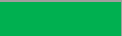


UN-REDD Programme 2026 Semi-Annual Progress Update

This report provides the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board with a narrative update on implementation from 1 January to 30 June 2026, in line with the [UN-REDD Technical Assistance 2026 Integrated Work Plan](#). It presents early results, challenges, and key developments as part of interim progress reporting. Progress is organized by country using a traffic light system. Where activities are delayed or not yet started, further details are provided on the specific challenges and the measures being taken to address them.

	Completed
	On-track
	Delayed
	Not started

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
COUNTRY SUPPORT		
BHUTAN Status: 	- Bhutan has procured a Validation & Verification Body (VVB) to audit the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) Registration Document (TRD) and TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) - Bhutan has made significant progress and, through in-house capacity, the TRD and TMR were approved by the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Secretariat. - Bhutan participated in several regional knowledge events and was supported in connecting with buyers interested in jurisdictional high-integrity REDD+ credits. - Capacity building provided on Summaries of information (SOI) and refinement of national safeguards framework, including through multi-stakeholder working session to draft the 1st SOI for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	The main challenge was funding for the VVB costs, but this was resolved through the government's internal budget.
BOLIVIA Status: 	Advanced the enabling framework for REDD+ implementation and results-based finance through the development of: (i) an analysis of the institutional and regulatory framework to clarify governance roles and competencies for REDD+ according to Supreme Decree 5488; ii) a proposal for REDD+ Action Plan considering the National Planification an institutional-legal framework to be reviewed with the new authorities; and (iii) a financing strategy for selected jurisdictions supported by REDD+ Implementation Cost Estimation Tool, to	Continued political instability remains a key challenge and has affected the pace of implementation and engagement. UN-REDD will continue to maintain inter-agency coordination and targeted technical engagement where feasible, while adapting the timing and scope of support to the evolving national context.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	support resource mobilization and to address the financing gap in the implementation of priority PAMs - Completed the assessment of deforestation drivers and multiple benefits analysis as part of the annexes of the REDD+ Action Plan, providing evidence base to support prioritization of interventions and implementation planning. - Capacities on safeguards were strengthened through Bolivia's participation in the UN-REDD Safeguards Working Group Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), particularly on safeguards approaches for TREES programmes. - Strengthened coordination among government institutions, UN-REDD agencies, and other international organizations through a national workshop that advanced dialogue on REDD+ implementation, subnational processes, and coordination with national priorities - UN-REDD contributed to the High-Level Dialogue "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Unlocking Finance for Bolivia's New Forest Agenda", engaging government representatives, investors and donors on opportunities to scale up forest and climate finance. Through the session "High-Integrity Carbon Markets" and "Jurisdictional REDD+", UN-REDD shared key considerations for structuring high-integrity carbon programs; policy and regulatory frameworks to strengthening enabling conditions for credible carbon finance in Bolivia.	
CAMBODIA Status: 	- REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) Package is finalized and under Government and stakeholder review. - Concept Note (CN) to update National REDD+ Strategy and the Action and Investment Plan are under discussion with the REDD+ Secretariat and MoE - Policy debriefs on the REDD+ nesting pilot completed and under Government and stakeholder review to inform refinement and scale-up of the national nesting system. - Policy dialogues on land tenure are ongoing, with technical engagement focused on strengthening tenure rights for equitable REDD+ implementation. - Indigenous Peoples (IPs) led Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) interventions are being finalized and are under assessment to inform national REDD+ implementation and financing.	- Lack of financing to update the National REDD+ Strategy and its Action and Investment Plan (AIP); UN-REDD and Ministry of Environment (MoE) have agreed to finance the process. - Lack of financing for editorial revision and design of the Nesting Policy Debrief; options are being explored with partners and the consulting team.
CHILE Status: 	- Capacities were strengthened to support the update of the national grievance redress mechanism (GRM), through the delivery of an assessment of the current mechanism design against TREES, World Bank and other relevant international safeguards frameworks, including key recommendations for its update and adjustment. - Capacities on safeguards approaches to TREES were strengthened through Chile's participation in the UN-REDD Programme Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in LAC, particularly on safeguards approaches for TREES programmes.	- The change of administration at the beginning of the year slightly delayed the start of activities. This was largely mitigated through an early UN-REDD mission, which enabled agreement on a detailed technical assistance work plan and the identification of technical focal points for each activity. - While the new administration is fully operational, and National Forestry Corporation's (Corporación

