreseen that this support will facilitate regional and south-south learning on monitoring of community-led forest governance and management.

Zambia will also be supported to measure high-quality activity data, emissions factors, emissions and emissions reductions with policy relevant monitoring systems under the Aim4Forests initiative, related to Output 1.1 of UN-REDD's 2026-2030 Strategy ([See here](#) for more information).

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1. Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Strengthened Institutions and developed capacities on safeguards monitoring and reporting for ART-TREES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By Q4 2026, design and deliver role-specific safeguards training programmes for national REDD+ institutions, technical agencies, and implementing partners (>20 participants). At subnational level, for jurisdictions interested in ART-TREES, conduct at least 2 virtual or in-person trainings on TREES safeguards requirements, with at least 10 subnational participants trained and training materials formally adopted for ongoing use. - Support/facilitate at least one peer learning exchange(s) with countries in the region.
TREES gap assessment completed	The gap assessment will be conducted at national level
Strengthened safeguards for compliance and markets readiness	- By end of Q3 2026, complete a gap analysis of Zambia's national and jurisdictional safeguards

Deliverables	Remarks
	<p>framework against ART-TREES, and produce a time-bound action plan to address identified gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide targeted technical support to address priority gaps in emerging results-based payment (RBP) safeguards requirements, strengthening Zambia's readiness for high-integrity carbon market participation
<p>Enhanced Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By end of Q2 2026, support Zambia's REDD+ team to complete a national safeguards implementation assessment updating the SIS, generating ART-TREES-aligned evidence to inform safeguards reporting and information to support future TREES submissions. - By end of Q2, strengthen the SIS as an integrated safeguards database by aligning indicators, data flows, and documentation requirements to UNFCCC Cancun Safeguards enabling consistent, auditable safeguards reporting across standards in preparation for ART-TREES
<p>Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results</p>	
<p><i>Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance</i></p>	
<p>Capacity development provided to national and sub-national institutions on forest carbon finance requirements (e.g. VCM, compliance & quasi-regulated markets, ART-TREES, GCF RBP).</p> <p>Benefits and opportunities of forest carbon initiatives convened, advocated for and communicated on.</p>	<p>Training will be combined with workshop under 2.4 Synergies with SPAR6C project</p> <p>UN-REDD will support on regulated and voluntary carbon market literacy, capacity development and overall preparedness</p>
<p>Support the development of the components of the documentation to facilitate the registration of Jurisdictional REDD+ programmes (J-REDD+) in Muchinga province -and/or potentially in Northwestern province -for entry into results-based payment transactions (e.g. ART-TREES).</p>	<p>Should the Government of Zambia decide to pursue registration of a jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD+) programme under the ART-TREES standard in either Muchinga or Northwestern Province, UN-REDD will lead the preparation of the required technical and registration documentation, including providing targeted technical assistance on safeguards to support the registration process.</p>
<p>Continue resource mobilization efforts to support a REDD+ Jurisdictional programme in North Western province, grounded on the proposal and studies supported by UN-REDD.</p>	<p>Follow up activity to the feasibility studies undertaken by UN-REDD and the proposal developed for GCF (which has not been prioritized)</p>
<p>Transactions facilitated under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the context of the NBS & the AFOLU sector, particularly REDD+.</p>	
<p><i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i></p>	
<p>Explore linkages between ongoing carbon-based initiatives and opportunities under Article 6 and other international carbon markets; assessing requirements and making recommendations to make carbon initiatives alignment with compliance markets under Article 6.</p>	<p>Synergies with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 4: Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation	
<i>Output 4.1. Forest sector policy and governance changes supported</i>	
Strengthening FD's coordination role of forest carbon initiatives and actors through UN-REDD support to the co-chairing of the Forestry Subsector working group, under the Cooperating Partners Climate change and Environment working group in Zambia, contributing to better leveraging projects' contribution to the forests in Zambia.	Co-chairing Forestry Subsector Working group – under Cooperating Partners Climate change and Environment working group in Zambia, also to achieve
Institutional capacity development at national and subnational level on MRV, carbon calculation, subnational management plans, climate finance options, safeguards	
Continue legal support to review of the Forest Act, considering NFMS institutionalization, and addressing aspects related to forest/carbon rights and CFMGs.	Following on 2025 work
Knowledge sharing on forest value chains in NW province and related business opportunities, and their potential as forest-based solutions to climate change	
<i>Output 4.2. Cross-sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported</i>	
Advocacy for Zambia's endorsement of the ILTC, taking into account Zambia's efforts to strengthen community tenure systems and support community-led forest governance, and the alignment of national policies with the objectives of the ILTC.	
Finalization of the ongoing study on the impact of forest carbon projects on forest communities. The findings of the study will be discussed and validated with all stakeholders, resulting in recommendations to enhance forest carbon project's impact on community tenure systems and community-led forest governance and management.	Follow up of 2025 work
Guidelines for the Government and Checklist for communities on forest carbon projects and communities, building on the findings of the study, and reinforcing safeguards. The Guidelines will particularly focus on safeguarding community tenure rights and ensuring that carbon projects are supportive to community-led forest governance and management processes.	
Legal and Policy review and recommended reforms of national legislation on forests and carbon trade to safeguard community forest tenure rights in the long-term, including the review of the Forest Act.	
Carbon calculation linked to different forest tenure regimes (e.g. community forests, carbon projects, protected areas, game reserves, timber concessions), to inform J-REDD+ programmes and advocate for community-led climate action	The calculation will determine how forest tenure regimes are affecting emission reductions, informing decision making, and potentially advocating for community-led forest governance and implementation of ILTC.
-Report of F-W-C study -Brief for communities in forested headwaters. -Scientific paper to highlight successful use of F-W-C models for the first time in Africa -Continuous resource mobilisation efforts for a F-W-C project in North Western province, where the	Follow up on 2024-2025 activities.

Deliverables	Remarks
forested headwaters of the Zambezi River are located.	
<i>Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported</i>	
Needs assessment to identify the priorities for the development of a Community Forestry Monitoring system (CFMS step 1 to step 7) to understand the impacts of CF on climate action, forests and communities' livelihoods. Building on CFMG database and establishing linkages with the NFMS.	Building on ASEAN region experience. Synergies with FCDO-funded Land Facility's support to Zambian CFMG database and CIFOR-ICRAF CFM study
Guidelines and mechanisms to monitor and improve Community Forestry extent and effectiveness	
Support Community Forestry Management Groups (CFMGs) through capacity development, shared learning, and collaboration with other community groups—within Zambia and/or internationally—to strengthen forest stewardship, local governance and community financial management (e.g. income from carbon projects), develop forest-based value chains, and informed access to forest carbon markets.	CFMG recognition process secure forest tenure rights of forest communities, enabling long-term forest-based climate action. Zambia will be supported to consider joining the ILTC to share its experiences on tenure security through CFMGs processes.
Forest-positive micro and small enterprises, sourcing from community forests, identified and receiving targeted business development support Technical and legal support to the development of the concept for “Public-Private partnerships in Forest Reserves” towards sustainable enterprise development.	Potential synergies with GREAT-TDP, GIZ challenge fund and other facilities for additional micro-project financing
Access to markets improved for selected Community Forest Enterprises (CFE) by stimulating nature-positive off-takers/traders (MSMEs) to open markets for SFEs products.	The activity is led by UNEP but with support from FAO
<i>Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized</i>	
Enabling access to investment and incentives by Community Forestry enterprises through engagement with financiers and appropriate financial instruments.	The activity will be building upon findings and recommendations of studies on access to finance by forest communities in Zambia, supported by UN-REDD22 Support community resource mobilisation.

