

Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests

Programme specification / UK additional contribution

16 June 2023, revised on 2 May 2025 and 30 July 2026 – for UN-REDD Executive Board

Summary

The Accelerating Innovative Monitoring (AIM) for Forests 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". The funding related to this programme is earmarked and will be recorded in a separate Atlas account). The programme will leverage financial and technical investments under UN-REDD Programme MRV technical assistance work.

AIM4Forests has two specific (initiative-level) Outcomes, fully aligned with the UN-REDD Programme Outcome: a) Greater financial flows for forest countries and communities – through consumer confidence in carbon credits, donor trust in nature restoration progress, and regulators' reliance on forest supply chain information; b) Transformed resource and land management towards reduced deforestation, lower emissions, more effective nature restoration and more sustainable commodity production, and enhanced livelihoods for forest communities.

The AIM for Forests programme is being delivered through the United Nation's (UN) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as lead agency on forest monitoring/MRV within UN-REDD, with funding channelled through UN-REDD (through the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund) as an earmarked contribution.

The FAO Forestry Division, National Forest Monitoring Team is responsible for delivering the programme. A project-level 'Steering Committee' has been set up – with participation of the donor – to oversee implementation with regular meetings and updates. The UK is also a member of the UN-REDD Executive Board.

Programme Activities

The Programme will achieve proposed aims and results through the following outputs:

- (1) Forest data for better management – Technical innovation is advanced through new datasets, innovative tools and platforms, and knowledge is disseminated through open-access learning programmes;
- (2) Forest MRV – Methodological challenges are overcome through targeted and widely disseminated research, enabling high-integrity greenhouse-gas estimation and facilitating access to climate finance and conservation payments.
- (3) Targeted engagement and bespoke materials enable the participation of IPLC in forest monitoring and emerging carbon standards;
- (4) Forest country governments are engaged in Country-Led Planning towards strengthening technical and functional capacity for forest monitoring and embedding forest monitoring systems into national institutions;
- (5) Countries receive forest monitoring technical assistance to address technical and functional capacity gaps within their forest monitoring systems;
- (7) AIM4Nature – Monitoring of nature restoration progress is advanced through a country-driven global dataset based on improved national reporting, ensuring transparent monitoring and KMGBF reporting and thereby enabling the implementation of restoration commitments.
- (8) AIM4Commodities – The technical components of a digital public infrastructure are developed, and a group of countries is engaged for its roll-out to progress towards transparent commodity supply chains.

Governance

The overall UN-REDD Programme governance structure remains unchanged. In addition, a project-level (implementation) Steering Committee will be established for AIM for Forests, which will include representation of the relevant teams within the FAO Forestry Division, UK and other relevant partners (as agreed between FAO and UK). The Steering Committee will meet quarterly to discuss progress, risks, finances, performance, lessons learned, and any other areas as agreed between the Participants for discussion.

Timeline & Budget

In line with the signed Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA), the AIM Programme will run until 31 December 2028, unless UK and FAO (and UN-REDD) agree to extend the end date¹.

Additional contributions of USD 27,590,789² (equalling the contribution of GBP 20,691,000 calculated using March 2026 UN Treasury rate of exchange, net of the 1% AA fee), is reflected in the revised total budget for the initiative of USD 69,174,992, presented in UNSDG Harmonized Categories in the table below.

Row Labels	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
1 Staff and other personnel costs	842,580	3,954,354	4,754,745	6,382,115	6,881,421	6,881,421	6,881,421	6,881,421	43,459,477
2 Supplies, Commodities, Materials	11,261	7,984	24,612	12,846	-	-	-	-	56,703
3 Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	10,651	47,193	27,881	-	60,749	60,749	60,749	60,749	328,720
4 Contractual Services	-	-	259,270	58,000	123	123	123	123	317,763
5 Travel	178,412	1,002,231	1,040,802	852,063	1,015,333	1,015,333	1,015,333	1,015,333	7,134,841
6 Transfers & Grants Counterparts	224,899	854,549	763,461	1,301,202	1,484,677	1,484,677	1,484,677	1,484,677	9,082,820
7 Gen Operating & Other direct costs	47,168	419,046	310,913	610,932	720,285	720,285	720,285	720,285	4,269,201
8 Indirect costs	92,048	439,975	502,718	645,201	711,381	711,381	711,381	711,381	4,525,467
Grand Total	1,407,018	6,725,332	7,684,402	9,862,359	10,873,970	10,873,970	10,873,970	10,873,970	69,174,992

¹ The current UN-REDD MoU covers the period until December 2028 and will be extended accordingly, following standard administrative procedures.

² USD 22,310,255 (Addendum 2) and USD 5,280,534 (Addendum 3), equivalent to GBP 16,731,000 and GBP 3,960,000