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	• A strengthened Safeguards Information System package, including non-carbon benefits and reporting formats, is currently being planned with government counterparts, and will be delivered in the second half of the year. • A targeted legal gap analysis and options aligning Chile's benefit-sharing system with TREES 3.0 and other high integrity standards is being undertaken and will be completed in Q3. • Technical and institutional capacities strengthened to construct a FREL that it is standard agnostic, including conformance with TREES 3.0. A technical mission is planned for the end of July to training a team of interpreters and work will continue throughout 2026-2027.	Nacional Forestal, CONAF) authorities largely remained unchanged, strategic and resource mobilization priorities for the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático y Recursos Vegetacionales, ENCCRV) post 2026 remain to be clarified. This has caused delays for activities related the finance and resource mobilization strategy, and other legal solutions and governance arrangements. It is consistent with the preliminary nature of the activities. • The modernization of Chile's Sustainable Management and Monitoring System (SMM) and National Reference Emission Level (NREF) remains a priority in the context of the financial sustainability of the ENCCRV. However, the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) team is rather small, overburdened and working at capacity, with progress is often slowed by other MRV commitments under current REDD+ results-based finance streams taking priority (i.e. under the World Bank (WB) / Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) emission reduction programme). UN-REDD is building CONAF's institutional in-house capacities to periodically undertake the improvements to strengthen its SMM and modernize its NREF, ultimately building institutional capacities to navigate MRV processes and requirements under multiples financing opportunities, including through cutting-edge analytical work and technical backstopping, and support in the development of standardized guidelines and procedures required.
COLOMBIA Status: 	• The Government was supported in responding to Constitutional Court Ruling T-248, including through inputs related to the regulation of safeguards applicable to REDD+ projects and programmes, and the development of a methodological framework to inform the design of an operational and aligned benefits distribution system and grievance redress mechanism (GRM), consistent with the ruling, the draft regulatory decree, and	• Limited human resources within the Ministry, the urgency of responding to Constitutional Court Ruling T-248, and the upcoming presidential elections may limit the Government's capacity to advance tasks beyond immediate priorities.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	ongoing safeguards system updates. The National Safeguards System was strengthened through a proposed update to the Safeguards Information System (SIS), aligned with the National Registry of Emission Reductions (RENARE). Government capacities to address emerging integrity requirements were strengthened through active engagement in the UN-REDD Programme Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in LAC, including exchanges on Article 6, TREES and safeguards more broadly.	- A UN-REDD mission at the beginning of the year helped define and prioritize the activities to be completed during the current administration. - UN-REDD participation in the Colombia Carbon Forum and the annual meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force helped incorporate private sector and other key actors' perspectives into the safeguards technical assistance.
COSTA RICA Status: 	- In June 2026, Costa Rica became the first country globally to receive ART-TREES credits for REDD+ removals. ART issued 1,095,881 TREES Credits corresponding to the 2017–2019 monitoring period, following successful validation and verification by an accredited international verification firm. The credits are being purchased through the LEAF Coalition, including 1 million tCO₂e acquired by the Government of Norway, representing an estimated USD 10.9 million in results-based climate finance for forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods. This result demonstrates how Green Climate Fund RBP and UN-REDD support can jointly build the enabling conditions (technical, institutional, and safeguards-related) needed to unlock high-integrity climate finance while ensuring inclusive benefits for Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth - Completed the second monitoring report (2020–2021) (carbon accounting and safeguards). Pending formatting according to the new template for formal submission. - The national safeguards system was strengthened through the development of a proposed set of non-carbon benefit indicators to support reporting to TREES, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund and other relevant frameworks. - Government capacities on REDD+ grievance redress mechanisms were strengthened through three virtual workshops tailored to government staff responsible for the national Information, Feedback and Grievance Mechanism (MIRI, from the Spanish). - Capacities on REDD+ safeguards were strengthened through a virtual presentation delivered during a government-led workshop on socio-environmental safeguards monitoring in Costa Rica, held in May. - The evaluation of Costa Rica's ART-TREES Validation and Verification (V&V) process has been initiated to assess readiness/gaps of the second monitoring report and provide actionable recommendations for the second crediting period. This will also compile relevant lessons learned for other UN-REDD countries pursuing certification under ART/TREES. Final draft and technical review process of the regional publication on emission factors and their linkage with National Forest Inventories (NFIs) completed with contributions from Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, and Costa Rica. Likewise, the results of the	- A key outstanding gap is the identification of funding to cover the validation and verification body for the second monitoring report. - The government transition has delayed the workshop planned for May–June to present the National Timber Traceability System proposal. Engagement with the new Vice Minister is being sought to agree on next steps and continue the process. - The national land tenure workshop to discuss a roadmap for the gap analysis was postponed. UN-REDD support halted until this dialogue could take place.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	second workshop on the conceptualization of Costa Rica's National Timber Traceability System have been documented and countries	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE Status: 	• Development service agreement signed with Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the sustainable-linked financing framework and baseline design activities initiated • Cocoa and Carbon + Initiative aiming to reduce carbon footprint in cocoa value chain launched with the Cocoa and Coffee Council • Comparative study started to identify optimal financing considering both TREES as well as GCF-REDD+ RBPs, for valuation of Pre-Protected Area remaining carbon credits	• The development of a roadmap for the transition from FCPF to TREES compliance is delayed due to delays in the coordination of financing for the process by the different parties involved. While awaiting the release of funds from partners to proceed, the team is advancing preparatory technical work and prioritized stakeholder engagements to ensure immediate rollout once funds become accessible.
DRC Status: 	• The country has substantially advanced strengthening country system: DRC has established its REDD+ Registry, which is integrated with the Safeguards Information System (SIS). The integrated work, led by National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD) ensures safeguards data and carbon information seamlessly flow between both platforms, forming a unified national system. • The work on data collection to inform the SIS, and the SOI have also started although had some delay. • The assessment of the REDD+ implementation in the country is on track and will be completed by Q3 as planned. • Policy and technical support that has culminated in the Carbon markets regulatory framework being approved by the Ministerial Council. • TREES concept note for Haut-Uele Jurisdictional REDD+ project is under formulation. • Demand side actors convened and supported in accessing DRC credits at several events including Ecosperity, Singapore and London Climate Action Week. • NDC 3.0 formulation finalized and approved by the Minister of Environment and in the process for submission to UNFCCC Secretariat • VVB deliverable is currently being prepared in line with the agreed workplan. • GCF Readiness project formulation completed and in the process for submission to GCF Secretariat to support the formulation of the REDD+ RBPs concept note and fully-fledged project proposal. • Strengthened the capacities of the REDD+ Coordination focusing on the key elements of the ART TREES at the request of the CN-REDD, through online training sessions. • Held a workshop focusing on carbon rights and benefit-sharing considering the requirements under section 6 of the ART-TREES concept note/registration document to identify gaps and solutions and progress with its final drafting.	• Inter-institutional coordination remains a challenge, as illustrated by the still unresolved question re. which institution will host the REDD+ registry/SIS. • Uncertainty around the decision of the Government on the crediting period to be considered is hampering progress on the TREES gap assessment, as well as the scope of additional data collection needed on MRV side