²² [UN-REDD 2025. Rural finance assessment in North Western Province, Zambia](#); [UN-REDD 2025. Finance options to enable community forestry and climate action in North Western province, Zambia](#)

2. Cross-cutting Elements

A: Social Inclusion & Gender Equality

Rationale

As UN-REDD has seen and experienced first-hand in its support, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, particularly women and youth among them, are key agents of change in the climate & forests front. Their equitable and meaningful participation in REDD+ policies and financial mechanisms – both as partners in REDD+ action and as beneficiaries of financial flows – is vital to both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. No forest solution or REDD+ application will succeed and endure unless the forest guardians - the local stakeholders and the forest rightsholders - fully and effectively participate in defining and implementing policies, partnerships, and financing schemes, and their rights-including tenure rights are upheld. Bringing climate finance directly to communities is vital to achieving lasting forest-climate results and securing land tenure.

As evidence shows from different experiences across the globe, initiatives with the highest environmental performance are also those which often fully integrate a social inclusion and gender approach, wherein local participation is actively and equitably promoted and their leadership encouraged, and their rights are respected. Social inclusion is ultimately about full and effective participation of the diverse stakeholders and rightsholders to forge public policies and implement field actions. Similarly, gender equality involves ensuring that women's, men's and youth's unique experiences and perspectives are equitably integrated into REDD+ actions to enable a more accurate analysis of the problem of forest loss, including identifying the underlying factors at play as well as the solutions needed to address such problems. Social inclusion and gender equality are, thus, complementary work streams and when integrated into REDD+ action, can have multiplier effects in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, wherein they not only have a great impact on promoting conservation, but also in improving the well-being of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, and particularly women and youth among them.

Hence, in addition to ensuring that safeguards are addressed and respected, throughout REDD+ implementation, a broad socially inclusive and gender-responsive approach is required, so that diverse governmental sectors and agencies, civil society actors, development practitioners, the private sector, and development financiers, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, including equitably women and youth among them, work together to devise, implement, and monitor forest solutions from local to national scales to the climate emergency.

In 2026, UN-REDD's crosscutting work on social inclusion and gender will focus on a set of focused strategic deliverables. Based on country and regional demands and needs, this socially inclusive and gender-responsive support will be fully integrated into a range of 2026 UN-REDD services, including within technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, facilitating direct access to and diversifying sources of climate finance, knowledge generation and management, advocacy and communications efforts at country, regional and global levels. In this process, UN-REDD will work across global, regional, national and local levels and in collaboration with a wide array of Indigenous Peoples' and civil society representatives and groups, to continue to fully support a range of demand-driven, forest-climate Indigenous and local solutions.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcomes 1 - 4	
All UN-REDD technical assistance to countries encompasses a social inclusion and gender	UN-REDD agencies will apply a systematic approach for social inclusion and gender equality to all the

Deliverables	Remarks
approach that is compliant with human rights, UN practice and REDD+ safeguards, with UN-REDD gender marker applied, in order to be able to monitor results also for gender	technical assistance provided by UN-REDD, adapted to thematic and geographic circumstances. This deliverable serves all UN-REDD outputs – including notably those under Outcome 2 (Finance for REDD+ results) and with regards to benefit-sharing mechanisms for REDD+ financing (output 1.3). One report on UN-REDD gender marker findings will be published annually.
Outcomes 2 & 4	
Governments and private sector recognize Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, including women, men and youth among them, as equal partners in REDD+ implementation, through capacity building, leveraging the outcomes of UN-REDD's crosscutting work on knowledge management and generation, convening and advocacy.	UN-REDD will adapt information and knowledge products, strengthen existing repositories and conduct capacity building at UNPFII, COPs, climate weeks and online on among others, CBFM, climate finance, carbon markets, deforestation-free production, NDC enhancements for forest community audiences.
Outcome 1.3, 4.3, 4.4	
Direct access for Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities organizations to international climate and forest finance catalysed, including technical assistance for PES and benefit sharing mechanisms designed with and for Indigenous Peoples organizations.	UN-REDD will provide technical assistance to governments, funding platforms, and Indigenous organisations on options and concrete pathways to advance direct access to international climate and forest finance.
Outcome 4.1, 4.3	
Platform operationalized to support partnerships between private sector and Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, in support of the bioeconomy and sustainable use of forests	UN-REDD will provide technical support and convening for private sector and Indigenous partners, generating 5 private sector-IP partnerships and providing technical support via webinars, customized advice and thought pieces in 2026.
Outcome 4.3	
Global efforts to advance the International Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) improved, ensuring leverage of country specific contributions supported through UN-REDD.	UN-REDD will participate in FCLP-led tenure processes at global and country level to promote synergies, expand and leverage of country-level progress. At a country level rightsholder consultations will be conducted to expand country implementation of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment
Outcome 2	
Technical assistance to improve awareness and assess potentials of Social Inclusion and Gender based crediting of UN-REDD countries as complementary to carbon crediting.	UN-REDD will lead the assessment of UN-REDD countries potentials for W+ accreditation, including investment needs by the country and cost benefit analysis, based on relevant experiences from countries/jurisdiction that has received W+ accreditation.

B & C: Knowledge generation and management/ Communications, Advocacy and Convening

Rationale

While global commitments on climate, biodiversity and development are in place, progress on action towards halting and reducing deforestation by 2030. Many forest countries are close to engaging with markets and public finance but still need practical support to translate readiness into clear opportunities, including improved clarity on land tenure, rights and benefit-sharing arrangements. At the same time, buyer governments, corporates and public funders remain cautious due to concerns

around integrity, risk and political acceptability, contributing to misaligned expectations and slower finance flows.

This challenge is unfolding in a changing global context. Forest finance is increasingly shaped by a multipolar landscape, with emerging economies such as China, Brazil and Indonesia playing a larger role as investors and/or agenda-setters. COP30 in Brazil marked important milestones for forests and land use, including the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility and the JREDD Coalition, and reinforced the need for a roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation. Turning this political momentum into sustained finance will require continued coordination, alignment on risk mitigation and advocacy, including with key forest countries, and sustained attention to enabling conditions such as tenure security and inclusive governance.

Therefore in 2026, the Cross-cutting areas of Knowledge Generation and Management; and Communications, Advocacy and Convening will focus on a defined set of activities such as:

- (i) providing practical knowledge that helps countries and markets move from readiness to transactions, while addressing enabling issues such as tenure, safeguards and benefit sharing;
- (ii) convening governments, buyers and institutions to align expectations and unblock engagement on issues around finance, land tenure, implementation; and
- (iii) advancing clear economic and ethical narratives/ advocacy that sustain political and market support for forests.