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	- Signed two LoAs with the CN-REDD and started their full implementation aiming to develop a gap analysis around the TREES standard vs national approach (methodological, accounting, reporting aspects) update the reference levels accordingly (CN-REDD) and reinforce collection and data measurements in the province of Tshuapa to contribute to the submissions of the related TREES RD. - Organized a coordination meeting with the Country-Led Process (CLP)- Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) to ensure alignment of activities related to the institutionalization of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).	
ECUADOR Status: 	- AENOR submitted the first two deliverables for the ART TREES Validation and Verification process, including the official inception of the assignment and the validated workplan guiding the technical validation process and has commenced the assessment of TREES documentation. - Technical assistance to the MAE to advance the assessment required for updating Ecuador's FREL. - Technical aspects of the MRV, such as the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) documentation and the Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) procedure appendix, have been strengthened. - Continued technical support to the closure of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments project, ensuring that lessons learned inform the next generation of REDD+ and climate finance interventions. - Continued implementation of Indigenous land tenure activities, including completion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in all four participating Shuar Centres. - Land regularization advanced across the four Shuar Centres, with one case submitted to Ministry of Environment (MAE), two field assessments completed, and one remaining under implementation. - Ten multi-stakeholder workshops completed to strengthen the revision of land regularization regulations. - The draft regulatory framework for land regularization in Protected Areas and the National Forest Heritage was further refined through participatory consultations with key stakeholders. - European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) pilot implementation has advanced in the coffee and cocoa value chains through the operational deployment of MonBo and WHISP for traceability and due diligence. Pilot testing with producers and buyers is ongoing, and new commercial partnerships are being established to validate EUDR-compliant supply chains.	- The completion date of the overall ART-TREES validation and verification process is hard to predict, although the process is underway. The final timeline will depend on the findings identified by the VVB during its assessment, the time required to satisfactorily address and close those findings, and the subsequent review by the ART Secretariat. In the interim, UN-REDD continues the targeted support efforts and facilitates the process along the way, particularly when it comes time to address and close the VVB's assessment. - The completion of pending land regularization processes and the finalization of updated land regulations remain challenges. To address these challenges, UN-REDD provided support to accelerate technical and administrative processes, as well as to complete consultations and validate draft regulations. - Scaling traceability beyond pilot areas and strengthening EUDR readiness remain challenges. To address these challenges, UN-REDD supported the expansion of MONBO and WHISP implementation and institutional adoption, while continuing capacity building and technical assistance. - Finalizing the GCF Concept Note and securing financial partners remain challenges. To address these challenges, UN-REDD continued the joint preparation of the GCF Concept Note with MAE and

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	- Completed capacity-building activities on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-FAO Due Diligence Guidance, WHISP, Open Foris Ground and farm-level traceability. - Consolidated the Lavazza– Federación Regional de Asociaciones de Pequeños Cafetaleros Ecológicos del Sur (FAPECAFES) partnership, advancing the commercialization of deforestation-free Ecuadorian coffee in the European market. (5 containers of Ecuadorian deforestation free coffee expected to be shipped in 2026 to Italy) - Enhanced Ecuador's leadership in regional UN-REDD South–South exchanges by showcasing lessons from pilot implementation of deforestation-free coffee, cocoa, and livestock value chains, including advances in traceability and due diligence systems. - The update of Ecuador's REDD+ Action Plan (2026–2030) was initiated, aligning REDD+ priorities with ART/TREES implementation, Results-Based Payments (RBP), and emerging climate finance opportunities. - Priority financing actions were incorporated into the National Forest Strategy Investment Plan to support the mobilization of public and private investment for REDD+ implementation. - The REDD+ Action Plan, the National Forest Strategy, and the design of the GCF sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) finance mechanism were better aligned, contributing to a coherent policy and investment framework. - Inter-institutional coordination between MAE and key national and international partners was enhanced to support the development of the REDD+ Action Plan and implementation of long-term forest and climate finance priorities.	FMO and strengthened engagement with national financial institutions. Completing the REDD+ Action Plan and strengthening policy alignment remain challenges. To address these challenges, UN-REDD supported the acceleration of technical consultations and validation processes, while improving coordination across REDD+, forestry, and climate finance.
ETHIOPIA Status: 	- Public Private AFOLU partnerships for deforestation-free coffee value chains is progressing. UN-REDD is providing technical assistance and co-financing through a Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB)-funded project, in support of Ethiopia's coffee traceability system to incorporate deforestation analysis for EUDR reporting and beyond. Work commenced with Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) in June 2026. - Training workshops in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement are being developed at the national-government level. - Following internal coordination discussions within with Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), EFD has requested that UN-REDD reconsider output 2.1 and prioritize support for activities considered more urgent at this stage. As agreed with EFD in early June, the focus has therefore shifted toward supporting the areas of benefit-sharing mechanism. UN-REDD and EFD are currently discussing the scope and approach for this support. The proposed revised TA aims to help establish the foundations for the development of a national benefit-sharing framework/management plan, or guidelines, that will be developed in the coming years. Support is expected to include: (i) a stakeholder	- The workplan has been shifting to adapt to the evolving regulatory framework in Ethiopia on carbon markets, changing requests from government, and donor priorities (for example, on carbon markets capacity-building and benefit-sharing support for TREES compliance). This has resulted in a few changes to the UN-REDD workplan and shifting priorities for 2026. The country team plans to hold regular coordination meetings to ensure the support across all 3 agencies is coordinated and implemented collaboratively and to share updated information on government priorities. - Despite the shift in the priorities of the government related to Output 2.1 activities, close and frequent communication EFD has enabled the proposed

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	consultation workshop, (ii) technical backstopping, and (iii) recruitment of a national consultant to facilitate consultations and advance the process at the national level. CN of this was developed and further articulation with EFD is ongoing	activity to be articulated efficiently. The concept has progressed rapidly and is currently under discussion, with a draft implementation plan being developed.
GHANA Status: 	• Training sessions on safeguards were conducted by Forestry Commission (FC) Ghana at 10 newly established Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs), with a total of 178 stakeholders from a range of various stakeholders, including from Wildlife Division, District Assemblies, traditional authorities, and HIA Management Boards, etc. • The review of the Safeguards training manual has also started and is ongoing, with input provided by UN-REDD. Robust TREES compliant MRV system designed for the TREES accounting area. • National Forest Inventory design and budget validated through an in-country workshop with the Forestry Commission, and support provided to initiate field data collection with a specific focus on the Northern Savannah Zone. • National consultant on Carbon Trading and Forest Institutional Matters has been recruited and workplan approved with the Forestry Commission, covering on-demand legal and technical support to the Carbon Market Office especially for 6.2; policy review to improve cross-sectoral deforestation-free agriculture policies (EUDR) and support for the implementation of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) pledge. • All the elements were expected to be in place for the country to receive the proceeds from the sale of TREES to the LEAF Coalition, however, there have been a series of delays relating to the verification and validation process with a continuing set of comments related to carbon rights directed from the VVB to Ghana. This entailed significant additional activity for Ghana to undertake stakeholder consultation and engagement in 26 additional hotspot intervention areas (HIAs). Comments were still being received from the VVB in Q2 asking Ghana to demonstrate that safeguard requirements were being applied across all 32 HIAs. These comments were responded to in mid-July and the final verdict is expected from the VVB and with this, it is anticipated that issuance of credits by the ART Secretariat will follow. • Organized global events to support engagement in international carbon markets that Ghana both joined and actively participated to speak to and meet with investors and buyers.	• Despite the great initiative of the Government in providing safeguards trainings on its own, it was agreed that in the future, a closer collaboration/coordination with the UN-REDD during the preparation of the materials for the training sessions would have strengthened their content and impact. • Regarding work that is to be undertaken with LEAF proceeds, including roadmap toward an updated FREL, GRM operationalisation and benefit sharing plan implementation, annual workplan etc. this work can only take place once Ghana has finalised the transfer of credits and funds are received from LEAF. The delays in the VVB process due to additional data and stakeholder consultations being required, have resulted in the non-issuance of the TREES credits for Ghana to date. The last set of comments have been responded to by Ghana in mid-July and it is hoped that the Ghana can be the second country to transact successfully through the LEAF Coalition.
GUATEMALA Status: 	• Delivered technical presentations on the eligibility of major international carbon standards for REDD+ in collaboration with AIM4Forests and facilitated discussions with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), National Forest Institute (INAB) and National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) to inform the country strategic direction. As a	• As Guatemala is moving towards pursuing ART TREES and other potential forest financing schemes, further strengthening of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Safeguards Information System (SIS) are required to ensure