This work area will frame forests as economic infrastructure and life support systems, while also drawing on faith- and ethics-based perspectives, including through the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI), to reinforce the legitimacy and moral responsibility of keeping forests standing.

In 2026, collaboration with the World Bank, UNFCCC, the Forest Climate Leaders Partnership and other relevant entities aims to advance country engagement on jurisdictional pathways including strengthening land and forest tenure (as per section 2 of this document) and strengthen enabling conditions across initiatives linked to multilateral processes. Collectively, this workstream makes a focused, practical contribution to improving clarity, alignment and confidence in 2026.

2026 Workplan

The tags (i), (ii) and (iii) correspond to the three categories of activities outlined in the rationale: knowledge production, convening, and ethical messaging.

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcomes 1 and 4	
<p>Interfaith Rainforest Initiative activities to strengthen economic and ethical narratives (iii), including engagement with key faith networks particularly Islamic movements, co-organizing a global IRI workshop and participation in relevant global event/s.</p> <p>Outreach and engagement with partners in Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo; coordination with Islamic faith leaders and institutions; engagement with global faith platforms including the Laudato Si Movement</p> <p>Support participation of selected IRI leaders in the IRI global workshop in Indonesia; facilitate workshop session and informal strategy discussions on forest stewardship, tenure and ethical responsibility; documentation of key messages and outcomes.</p> <p>Participation in one or two strategic global policy events including the London Climate Action Week, highlighting faith and Indigenous perspectives on forest protection; support IRI leaders' participation as speakers/moderators; preparation of messaging and communication outputs.</p>	<p>IRI ethical messaging and activities will be embedded within UN-REDD channels and mechanisms to ensure alignment and coherence across outreach and implementation.</p>
Outcome 1, 2, 4, and Output 2.1	

Deliverables	Remarks
<p>Development and dissemination of targeted knowledge and communications products that support countries' transition to transactions (i) and inform market engagement (ii). The products include:</p> <p>V&V Guidance note Provides practical guidance on verification and validation processes to support countries in meeting transaction requirements. Helps clarify expectations for market actors and strengthen confidence in credit quality (i, ii).</p> <p>Investing in JREDD+ briefing note for corporate buyers and investors Outlines investment opportunities, risk considerations, and participation pathways for corporate buyers and investors. Supports informed engagement and alignment of market expectations (ii).</p> <p>The UN REDD Portfolio (data portal) Delivers a centralized, real-time tracking tool for JREDD+ pipelines, credit volumes, and safeguards compliance. Enhances transparency and supports decision-making for both countries and buyers (i, ii).</p> <p>Data/photo story on advancing land-tenure rights Showcases evidence and case studies on advancing tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities (i, iii).</p> <p>Data/ photos stories on W+ Standard Highlights application of the W+ Standard across finance, tenure, and safeguards dimensions for practical use in Costa Rica and Ghana</p> <p>Guidance notes on FPIC, Benefit Sharing, and social and environmental safeguards (SES) and SDGs for High Integrity Carbon Markets – carried over from 2025 Offers practical frameworks to address safeguards and equitable benefit distribution. Supports countries in meeting integrity requirements and strengthening market credibility (i, iii).</p> <p>Technical publication on public expenditure reviews and policy coherence analytical frameworks on Forests. Analyzes fiscal and policy frameworks to improve alignment of public finance with forest outcomes. Informs national strategies to enable sustained REDD+ implementation (i).</p> <p>PES Policy brief and regional sessions Translates evidence into actionable policy options for PES as a national policy instrument to channel REDD+ results-based payments (Costa Rica, Asia and Africa)</p> <p>Action package on “Securing Rights and Sustaining Forests” Provides integrated tools on tenure (including leveraging on role of data), carbon rights, and community forestry to address drivers of deforestation. Supports implementation pathways linking rights-based approaches with market mechanisms (i, iii).</p>	<p>The knowledge products will synthesize and disseminate knowledge generated across different outputs and outcomes of the UN-REDD programme, translating this into practical guidance to support countries in implementing REDD+ and progressing towards results-based actions.</p>
<p>Participation in REDD+ roundtables aligned with output (ii) convening—bringing together governments, buyers and institutions to align expectations and unblock engagement—through targeted engagement in key global and regional platforms, including:</p> <p>Asia/Global Singapore: 18 May (Ecosperity Climate Summit) Monterrey, Mexico: 2-4 June, (IETA Summit) Kigali, Rwanda: Africa carbon markets summit, 12-14 October</p>	<p>Through a demand-side lens, the roundtables will seek to build trust in JREDD and unlock private investment by addressing integrity, risk and political acceptability concerns. The scope and scale of the regional roundtables will be dependent on resource availability.</p>
Outcomes 1 & 2	
<p>Advocacy and support aligned with outputs (ii) convening and (iii) messaging, bringing together key actors while advancing coherent economic and ethical narratives, through engagement in multilateral processes to halt and reverse deforestation, including:</p> <p>strategic support and engagement with FCLP (JREDD coalition, tenure, country packages) (ii, iii)</p>	<p>Throughout 2026 UN-REDD will support the COP30 Presidency (Brazil) in developing the roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and will contribute to implementing other initiatives launched by the</p>

Deliverables	Remarks
<p>support for COP30 Presidency-led roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and coordinate the Plan to Accelerate Action on REDD+ and combatting deforestation (ii, iii)</p> <p>strategic presence at key global events and multilateral processes such as Climate COP31, biodiversity COP, COFO and other relevant events (ii, iii)</p>	<p>Brazilian COP30 Presidency, including the Action Agenda, under which UN-REDD leads the Plan to Accelerate Action on REDD+ and combatting deforestation</p>
Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 4	
<p>Enhanced dissemination infrastructure aligned with output (iii) messaging, advancing clear, consistent narratives to sustain political and market support through:</p> <p>Newsletters – at least six to communicate progress, results, and opportunities to key stakeholders (iii)</p> <p>Website and online knowledge hub (Howspace) update and maintenance to ensure accessible, up-to-date information and resources (iii)</p> <p>Active management of social media channels (LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube) to broaden reach and engagement</p> <p>Targetted social media campaigns on International Days of Women, Rural Women, Forests, and Indigenous Peoples to amplify visibility of forests, rights, and REDD+ outcomes (iii)</p>	
Outcome 4	
<p>Knowledge platform on cross-sectoral solutions to address the underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation & Events on reducing deforestation risk in food security strategies, including regional and virtual exchanges (Output 4.2)</p>	<p>Organized with FSS coalition partners</p>
<p>Policy briefs on tenure - DRC, Congo and Cameroon (Output 4.3)</p>	
<p>Capacities of CFMGs and FD – Carbon Study on Zambia (Output 4.1)</p>	
<p>A guidance document on deforestation-free investments targeting financial institutions in support of redirecting private capital to finance deforestation-free commodities & Analytical framework to systematically compare policy objectives and public expenditure (Output 4.4)</p>	

3. Global and Regional Initiatives

Social Forestry Phase 2

Strategic context

Social forestry is important for climate action because it gives Indigenous Peoples and forest communities stronger roles and incentives in managing forests, helping to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while supporting restoration and sustainable use. It can therefore deliver mitigation, adaptation and livelihood benefits at scale, especially when backed by secure tenure, effective monitoring, and integration into NDCs, BTRs and broader climate and biodiversity frameworks.

In this context the overall objective of SDC support for social forestry under UN-REDD is to scale-up implementation and impacts of social forestry, by enhanced forest management capacities, enhanced investments in SF and access to markets and climate finance, and support through integration in national, regional and global actions for climate, livelihoods and nature.

The work, over a five-year period (2026-2030), has three complementary outcomes and corresponding components, covering Southeast Asia, Africa and global knowledge and cross-regional sharing:

- A. ASEAN: Strengthened capacities and evidence base to achieve impact at scale for social forestry in ASEAN, aligned with Nature-based Solutions' principles, supporting access to markets and finance and informed integration and effective implementation within actions for climate, equitable livelihoods and nature.
- B. Africa: Strengthened social forestry capacities in Africa, building upon previous experience in the region, and utilizing global and regional learning and mechanisms, supporting access to finance and informed integration within actions for climate, improved equitable livelihoods and nature in selected hub countries to inform regional SF work.
- C. Accelerating policy and market uptake for social forestry to scale and sustain biodiversity, climate and equitable livelihood impacts.

Component A: ASEAN

Building on the foundations established under the ongoing ASEAN Social Forestry Initiative, the next phase will focus on scaling impacts through strengthened monitoring systems, improved access to finance and markets, and enhanced policy integration. Implementation will be undertaken in close partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN bodies, including the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), ASEAN Working Group on Forest and Climate Change (AWG-FCC), and collaboration with the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWG-NCB). The work will be implemented at regional level, with focused national engagement in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR.

The Initiative will align closely with ASEAN regional priorities and policy frameworks, including the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan (2026–2030), the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (2025–2030), and relevant AWG Plans of Action. Activities will support implementation of ASEAN Guidelines and Toolkits on social forestry monitoring, Nature-based Solutions, and social forestry enterprise development, while strengthening coordination across ASEAN Member States. A regional advisory or steering mechanism will be established, in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat, to guide implementation and strengthen regional ownership. Additionally, it will build on

various initiatives at national levels, such as NDCs, NBSAPs, to support integration of SF, including through evidence-based decision and policy making.

Partnerships with government agencies, regional bodies, development partners and non-state actors will support capacity development, knowledge exchange and mobilisation of additional finance. The Initiative will also coordinate with complementary regional programmes and financing mechanisms to scale implementation, strengthen social forestry enterprises, and support inclusive participation, including women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This coordinated regional approach aims to strengthen the enabling environment for social forestry and accelerate climate, biodiversity and livelihood outcomes across ASEAN.

Component B: Africa

In Africa, implementation will focus on regional engagement with targeted support in Kenya and Zambia as hub countries. Activities in each country will prioritize different outputs appropriate for each context: monitoring systems, market and capacity development, access to finance and markets, and policy integration. This will be based on consultations with national government agencies, multi/bilateral stakeholders, civil society and the private sector. The approach will build on existing national initiatives, capacities, and priority needs while strengthening regional learning and scaling of SF across the region and continent.

Regional collaboration will be strengthened through engagement with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Forest Forum (AFF). Kenya and Zambia provide strategic entry points for scaling regional work, given their active roles in COMESA and participation in the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). These platforms will support knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and development of regional value chains, while facilitating alignment with broader climate, biodiversity and forest landscape restoration agendas.

During the inception phase (Q3-4 2026), UN-REDD will consult with regional bodies, government agencies and partners to establish coordination arrangements and strengthen synergies with existing initiatives and models. This will build on, where possible, existing national and regional coordination mechanisms to enhance efficiency and sustainability, promote regional ownership and support scaling of social forestry approaches across Africa.

Component C: Policy and market uptake

Component C will focus on influencing policy and market actors so social forestry can scale and sustain biodiversity, climate and livelihood impacts. It will build on proof of concept generated under Components A (ASEAN) and B (Africa), including enterprise incubation pipelines, monitoring systems aligned with climate and biodiversity reporting, policy tools, regional guidelines and catalytic financing mechanisms.

Evidence suggests that the main constraint to scaling social forestry is not the lack of pilots or knowledge products, but whether policy frameworks, financing conditions and investor perceptions enable uptake. This makes policy and investment influence a high-leverage pathway for expanding impact beyond direct implementation in hub countries.

The opportunity is substantial: Africa has around 20 million hectares under community forestry, while ASEAN has more than 15.3 million hectares under social forestry, with targets rising to 27.4 million hectares by 2030. Yet structural barriers remain, including tenure uncertainty, weak performance data, small enterprise scale, uneven business capacity and limited links to sustainable supply chains.

Component C therefore focuses on two areas: strengthening knowledge brokerage and policy influence, and brokering links with finance institutions, investors and market actors to improve access to finance, markets and larger-scale impact.

In 2026, the activities will aim to support the integration of social forestry priorities and data into at least 1-2 national or regional policy processes (e.g. NDC updates, biodiversity strategies), while producing targeted policy briefs and communications to inform decision-making. They will also support at least 3–4 social forestry enterprises to become investment-ready and connect them with suitable finance intermediaries through a structured matchmaking process.

2026 Workplan

Outcome / output	Deliverables	Remarks
Component A (ASEAN)		
Cross cutting	Seek endorsement from relevant ASEAN bodies including ASEAN Working Groups on Forest and Climate Change (AWG-FCC), and Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and ASEAN Senior Officials for Forestry (ASOF)	
Output 1. Enhanced capacities and systems for monitoring to strengthen the evidence base and reporting on the impacts of SF to support its integration into climate and nature conservation initiatives (such as NDCs and NBSAPs), guided by NbS principles.	<p>A1.1. Capacity and System Development Needs Assessment (CDNA) to strengthen social forestry monitoring for climate and nature action and livelihood development in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Lao PDR</p> <p>A1.2 Assist countries in identifying and including specific SF interventions in climate actions in the implementation and reporting of NDCs.</p> <p>A1.2.1 Further development of SF monitoring systems, incl. database development in Cambodia and Lao PDR</p> <p>A1.2.2 Refinement of mitigation contribution of different SF models in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR.</p> <p>A1.2.3 Finalisation of Guideline on development of carbon projects in SF landscapes in Indonesia</p>	
Output 2. Enhanced access to investment, markets and finance capacities for SF, in line with NbS principles and national policies, through integration with climate and nature protection initiatives.	<p>A2.1 Development and finalisation of ‘Blueprint for Accelerating the Business Development of Social Forestry Enterprises in ASEAN’, activities in 2026 include:</p> <p>A2.1.1 Regional Workshop with the AWG-SF to review the Blueprint draft</p> <p>A2.2.1 Finalisation and approval of the Blueprint (and associated policy brief)</p> <p>A2.2.3 Communications activities on the Blueprint (incl. Social media posts, Blog articles and video explainer)</p> <p>A2.2.4 Baseline data and implementation modalities are established for supporting a forest-anchored value chain model for coffee (Indonesia) and for firewood (Cambodia) that can be replicated for other commodities produced in SF areas across ASEAN.</p>	
Output 3. ASEAN’s ambitious regional policy frameworks on integrating NbS in SF are effectively implemented in the AMS.	A3.1 Publication of Regional Guideline and Toolkit to 1) Support the implementation of NbS practices in forestry, incl. social forestry and; 2) Build capacities of AMS to enhance partnership on NbS practices in the AMS linked to the Guideline and Toolkit.	