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	results, Guatemala is considering pursuing ART TREES certification for future REDD+ results. - Advanced the development of a coordinated roadmap with MARN, INAB, CONAP, The World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, The Nature Conservancy and other national counterparts to identify institutional contributions and priorities actions required for a future ART TREES submission. - Supported a strategic multi-stakeholder workshop that strengthened Guatemala's capacity to access climate finance for forests and land use, while advancing a shared roadmap to leverage REDD+ Results-Based Payments, high-integrity carbon markets, and other innovative financing mechanisms. The dialogue confirmed the country's strong foundations in REDD+ readiness, identified priority technical gaps to unlock new financing opportunities, and reinforced institutional alignment around a diversified climate finance strategy to support NDC implementation and forest conservation objectives.	timely, accurate and transparent monitoring in line with the TREES 3.0 and other international requirements. This will require close collaboration among national and ongoing AIM4Forests and Country-Led Process to ensure addressing technical gaps strategically. The country needs to accelerate the implementation of its REDD+ strategy in order to scale up its REDD+ results. Collaboration with other institutions, such as the World Bank, IDB and TNC, aims to provide a more comprehensive and strategic approach to the country's climate strategy.
INDONESIA Status: 	- Following a request from the Ministry of Forestry, UN-REDD is providing dedicated support to develop a national nesting framework, building on the ART TREES pilot in Riau province. This includes political and technical work, as well as consultations with key stakeholders, to shape Indonesia's future jurisdictional REDD+ finance policy. In addition, UN-REDD supported the acceleration of the issuance of Minister regulation/Permen 6/2026 and incorporated nesting as one article for Jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD) implementation. - Additional support is provided on Article 6 and corresponding adjustment for REDD+ to enable transaction under for example the bilateral agreement with Japan. - Facilitation with buyers (virtually and in person in Singapore) interested in high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ credits, supporting Indonesia's strategic market engagement. - Related to tenure on customary forests, a national Roadmap and the training syllabus for the technical field verification team were launched by the Minister of Forest 6 June. Technical field verification of the legality for 23 out of 34 indigenous communities in Malinau, North Kalimantan completed in May 2026. - On the sharia-financing for social forestry enterprises, the Tekun Sahabat Mandiri in Boyolali Cooperative from Central Java was the first to sign a sharia financing agreement, with an approved loan of IDR 5 billion (approximately USD 291,000) to be channeled to an estimated 305 members, including 200 women. This is the first cooperative from four who met requirements to become an intermediary to channel Sharia microloans. The total loan proposals from these 4 cooperatives are IDR 65 billion (approximately USD 3.8 million), potentially reaching 6,000 borrowers. - Capacity building for the Ministry of Forestry to introduce spatially explicit forest restoration planning (se.plan) tools, remote sensing technologies, and systematic monitoring frameworks to strengthen evidence-based decision making for watershed,	- Indonesia has made strong progress on REDD+ regulations, but detailed procedures for registry interoperability, authorization, nesting and benefit-sharing are still being finalized. Clarification is needed on how national and subnational systems and data (National Registry System (SRN), SIS, NFMS) connect, and how private projects align with national accounting and safeguards. This is critical support being provided by UN-REDD. - After REDD+ functions were consolidated under Ministry of Forestry (MoF), some safeguards expertise and platforms were not fully transferred, creating gaps in implementation. UN-REDD is providing targeted technical support to operationalize the regulatory framework and to strengthen MoF's safeguards capacity, including through enhancements to the SIS-REDD+ platform.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	forest and mangrove restoration. These tools allow the integration of ecological, social, and economic parameters into restoration planning, addressing gaps in conventional approaches that often rely only on biophysical data. As a result, the Ministry is exploring how se.plan can inform and improve its 10 year Medium Term Plan for Forest and Land Rehabilitation, adapting strategies to local biophysical, socio economic, and ecological conditions. This work also links with the broader monitoring support provided on strengthening Indonesia's SIMONTANA in synergy with AIM4Forest. • Technical assistance and capacity building were also provided to strengthen the role of the Indonesia Environment Fund (IEF) in mobilizing resources for peatland restoration and conservation. In collaboration with IEF, the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, supported the launch of public socialization on the Green Peatland Economy initiative. • Supported a national workshop on forest carbon markets in Jakarta, facilitating dialogue on market development, integrity considerations, and national readiness for carbon market participation.	
KENYA Status: 	• Support to the REDD+ Coordination Unit to improve functionality was provided and the Unit will soon launch a REDD+ dedicated website. Options to use this or the REDD+ Registry for SIS protocol and information gathering will be explored. • UN-REDD supported the development of the FREL (2017-2021) and is awaiting Government feedback on the proposed updates. Kenya has not yet proceeded with submission of the updated FREL while undertaking additional technical review to ensure that the methodology and underlying datasets adequately reflect national circumstances. Current analyses indicate that the potential for emission reductions from avoided deforestation may be limited for the 2022 reporting period, with greater opportunities likely to arise from restoration and removals. • The work on the financial instruments is progressing well with a structure and gap assessment report finalised, stakeholders engaged and a potential pipeline of projects identified. • Direct grants have been disbursed to three groups, and the activities have been completed. An evaluation report is planned for Q3. (Funding through Climate Promise) • Social forest activities will begin now that Swiss funding is available to be disbursed.	• Feedback from the Government of Kenya regarding the proposed updates to the FREL and the approach they intend to take for their ART-TREES submission still pending. During a recent discussion with Kenya Forest Service they indicated that the team is currently focused on a greenhouse gas inventory (GHGI) data collection exercise, which requires additional QA/QC before they make a decision on the way forward. • Kenya is continuing to review the FREL to ensure that it appropriately reflects national circumstances and provides a sufficiently robust basis for future reporting and results-based finance. While the Government considers the deforestation estimates to be robust, it has raised questions as whether the degradation estimates fully capture observed degradation dynamics, informed in part by the findings of an independent study undertaken by a project developer in Kenya. This review has resulted in a temporary pause in the submission process while additional technical evidence is assessed.