Outcome / output	Deliverables	Remarks
Component B (Africa)		
Cross cutting	Development of workplan for duration of project, coalescing buy-in from government partners and stakeholders.	
Output 1. Enhanced capacities and systems for monitoring to strengthen the evidence base for SF's impacts on climate action and nature conservation in the selected hub countries	B1.1. CDNA developed in hub countries to identify the priorities for the development of SFMS for understanding the impacts of SF on climate action, nature protection and communities' livelihoods, and support access to investment and informed policy making.	
Output 2. Enhanced access to markets and finance for SF at priority landscapes.	B2.1. CFMGs confirmed to engage in forest business incubators in NWP Zambia	Initiate discussion in view of strengthening or establishing forest business incubators in NWP Zambia (Incubation and business development support, in NWP particularly, will enable improved linkages between supply and existing market demand for SFs' products.)
	B2.3. Key potential investors for local value chains in NWP Zambia identified and discussions initiated with them for potential investment in the zone	Initiate connection with impact investors for investment in specific value chains
	B2.4. Training program on financial literacy in Zambia developed in collaboration with CFMGs	Development and promotion of a comprehensive financial literacy training programme tailored to rural communities needs
Output 3. Regulatory framework for SF programs facilitates effective integration of national climate and nature protection initiatives.	B3.1. Community forests and climate finance and enterprise development in the context of livelihoods, climate and nature action in Africa B3.2. Work together with COMESA to develop regional commitments for scaling forest-based economies aligned with AFOLU sector targets and SDG commitments.	These activities will strengthen regional market development and confidence for investors to innovate in product development, value addition and inclusive business models.
Component C		
Output 1. Knowledge brokerage and policy influence	C1.1 Identify and engage with 1-2 national and regional policy processes (NDC updates and reporting, biodiversity strategies, nature investment plans) where outputs from Components A and B can be integrated. C1.2. Develop 1-2 communication materials such as a policy brief or expert media commentary to provide inputs, via relevant Working Groups in ASEAN and other formal and informal mechanisms in ASEAN and Africa, into the abovementioned policy processes	These engagements aim to achieve specific changes in policy and planning frameworks rather than general awareness raising.
Output 2. Market uptake, investment mobilization and investor matchmaking	C.2.1. Identify suitable finance intermediaries for different types of social forestry actors, broker introductions, and support tenure holders to prepare the documentation, business cases and follow-up engagement needed to access grants, public programmes, incubators and blended finance mechanisms. C.2.2. Select and feature 1-2 enterprise cases from Components A and B that demonstrate viable business models, climate, biodiversity benefits and community impact. The feature could be published	The objective of these activities is to trigger uptake such as inclusion of social forestry enterprises in financing pipelines, pilot investments or integration into supply chains.

Outcome / output	Deliverables	Remarks
	<p>on UN-REDD website and/other relevant communications or advocacy channels.</p> <p>C.2.5. Run a curated forest investment marketplace process (virtual introductions, pipeline reviews, follow-up advisory support) to convert investor interest into transactions, building on UN-REDD's inaugural Asia-Africa Forest Investment Marketplace that took place in Hanoi, Viet Nam in March 2026.</p>	

GREEN for Riau

(Growing Resilience through Emissions Reductions, Community Empowerment and Ecosystem Restoration for a Nurturing Future)

Strategic context

The UK-funded UN-REDD Initiative in Riau Province, called “GREEN For Riau Initiative”, is establishing a subnational, peat-significant jurisdictional REDD+ programme for results-based climate finance. With recent (March 2026) national government approval to use ART-TREES in this pilot province, Riau will serve as a pilot for knowledge generation contributing technical inputs to national discussions on ART-TREES alignment. GREEN for Riau offers significant support to the transition to national level jurisdictional REDD+ implementation. For example, a TREES gap assessment of Riau is intended to contribute to general national level readiness.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcome 1: Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ results	
<i>Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity</i>	
Sub-national FREL developed and aligned with the national FREL to assess potential applicability for future climate finance instruments of relevant REDD+ standard	
Sub-national REDD+ MRV systems established and aligned with the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)	
<i>Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported</i>	
Technical support on all related safeguards documents for sub-national jurisdictional REDD+ program (this includes TREES registration document and TREES Monitoring Report; Project Design Document (PDD)/Dokumen Rancangan Aksi Mitigasi (DRAM); Benefit-Sharing Plan (BSP); Grievance Redress Mechanism System (GRMS); Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).)	
National and sub-national safeguards reporting mechanisms strengthened and aligned with TREES conformance requirements.	Building on UN-REDD's previous support on SIS, this includes coordination with other sub-national jurisdictions - such as Jambi, East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Riau, Papua, Aceh, North Kalimantan - to support the transition to national level TREES conformance, including learnings drawn from the sub-national pilot in Riau Province which have

Deliverables	Remarks
	recently operationalised provincial Safeguards System and aligned it with the national Safeguard Information System. This will build on national-level SIS support provided under the GCF REDD+ RBP programme.
<i>Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized</i>	
REDD+ benefit sharing plan operationalized, using existing practices and structure at national and sub-national level, including refining monitoring & evaluation of benefit sharing, including link to SIS-REDD+	
Institutional and governance capacities built of the domestic financial intermediary, including monitoring frameworks	
Outcome 2: Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results	
<i>Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured</i>	
Article 6 transactions, CORSIA-eligible use, and bilateral engagement for ART-issued TREES credits advanced.	
<i>Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured</i>	
Preparation of the Project Design Document/Dokumen Rancangan Aksi Mitigasi (PDD/DRAM sub-national jurisdictional REDD+ programme) supported, and submitted to the Sistem Registri Nasional Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim (SRN-PPI) for approval	
ART-TREES concept note for sub-national level submitted	

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI)

Strategic context

Advocacy and convening functions serve as critical entry points for influencing how forests are positioned within national priorities and global climate processes. They create space for dialogue, alignment, and coalition-building among governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, helping to translate technical ambition into political and socially supported action. Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) contributes a distinct dimension to this effort by mobilizing interfaith actors as carriers of moral authority and ethical perspective. Unlike traditional stakeholder groups, interfaith leaders operate in a space defined by values, trust, and societal influence, often reaching constituencies that are not directly engaged through policy or technical processes. Their role is not to replace existing governance or rights-based mechanisms, but to reinforce them by shaping the narratives that influence public opinion, political discourse, and collective responsibility.

Within the UN-REDD 2026-30 framework, this contribution is under Cross-cutting Convening and Advocacy, and complementary to ongoing work on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and Outcome 1, which continue to be addressed through dedicated programmatic streams. The added value of IRI lies in its ability to frame forest conservation as an ethical imperative, strengthening the normative case for action and helping to counter competing narratives that may undermine ambition. By bringing forward ethical and values-based perspectives, interfaith engagement can support the creation of an enabling environment in which forest protection is not only technically feasible but also socially endorsed and politically sustained. This is particularly relevant in the current global context,

where competing economic pressures and political dynamics often challenge long-term commitments to forest conservation.

For 2026, UNEP’s engagement with IRI is deliberately focused and strategic. Given the limited level of available resources, the work plan prioritizes a small number of high-impact advocacy and convening moments where interfaith voices can be positioned within key global and regional processes. The objective is not to scale activities across multiple fronts, but to ensure that ethical and moral framing remains visible and relevant within influential policy spaces. This includes participation in selected global platforms and the organization of a dedicated interfaith exchange, designed to strengthen coherence across IRI countries and support the articulation of shared messages. These engagements are expected to reinforce each other, linking internal alignment within the interfaith network to external positioning in global discussions.

2026 Workplan

Deliverables	Remarks
Outcomes 1 and 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRI ethical messaging and activities will be embedded within UN-REDD channels and mechanisms to ensure alignment and coherence across outreach and implementation by co-organizing a global IRI workshop and participation in 2 relevant global events. • Support participation of selected IRI leaders in the IRI global workshop in Indonesia; facilitate workshop session and informal strategy discussions on forest stewardship, tenure and ethical responsibility; documentation of key messages and outcomes • Participation in two strategic global policy events including the UN Forest Forum and the London Climate Action Week , highlighting faith and Indigenous perspectives on forest protection; support IRI leaders’ participation as speakers/moderators; preparation of messaging and communication outputs 	

AIM4Forests Programme

The AIM4Forests Programme contributes to the UN-REDD Programme’s Outcome 1 “Forest Solutions Realized” under its Output 1.4 “Countries enabled to measure high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions with policy-relevant monitoring systems” (2021-2025 Results Framework; output 1.1 in the 2026-2030 Strategy).

Contributing to the achievement of the overall UN-REDD goal (and outcome 1 in the 2026-2030 Strategy), AIM4Forests focuses on the following results areas:

- Countries’ national forest monitoring systems integrate latest technical knowledge as disseminated through open-access learning programmes, leverage innovative platforms and global datasets, and are guided by aligned methodologies to generate reliable data that is accessible to all, ensuring forest mitigation activities are measured, reported and verified with high integrity.
- Forest Communities and Indigenous People are enabled to participate in forest monitoring and MRV for emerging carbon standards through a community of practice that develops and deploys bespoke learning material and showcases IP forest stewardship.
- Countries address technical and institutional gaps in national forest monitoring systems with assistance from AIM4Forests, and informed by a country-led planning process under coordination of the Global Forest Observations Initiative that key technical support providers replicate.

The AIM4Forest 2026 workplan includes eight outputs: Output 1 aims to advance technical innovation through new datasets, innovative tools and platforms, and knowledge is disseminated through open-access learning programmes. Output 2 progresses the alignment of key methodological issues in forest monitoring and MRV, covering a whole range of issues including measurement and reporting, as well as accounting aspects. Output 3 will enable IP&LC participation in forest monitoring and MRV through a collaboration with the International Land Coalition and via an IP-led community of practice. Output 4 includes the Global Forest Observations Initiative's s centred on the GFOI's country-led planning (CLP) process, which accompanies countries in their efforts to strengthen institutional arrangements for forest monitoring. Output 5 delivers country-level technical assistance. Output 6 targets embedding national forest monitoring systems in countries' national institutions, using as an entry point a country's current capacities and its policy objectives. Output 7, AIM4NatureRestoration, sets out to build a global dataset on nature restoration progress. The new output 8 targets putting place the technical components of a digital public infrastructure, and engaging a group of countries for its roll-out to progress towards transparent commodity supply chains

Under output 5, in 2026, a group of 20 countries will be targeted. These include UN-REDD partner counties receiving Technical Assistance (Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Peru, PNG, Uganda, Viet Nam, and Zambia), as well as countries without UN-REDD TA / non-UN-REDD partner countries, namely: Belize, Brazil, Cameroon, Fiji, Nigeria and Philippines. Country workplans have been defined in close consultation with government counterparts, complementing the broad spectrum of UN-REDD TA.

Activities can be grouped into four thematic priorities. Firstly, countries receive support on improving forest monitoring to enable better resource management. For example, Brazil works to update the national forest inventory and PNG to publish forest monitoring results. Secondly, countries work to leverage forest monitoring for measurement, reporting and verification of mitigation results, and thereby as a means to access climate finance. For example, Peru and Guatemala work to report to carbon standards or to the UNFCCC. Thirdly, forest monitoring systems support progress tracking on ecosystem restoration. For example, Peru, Kenya, Brazil and The Philippines aim to advance on this. Fourthly, work focuses on forest monitoring systems that effectively enable deforestation-free commodity production and compliance with consumer-side requirements – the topic of the new output 8. For example, in Cameroon and Viet Nam such activities are included.

The planning and deployment of UN-REDD Technical Assistance – particularly under output 1.1. and 4.2 – builds on and leverages advance in technical innovation generated through AIM4Forests initiative. These innovations are or can be used also to support broader set of UN-REDD countries in enhancing their capacities and in meeting their MRV commitments and objectives through the UN-REDD TA.

Annexes

Annex 1. How UN-REDD Will Accelerate Progress on ART-TREES Milestones

Building on UN-REDD experience with TA for ART-TREES, the Programme is introducing enhancements to existing approaches. We have confidence that these improvements will accelerate progress on achieving TREES milestones in 2026 and beyond. The proposed refinements remain rooted in the UN-REDD approach that aims to achieve country-level ownership of both the broader enabling conditions for forest emissions reductions (i.e., policy reforms, capacity building, governance strengthening, and social inclusion processes) and specific actions that need to be taken to achieve TREES milestones (see below).

Understanding the unique concerns, uncertainties, and decision-making constraints that each country faces across the broader forest and climate finance landscape is essential for making progress on TREES milestones. Without such an understanding, there is a risk of having critical blind spots that will hinder rather than accelerate progress on those milestones. Focusing solely on TREES milestones risks undermining country ownership, institutional durability, and long-term transformational impact.