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		In parallel, UN-REDD continues to support the Government of Kenya in developing a national restoration monitoring methodology. The proposed approach integrates JazaMiti restoration data into the National Forest Monitoring System to establish a Restoration Monitoring Framework capable of monitoring restoration activities and quantifying carbon removals, representing the current primary area of technical collaboration.
LAO PDR Status: 	- Lao National Safeguards Information System (LNSIS) platform established and reviewed by government and stakeholders, and proposal prepared for testing of subnational data collection. - Outline for 2nd SOI prepared, and reviewed, along with proposed workplan for participatory 2nd SOI development. - Payment for forest Ecosystem Services (PfES) benefit sharing study ongoing, and decree under drafting through consultations with multi-sector stakeholders, and based on learnings from Viet Nam's experience - Coordination with JICA on the GCF REDD+ RBPs, including potential roll out of PfES and future safeguards work.	- The government request and buy-in for PfES is strong. However, support is inevitably fragmented due to the limited funding availability in each of the projects that support PfES. Ensuring cohesion between the different projects in their approach to PfES is critical, and among the main roles of the UN-REDD Programme, technically leading the technical assistance to government in this respect. - Lao government remains active in REDD+ and broader forest carbon initiatives and is looking into future RBP opportunities. On the other hand, deforestation and forest degradation trends remain strong due to competing land uses primarily to feed regional agricultural demand; and higher-integrity trends make RBP opportunities less tangible for Lao PDR.
MEXICO Status: 	- Mexico is at an advanced stage of readiness for ART TREES and high integrity jurisdictional carbon markets. Jalisco, Quintana Roo and Yucatán, have already submitted Concept Notes to ART TREES, building on mature subnational REDD+ strategies, safeguards systems and institutional capacities. These efforts are anchored in a strong national REDD+ framework, robust MRV and safeguards systems, and active coordination led by National Forestry Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR). - UN-REDD is strengthening national and subnational capacities on REDD+ safeguards and TREES requirements through targeted technical assistance to CONAFOR and the states of Jalisco and Yucatán. Support is focused on implementing the updated National Safeguards System reporting framework at the subnational level and strengthening SIS by channeling state-level reporting into the national system. This support included an in-	Key challenges remain at the subnational level, including the need for updated national forest and deforestation monitoring data, clearly defined safeguards reporting frameworks, and dedicated financing to support Verification, Validation and Verification (VVB) processes. Addressing these gaps is critical for states to move from readiness to effective ART TREES registration and transactions. Continued coordination with CONAFOR and subnational counterparts will support the prioritization of technical assistance in line with national and state-level priorities.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	person safeguards workshop and a validation and verification capacity-building session for Jalisco, as well as virtual technical exchanges with Yucatán. • An analysis of emission reductions rights and REDD+ benefit-sharing in Mexico is also underway and is expected to be completed in Q3. • An analysis of opportunities to integrate non-carbon benefits into Mexico's National Safeguards System is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. • A mapping and analysis of priority financing sources identified by CONAFOR was completed, UN-REDD is supporting the implementation of a roadmap aimed at enabling CONAFOR to develop a robust and actionable forest finance strategy. Extensive technical support has been provided to the Government of Mexico in the preparation of a six-year GCF Results-Based Payments Funding Proposal (focused on sustainable forest management and conservation, sustainable livestock production practices, enhance territorial governance). An initial draft of the Funding Proposal and its annexes was prepared and shared with the GCF following a collaborative design process led by CONAFOR in collaboration with Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, SADER), Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT) and the Ministry of Finance. The proposal was also presented to state-level authorities in the seven target states and will continue to be refined through consultations with local stakeholders. • At the regional level, Mexico's experience was showcased through UN-REDD's knowledge exchange series on resilient, sustainable and forest-friendly agri-food value chains. The exchange emphasized the importance of addressing sustainability, traceability and transparency challenges while contributing to food security, livelihoods, economic development and climate goals.	
MOZAMBIQUE Status: 	• Concept Note for submission to the GCF completed • Consultations were held with key stakeholders including Dept of Forests, Dept of Climate and Environment and the National Designated Authority (NDA) Advisory Committee for the validation of CN and on safeguards implementation • Technical assistance for the development of a Summary of Information on Safeguards for submission by the country to the UNFCCC provided. The document is at an advanced stage, awaiting stakeholder validation • Initial consultations have been held on FCPF transition to TREES compliance.	• Delays in feedback from the Green Climate Fund on the concept note might occur. Continuous discussions with regional and national focal points are envisaged.
NEPAL Status: 	• The 1st TREES Monitoring Report (1st TMR) for Nepal LEAF ER Program was submitted and accepted by ART Secretariat to proceed to V&V. • VVB procurement for LEAF TRD and 1st TMR ongoing. • FPIC and local level consultations for LEAF on-going.	• VVB procurement challenges persist, with conditional terms from potential VVB that demand higher budget than currently available. If required, 2027 TA budget for TA to cover additional VV costs