Carbon market readiness should therefore be embedded within broader policy, governance, and institutional reform pathways, rather than treated as a standalone technical objective. In addition, broader engagement with countries enables UN-REDD to recognize persistent systemic challenges, such as pricing, the need for upfront finance, multiple conditionalities, government capacities, and inherent transactional costs - which UN-REDD addresses in concert with direct TREES TA. UN-REDD's focus on establishing and strengthening countries' own institutions is a fundamental pillar of the Programme's approach. While investing in institutional capacities may take longer, ultimately it lays the foundations for sustained FOLU mitigation results and systemic cross sectoral transformation. This includes arrangements and processes to manage high integrity reporting processes and potential carbon transactions.

Crediting of high-quality supply remains a core focus of UN-REDD technical support for TREES. This is delivered by supporting countries in generating high-integrity emission reductions through robust policy frameworks, durable institutional arrangements, governance systems including land tenure, safeguards, and technical capacity, as such strengthening the enabling conditions required to access appropriate finance options on a level playing field.

UN-REDD, as per UNFCCC and ART/TREES requirements, has supported subnational approaches as an interim measure, and as an opportunity to pilot and build capacities towards ultimate national level accounting and transactions. This is particularly the case in very large federal countries where subnational jurisdictions can be larger, with higher mitigation potential, than many nation states. UN-REDD's technical assistance will support transition to national scale implementation as well as sound nesting of existing subnational initiatives, in line with national frameworks.

There are several countries in the UN-REDD TA portfolio where the governments have requested priority support to mobilise REDD+ RBPs through the GCF, as part of an integrated forest financing strategy, linked to their commitments to the Paris Agreement. Support with REDD+ RBPs is complementary to or serves as a foundation for access to high-integrity carbon markets, such as TREES compliance and LEAF financing. In these cases, the TA approach applied by UN-REDD is to integrate carbon accounting for REDD+ and related safeguards measures towards REDD+ results-based financing, thus serving both the TREES requirements as well as meeting the GCF-REDD+ RBPs eligibility criteria and requirements. This approach allows - for those countries that have an interest - to both seek resources to develop a GCF proposal, as well as advance towards TREES. UN-REDD seeks complementarity among both as part of broader, more robust financing strategies to address deforestation. UN-REDD experience has shown that countries that invest in REDD+ with international climate finance (GCF, GEF) have better capacities and higher prospects of complying with TREES and

accessing high-integrity carbon markets, as UN-REDD partner countries like Costa Rica, Ecuador and Ghana have demonstrated.

UN-REDD will prioritize a policy learning and adaptive management approach, coupled with backstopping throughout the ART cycle of TREES compliance, validation and verification, targeting relevant National government institutions on:

- TREES technical elements (MRV & quantification, safeguards & benefit sharing)
- Legal, economic and financial aspects of ERR rights, ERPAs, and funding/payment/ flow management
- IP&LCs and non-state actor partners on strengthened benefit-sharing, stakeholder engagement and grievance redress

The following practices will be implemented to accelerate progress towards ART-TREES milestones across the UN-REDD portfolio:

A. ART-TREES Milestones:

UN-REDD Programme teams involved in direct support for TREES will identify and maintain fine grain milestones, agreed with country governments, and will provide high level management updates, as described in the sections that follows. The 2026 country work plan section below identifies the TREES milestones that will be the focus of support to each country over the course of the year (i.e., with projected end-of-year TREES milestones). These milestones include finalization of Concept Notes (CNs), TREES Registration Documents (TRDs), and TREES Monitoring Reports (TMRs); initiation of Verification and Validation (V&V); and issuance of credits (listed in ART registry).

UN-REDD has assessed TREES related gaps since the standard was first issued. The nature and scope of gaps have also evolved in line with the multiple exchanges with the ART Secretariat and its growing guidance notes, such as the removals crediting primer issued only last year. In order to accelerate processes moving forward, learning from growing experiences will be strengthened, ensuring that the criteria from both ART Sec and VVB's is readily considered in on-going registration processes. Going forward this will be strengthened in the various aspects of the standard across the portfolio of countries, through systematic gap assessment updates.

Table 1 below presents an overview and an illustration of the UN-REDD Programme's enhanced focus on TREES milestones. The country-specific work plans provide detailed information on the strategic context, including opportunities under ART-TREES, an indication of the engagement strategy for each country, and a detailed table of deliverables under the outcomes and outputs set forth in 2026-2030 UN-REDD Strategy. These preliminary 2026 TREES milestones will be validated and refined with countries during the inception and modified as needed over the course of the year.

Table 1: TREES milestones forecast year-end

Country	2026 aspirational TREES result	
	TREES Milestone	Anticipated Status (year-end)
Costa Rica	Credit issuance	Concluded
Ghana	Credit issuance	Concluded
Viet Nam	Credit issuance	Commenced
Nepal	V&V	Concluded
Papua New Guinea	V&V	Concluded

Country	2026 aspirational TREES result	
	TREES Milestone	Anticipated Status (year-end)
Bhutan	V&V	Commenced
Ecuador	V&V	Commenced
DRC (Tshuapa Province)	TRD/TMR	Concluded
Uganda	TRD/TMR	Concluded
Indonesia (Riau Province)	TRD/TMR	Commenced
Kenya	TRD/TMR	Commenced
Republic of the Congo	TRD/TMR	Commenced
Zambia (Muchinga Province, and potentially North Western province)	TRD/TMR	Commenced

A deeper pipeline of high-integrity JREDD exists and is presented in Table 2, with 2026 milestones aligned to potential progress towards TREES-based transactions post-2026.

B. Table 2: Deeper pipeline of high-integrity JREDD milestones forecast year-end

Country	2026 aspirational TREES-aligned result
Cote d'Ivoire	TREES concept note
Mozambique	TREES concept note
Chile	WFR pillars aligned with TREES requirements
Peru	WFR pillars aligned with TREES requirements
Lao PDR	WFR pillars aligned with TREES requirements
Cambodia	Exploring TREES potential, among the full suite of RBF policy options
Guatemala	Exploring TREES potential, among the full suite of RBF policy options
Mexico (Jalisco, Yucatán, Quintana Roo states)	Exploring TREES potential, among the full suite of RBF policy options

C. Country level coordination:

UN-REDD Country Teams (CT) continue to have dedicated lead agency/experts. For each country, dedicated specific experts and backstopping for specific components have been designated as required. This dedicated team will liaise with country officials leading TREES registration, as well as with other TA providers when active, to assess progress and adjust plans to address emerging risks as needed. Members of the CT engage in regular dialogue with country counterparts to maintain and update diagnostics regarding political economy constraints and risks related to each specific TREES requirement – MRV/quantification, safeguards/benefit sharing, carbon rights/tenure - to enable a more proactive identification of emerging gaps, blind spots, and under-engaged actors. The aim of these interactions is to develop simple, country-owned timelines and action plans clarifying sequencing, and roles and responsibilities that will be regularly updated with support actions to enable country counterparts to take the lead on in-country coordination and follow up on action plans. CTs meet internally on a regular basis to exchange information on progress, identify emerging risks, and adjust technical support accordingly and report to the UN-REDD Management Group as needed (see D below). These exchanges will enable more rapid problem-solving, technical coherence, and effective delivery.

D. Thematic backstopping and risk management:

Country teams are backstopped on each substantive element of TREES (e.g., MRV, safeguards, benefit sharing, ER rights), in addition to key breakthrough topics such as nesting, V&V, and TA coordination. This enables rapid dissemination of emerging challenges, cross-country/region lessons, addressing ART-TREES interpretations, and ensure both consistency and collective technical understanding and also ensures two-way knowledge exchange to/from equivalent global actors. An important enhancement is that regular portfolio reviews at Programme management level will identify countries that are at risk of delay in meeting TREES milestones, for reasons beyond the control or influence of the Programme (see individual country work plans for specific risks). Such portfolio reviews will afford the Programme the flexibility to avoid stranded assets and reallocate resources to countries with higher potential for near-term TREES and tenure results.

E. Streamlined global coordination with key partners:

Regular communication with the ART-TREES Secretariat is another specific enhancement to ensure a consistent understanding of TREES throughout the UN-REDD portfolio. In addition, information on the status and timelines of related processes led by other institutions, such as with the World Bank, Emergent or others, will be considered for alignment and synergies.

F. TA Providers Coordination

Government authorities are the primary counterparts for UN-REDD in providing TREES TA. While it is important to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure synergies and added value, it is the government authorities who will lead, and have the ownership of, the TREES processes.

Nevertheless, with the TA landscape becoming increasingly complex, UN-REDD strives to strengthen the coordination across TA providers in order to increase the traction and impact of support. The UN-REDD Programme is well-positioned and ready to enhance its role, serving as catalyst of TA coordination on an as-needed and as-requested basis. Such coordination can occur at global, regional, and country levels, with an understanding that TA coordination at the country level is the most effective and impactful locus of such support. In a number of countries, UN-REDD has been asked by governments to help with coordination of support. The purpose of TA coordination undertaken by UN-REDD is to optimize the value and impact of TA provided to countries from multiple sources.

Through its convening power, and trusted neutrality, UN-REDD agencies facilitate a coherent, operational and stratified “ecosystem of support” for J-REDD jurisdictions that accelerates crediting, improves integrity, and strengthens country leadership. UN-REDD enables TA providers to collectively address TA needs along the J-REDD value chain – not only in terms of conformance to standards, but also on the V&V process, ERPA legal dimensions, financial intermediary and fund management and reporting functions, stakeholder engagement throughout the J-REDD process. Fulfilling this function optimises ‘niche differentiation’, minimizes competition amongst TA providers and transaction costs for countries, and ultimately accelerates access to carbon markets.

Specifically, we will:

- Support forest countries to lead TA coordination by (i) maintain updated information on progress status, ongoing support and specific outstanding TA gaps, (ii) facilitate engagement of country with TA providers and donors.
- At thematic level, (i) identify technical critical issues that require clarification (ii) actions to ensure common information base and interpretation of standard requirements.

Annex 2. How UN-REDD Will Support Achievement of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment

Strategic context and rationale

Strengthening land and forest tenure remains a foundational requirement for achieving climate and forest objectives, including REDD+ implementation, high integrity carbon finance, and equitable benefit sharing. Across UN-REDD partner countries, unresolved tenure insecurity, overlapping land use regimes, and limited institutional coordination continue to constrain NDC delivery and forest positive investment. Meanwhile, global policy momentum, including the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) and the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, creates new expectations that countries will advance measurable, rights-based tenure reforms.

The 2026 UN-REDD land tenure portfolio responds to this moment through a dual global–national strategy. Global activities focus on providing the platforms, knowledge, and normative guidance that countries need to align with countries endorsement and implementation of the ILTC processes. These include participation in global tenure coordination under the FCLP, production of practitioner-oriented tools (e.g., on tenure formalization, carbon rights, geospatial approaches, and community-based forestry), and the synthesis of lessons to shape policy recommendations and incentives. This global work strengthens coherence across countries, ensures methodological consistency, and leverages country's progress to sustain global political momentum.

National activities translate this global architecture into concrete progress on the ground. In 2026, with UN-REDD support, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo (Republic of the), Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, and Viet Nam, Zambia (Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Indonesia, with carry-over support from 2025) will advance participatory mapping, FPIC processes, collective titling, legal analyses, policy dialogue platforms, conflict resolution mechanisms, and community-led forest management, with the goal of advancing towards recognising and securing land tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. These activities respond to explicit national priorities and to varying degrees of ILTC endorsement or expressed interest. Several countries also show readiness for expanded engagement in 2026, enabled by political commitment and potential for top-up financing.

The portfolio draws on the complementary strengths of the UN-REDD partner agencies. UNDP contributes its leadership on governance, institutional coordination, policy implementation feasibility, safeguards, Indigenous People's engagement, and the enabling conditions that connect tenure reform to broader NDC and forest climate strategies. FAO brings deep technical expertise in community-led forest governance and management (i.e. social and community forestry); land-use systems; responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, with respect to all forms of tenure: public, private, communal, indigenous, customary, and informal; policy and legal reforms to support tenure security; data driven approaches to community tenure formalization at local (e.g. participatory boundary demarcation with geospatial tools), national (e.g. national registries and monitoring systems) and global level (e.g. Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), Global Land Observatory (GLO)). Together, they co-lead global knowledge products and jointly support country interventions, while also dividing labor according to mandate: FAO providing anchors on technical forest and land governance and tenure diagnostics, tools and policy; UNDP leads on policy dialogues, institutional platforms, and integration into climate and development planning.

Complementing these lead agency strengths, UNEP catalyses progress on clarifying tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities through REDD+ safeguards, carbon rights and benefit-sharing support. Collectively, the 2026 interventions reinforce and support countries' ILTC/FCLP commitments, expand the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights, and create the governance and institutional conditions needed for high integrity forest climate action.

They establish a coherent pathway from global political ambition to national level implementation, ensuring that rightsholders are central to climate mitigation and resilience outcomes.

Table 2: Tenure Pledge forecast year-end

Region/Country	ILTC Endorsement (Y/N)	2026 aspirational tenure results	
		Milestone	Status
Costa Rica	Yes	Implementation of legal and policy framework to underpin ILTC commitment strengthened	Commenced (2025 Top up)
Ecuador	Yes	Advancing realization of ILTC commitment	Commenced (2025 top up)
Indonesia	Yes	Advancing realization of ILTC commitment	Commenced (2025 top up)
Colombia	Yes	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
DRC	Yes	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Ghana	Yes	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Peru	No (expressed interest)	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Cambodia	No (expressed interest)	Pre-conditions for ITLC commitment in place	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Ethiopia	No (expressed interest)	Pre-conditions for ITLC commitment in place	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Papua New Guinea	No	Pre-conditions for ITLC commitment in place	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Viet Nam	No	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Zambia	No	Pre-conditions for ITLC commitment in place	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Kenya	No	ILTC opportunities and commitments scoped	To be initiated (2026 TA)
Global	NA	Leveraging UN-REDD country presence and TA to advance ILTC	Commenced (2025 top up)
		Knowledge and lessons from UN-REDD experience to advance ILTC disseminated	To be initiated (2026 TA)