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	- Data collection ongoing to ensure removals following TREES 2.0 accounting rules. - SIS operationalized, including technical support for SIS platform update, and collection and review of SIS data, including from subnational level. - Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in LEAF provinces strengthened, including preparation of guidelines and capacity building conducted at national level and in LEAF provinces. - Sol finalized and submitted to UNFCCC, and Nepali translation finalised. - Capacity on Article 6 and the application of corresponding adjustments in the land-use and forest sector strengthened, noting Nepal's LEAF transaction pathway and future authorization decisions.	will need to be increased. VV costs for the 2nd TMR are still additional. - Work to obtain agreement from private forest owners for government to transfer ERs to LEAF is ongoing but will require further careful navigation to ensure a legitimate approach ensuring buy-in from private owners while avoiding prohibitive investments for the process. - The LEAF FI has yet to be determined by government, and Emergent has not yet delivered the capacity assessment. As a result, support for LEAF FI capacity building is delayed. At the request of REDD IC, UN-REDD will redirect its support to the Forest Development Fund to help build minimum capacity on fund management and safeguards, in close coordination with the FCPF and UK TAP. - Continued coordination with UK TAP will be needed to avoid duplication and ensure that Article 6, safeguards and finance-related support remain coherent.
PERU Status: 	- The National Safeguards System was strengthened through the delivery of a new design document for the Safeguards Information Module (Módulo de Información de Salvaguardas, MIS), including updated indicators, reporting forms, proposed interoperability with the National Mitigation Registry (RENAMI), and provisions to support transparent and inclusive participation. Progress was made in defining the approach to carbon rights and benefit sharing for the Joint Declaration of Intent between Peru and Norway, including preparation of Terms of Reference for a legal expert to support further definition of key arrangements. - Coordination with the Indigenous Peoples' organization "Grupo Perú" was strengthened in relation to the Jurisdictional Indigenous REDD+ TREES Programme, including through engagement at the GCF Task Force annual event in Caquetá, Colombia. - Ministry of Environment's (Ministerio del Ambiente, MINAM) financial inclusion and climate finance architecture was strengthened through the delivery of two design documents, one for the Indigenous Women's Climate Fund and one for the Guarantee Fund under the Framework Law on Climate Change, to support their subsequent regulation and implementation.	- Recent elections and the change of administration may cause delays in some decisions related to activities planned for the second semester. Continued coordination with MINAM and relevant counterparts will be used to adjust sequencing and maintain progress where technical work can advance. Approval of TORs for technical support on the registry was delayed due to changes in the Ministry and complementary work by the EU that was on hold. - Implementation of activities with Indigenous Peoples' organizations progressed more slowly than anticipated due to the agreed sequencing of national processes. Continued coordination among relevant stakeholders will help ensure alignment with the National MRV system and Indigenous Peoples'

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	- There was progress on developing new methodologies under the carbon markets registry, while the Programme waits for the Ministry to approve the TORs shared with them, and complete EU funded work on the registry that will serve as basis for registry work. - Supported MINAM in advancing the national multipurpose MRV roadmap through technical recommendations on the progressive integration of deforestation estimates for the Costa and Sierra biomes, enhanced coordination among MRV-related directorates, and technical guidance for the development of the bilateral protocol under the Peru–Norway Joint Declaration of Intent. - Advanced implementation readiness for Peru's ILTC Roadmap through coordination with MINAM, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario y Riego, MIDAGRI), and the Ministry of Culture, identification of priority support needs, and preparation of ministry-specific work packages and technical assistance arrangements.	jurisdictional REDD+ processes, supporting effective implementation in subsequent phases.
PNG Status: 	- The TREES registration document has been submitted and approved, including update of national emission factors, and the TMR is in final draft, with technical support provided by UN-REDD. - Support was provided to: - further develop the technical REDD+ nesting system design in coordination with the WB - develop the AFOLU section of PNG's 2025 NDC 3.0 under development, ensuring use of most recent data and consistency - assess PNG's market entry opportunities, including its positioning as a High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) country and potential implications for jurisdictional REDD+ transactions. For example, UN-REDD facilitated discussions and connections with buyers, virtually and in person in Singapore, interested in high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ credits, supporting PNG's strategic market engagement.	- Finalization of the TMR and subsequent verification and validation will require sustained technical coordination, including MRV and documentation of safeguards. UN-REDD will continue making efforts for such coordination to be maintained. - One of the main challenges remains uncertainty around buyer preferences and market treatment of HFLD credits, including evolving Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) and Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)-related considerations. UN-REDD will continue supporting PNG through the TMR submission, VVB process, and with market intelligence and buyer engagement.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
REP. OF CONGO Status: 	• Upon request from the REDD+ Secretariat (CN-REDD) Focal Point, a capacity strengthening session on REDD+ Cancun Safeguards and more specifically on TREES standard was provided by UN-REDD safeguards experts on April 7, 2026, during which the UN-REDD safeguards learning journal and other key materials were shared with the participants. The April session was the first of a series (of a total of 4) that will be provided by UN-REDD to the country's key stakeholders in REDD+. The other sessions will take place in the second half of the year (draft for the next session already prepared). • In parallel with the technical assistance provided under the UN-REDD Programme, FAO is implementing a project to strengthen the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in the Republic of Congo. A carbon finance access workshop held in February 2026, building on the synergies between the two initiatives, also contributed to the UN-REDD capacity-building workplan by strengthening capacities on the REDD+ Technical Annex, the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), and the safeguards information required for the preparation of the TREES Concept Note for the Sangha/Likouala jurisdiction. • An activity to update the methodologies used for the National Forest Inventory (NFI) is currently under preparation and is expected to take place in September 2026. The programme would include both theoretical training and a seven-day field mission on the use of Open Foris Arena, an FAO-developed digital platform for the collection and management of forest inventory data, thereby strengthening national capacities for future forest inventories.	• The Government also considers moving from a National TREES approach toward a jurisdictional one, however, no official announcement or commitment for making that happen materialized so far, so it is unsure the country will achieve the objective initially set at the beginning of the year. • The work on the SIS and first SOI, despite good progress initially has stalled: consultations could not take place due to mission orders not issued (related to the Government's reluctance related to the REDD+ agenda on the basis of past experience).
UGANDA Status: 	• Institutional capacity strengthening: the core safeguards team for Uganda was established. Composed of safeguards practitioners from the Ministry of Environment and Water (MWE), this core team has started working hand in hand with the UN-REDD safeguards team. • TREES registration document and TREES monitoring report are advancing, with all sections being iteratively improved from technical Support from UN-REDD. This includes the first draft of Section 6 on ownership rights of TREES credits and the draft of the Monitoring/MRV sections in both documents including the final emission reductions. • The second Summary of Information (SOI) draft is progressing, with draft available that is being improved from technical input from UN-REDD experts. • The work for establishing the country's Safeguards Information System (by updating its technical infrastructure, institutional arrangements, data-sharing protocols, and operational methodologies to ensure effective, transparent, and sustainable functioning) is ongoing despite some delay due to health issues the Consultant leading the work. The work has now resumed and is expected to be completed for the remainder of the year. • The report on Agricultural Policies, Public Expenditure, and Deforestation Dynamics in Uganda: Insights from policy analysis was finalized.	• The iterative review process between the UN-REDD team and the Uganda team still present opportunities for improvement. The establishment of the Core Safeguards Group within the MWE, coupled with UN-REDD's approach of directly strengthening critical sections and documents, is expected to help streamline the review process and reduce delays. • UN-REDD decided to continue implementing the 2026 Uganda work plan while closely monitoring risks arising from the Government's agreement with the East Africa Carbon Company (EACC). To mitigate risks, UN-REDD will maintain the Government of Uganda as its sole counterpart, strengthen inter-agency coordination, monitor developments closely, and reassess its approach if circumstances change.

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	Uganda's REDD+ Registry was launched during a workshop among national and regional government stakeholders and REDD+ project proponents. Stakeholders learned how the registry works – particularly building confidence with project proponents in registering projects; discussed next steps with the Climate Change Department for coordination with a national carbon registry; identified the need for alignment with national MRV and safeguards tracking; and shared feedback and identified gaps before it is operationalized and publicly launched by the end of 2026.	The recent ART TREES v3 release will result in delays with the submission of the registration and monitoring documents. We will need time to adapt to the documentation.
VIETNAM Status: 	- Continued technical support for the development and consultation of the TMR2 including safeguards data collection and ERR calculations - Capacity building and monitoring systems strengthened at subnational level, including Training conducted virtually for five LEAF provinces on Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators. - Social and Environmental Safeguards strengthened, with GRMs strengthened for the LEAF provinces, and SIS data collection protocols prepared for subnational level. - Viet Nam Forest Protection and Development Fund (VNFF) institutional capacity enhanced, with a comprehensive Programme Operations Manual established, including safeguards guidance and procedures for managing LEAF results-based finance. - Substantial technical and coordination support provided to VNFOREST in their 1st and 2nd responses to the VVB for ART-TREES. - Targeted technical inputs provided to the emerging carbon market framework, including the carbon market decree that was endorsed, to align domestic rules with high-integrity voluntary carbon market and jurisdictional REDD+ requirements. - TREES transactions advanced through strengthened awareness, capacity and overall carbon market literacy provided, including support to assess Viet Nam's potential market entry options for the volume of excess credits available for jurisdictional REDD+ transactions. UN-REDD facilitated strategic engagement with prospective buyers of high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ credits, both virtually and through in person meetings in Singapore for Viet Nam to position itself in emerging carbon markets. - Supported Article 6 readiness in Viet Nam through development of the National Registry of Emission Allowances and Carbon Credits (VCRS), designed in line with national regulations and international best practices. The Registry was integrated with the Hanoi Stock Exchange and the Vietnam Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation, creating the digital backbone of Viet Nam's carbon trading platform	- The evolving domestic carbon market framework requires continuous review to maintain alignment between national regulations, LEAF transaction requirements and Article 6 accounting rules; UN-REDD will continue providing technical backstopping, encourage information sharing and coordination among key stakeholders and technical assistance providers, while providing policy advice. - Operational arrangements for safeguards, benefit-sharing and transaction procedures still need to be fully agreed across VNFF, technical agencies and provincial stakeholders; UN-REDD is supporting this through facilitation of stakeholder dialogue, refinement of benefit-sharing and GRM provisions, and integration of safeguards into VNFF's operational tools. - At subnational level, limited ownership and engagement from provinces, insufficient allocation of dedicated staff on safeguards at commune and village levels to support data collection, and constraints in translating national-level guidance into concrete local action. In some cases, direction from VNFOREST alone has not been sufficient to trigger implementation, highlighting the need for stronger leadership and formal directives from provincial authorities to ensure effective uptake.
ZAMBIA Status: 	- TREES gap assessment from the safeguards angle (at national level) was conducted - The work on the national SIS both for the database and for the IT platform development is progressing although despite delays mainly due to lengthy iterations. The SIS IT platform	To minimize the long delay from lengthy iterations in reviewing progress of the SIS database, UN-REDD team adjusted the approach by taking on substantial

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	will be ready soon for beta-testing while the SIS database work continues focusing on gathering safeguards evidence and gaps for all Cancun safeguards items. • Support at the institutional level includes also regular coordination and planning sessions with the National Focal point for Safeguards. Planning includes the upcoming in-person capacity building sessions both at national and jurisdictional level (for Muchinga Province) on TREES standard to take place in Q3 of 2026, but also online sessions to be organized for national level stakeholders (to start in Q3 as well). • Capacity strengthened on forest carbon finance options and requirements (including Article 6) for national and subnational institutions as well as communities, youth, civil society, the private sector and development partners, through joint efforts with AIM4Forests (Intergenerational Zambia dialogue focuses on forest finance, communities and climate action). Activities included youth and community preparation, validation of a study on forest carbon projects, a dialogue on forest-related climate finance and field-based learning. Discussions covered carbon markets, Article 6, MRV systems, safeguards, benefit sharing and the role of community forestry in national climate action. • Following the successful validation of both the MRV Report and the Carbon Calculation Database during the second quarter, technical engagement has continued with the World Bank-supported Jurisdictional REDD+ programme in Muchinga Province. These discussions have focused on aligning the programme with the activity data, methodologies and monitoring approaches developed and piloted in Zambia during 2025, providing the technical foundation required for the preparation of the TREES Registration Documents (TRD). Ongoing technical support is also contributing to the development of province-specific emission factors for both Muchinga and North Western provinces, which will strengthen the technical evidence base for future J-REDD+ registration. Progress towards the development of a potential J-REDD+ programme in North Western Province has been slower than anticipated, and work on the associated registration documentation has therefore progressed at a more limited pace. • Draft investment case summary for timely resource mobilization for REDD+ efforts in light of Lobito Corridor developments underway • Validation workshop successfully held in late Q2 for the “Study on the impact of forest carbon projects on forest communities,” which included review of the policy note and community decision-making checklist to support informed decision making. Post-workshop engagement with stakeholders is ongoing, and interest in the publication is high and particularly relevant to current development of a jurisdictional programme under development in Muchinga Province (Zambia validates new study on forest carbon projects and community forestry)	part of the SIS database development work while the Zambian Government reviews/confirms. • Severe delays on transactions being supported and carbon markets have been experienced due to the difficulty in maintaining communication with the government of Zambia. This work will continue however into the second half of the year.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	Increasing coordinating presence for UN-REDD within Zambia’s Forestry Subsector working group, under the Cooperating Partners Climate change and Environment working group in Zambia. Membership of the group grew in 2026 to include several new bi-lateral partners and organisations. UN-REDD outputs and deliverables are regularly communicated and presented to the working group.	
GREEN for Riau Status: 	- GREEN for Riau was approved as an ART TREES pilot, creating a foundation for scaling jurisdictional REDD+ implementation from subnational to national level, with Regional Strategy for Low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience (STRADA) completed and an ART TREES concept note soon to be submitted. - The multi-stakeholder REDD+ platform has actively engaged provincial and district authorities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society, private sector, academia, media and technical partners. - Provincial capacity was enhanced on STRADA, MRV, safeguards, emissions accounting, benefit sharing and jurisdictional REDD+ requirements, with improved cross sector coordination across forestry, plantations, agriculture, peatland restoration and spatial planning. - A subnational (province) FREL is being developed along with capacity building to the Riau MRV working group. Tools and methods are introduced to local stakeholders while in synergy with National level data and approaches. - Technical work on Riau’s nesting approach progressed, including preparation of a technical and operational nesting paper and coordination among jurisdictions, projects, forest concessions and other stakeholders, informing national level nesting design. - Safeguards and gender-responsive governance advanced through draft FPIC/ Persetujuan Atas Dasar Informasi di Awal Tanpa Paksaan (Indonesia’s FPIC approach, PADIATAPA) guidelines, stakeholder engagement and benefit-sharing plans, an updated Summary of Safeguards for 2025-2026, and strengthening women’s participation in climate and forest governance.	- Alignment with new national regulations, including Presidential Regulation 110/2025 and Ministry of Forestry Regulations 6/2026 and 7/2026, will require ongoing UN-REDD review and adaptation of Riau’s operational guidance so that jurisdictional REDD+ implementation remains compliant and coherent. - As Indonesia’s first implemented ART TREES pilot, GREEN for Riau also demands intensive, day-to-day coordination among national government, Riau Province, technical partners, private sector actors and communities to ensure that MRV, safeguards, accounting and benefit-sharing arrangements remain credible, implementable and allow Riau to function as a robust national jREDD+ scaling model. - Communications and clear messaging are essential to avoid misunderstandings and stakeholder mistrust in REDD+. UN-REDD has therefore prioritised outreach, with examples such as local podcasts, influencer such as religious leaders, showcasing work in national carbon market discussions, and the youth-focused “Aura Kid” video all helping to link technical policy debates to local impacts and public audiences.
AIM4Forests Status: 	- The AIM4Forests programme has worked since 2023 to transform forest monitoring systems. The logframe includes activities to develop tools and platforms, a strong focus on participation and transparency, especially of Indigenous Peoples, and country-level support. There is significant collaboration with the Global Forest Observations Initiative through a Country-Led Planning programme. In the first half of 2026, work fell, broadly, into four thematic categories: - Forest monitoring to advance better resource management; - Measuring, reporting and verification of mitigation results, including emerging support to the Tropical Forest Forever Facility;	- The 2026 work planning process required substantial coordination with country focal points, technical teams, the donor and implementing partners. This included integrating new funding received in 2025, updating the logframe, preparing an activity-level budget, and aligning work planning with related initiatives. - AIM4Forests strengthened coordination with SEPAL and AIM4Commodities, including through joint

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	- Progress monitoring for nature restoration, through AIM4NatuRe; - Forest monitoring to support transparent commodity value chains, including through the emerging AIM4Commodities workstream. - Overall progress for AIM4Forests activities was on track in the first half of 2026. Highlights in the first half of 2026 included the following: - Under the MRV and climate finance workstream, support to the Tropical Forest Forever Facility was added as a new priority for 2026. Global deliverables include TFFF gap assessment country guidance, contributions to the TFFF operations manual, technical inputs on degradation through the GFOI, refined guidance on area estimation, e-learning materials, and a South–South exchange on TFFF methods. - Under AIM4NatuRe, the programme marked one year since its Earth Day 2025 launch and continued supporting countries to strengthen capacities, adopt innovative solutions and build harmonized data systems to track ecosystem restoration progress for transparent reporting against global biodiversity targets. - Progress for work at the country level was also overall “on track”. AIM4Forests developed and updated country workplans for 2026, with 19 country workplans expected to be agreed with the donor for implementation by July 2026. Country support during the period included Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.	Steering Committee discussions with donors and partners. This helped align country work planning, budget planning and technical support across complementary initiatives.
ACADEMY 3.0 Status: 	- The REDD+ Academy continued to make strong progress, with the number of registered participants surpassing 4,300 and user engagement increasing by 75%. - The Social Inclusion and Gender and REDD+ under the UNFCCC journals were launched through a communication campaign, strengthening understanding of gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches to REDD+ among forest stakeholders across the three regions.	
SOCIAL FORESTRY Status: 	- Work progressed in Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR, as well as at the ASEAN regional level, through collaboration with ASEAN bodies, government agencies and strategic partners - First draft databases for social forestry in Cambodia and Lao PDR developed, as part of development of SF monitoring systems. The data for Village Forestry in Lao PDR is being integrated in the updated National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). - Mitigation assessments for social forestry (SF) in Cambodia, Indonesia & Lao PDR enhanced. - Development of “Guideline for carbon projects in SF landscapes in Indonesia” advanced	Despite the many interest and opportunities for SF (e.g. ILTC) there are numerous funding challenges including for governmental and non-governmental partners, highlighting need to invest in partnership and collaboration. SDC support through UN-REDD provides many opportunities for learning and synergies between Asia and Africa. Moreover, being proactive to address, for example, staff

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	Development of “Blueprint for Accelerating the Business Development of Social Forestry Enterprises in ASEAN” completed and submitted to ASEAN bodies for review and endorsement.	changes in focal government agencies is essential to mitigate delays.
CROSS CUTTING ELEMENTS		
Cross-Cutting Element A: Social Inclusion and Gender Equality Status: 	- UN-REDD pilot of the W+ Standard within the GCF-financed Costa Rica REDD+ RBP project was verified in February 2026. Verification results confirmed W+ findings that prior to the project, 56% of women surveyed identified exclusion as “most challenging,” with rural women reporting particularly high levels (68%). Post-project, only 7% of women surveyed rated it as “most challenging,” and many responses moved into intermediate or lower challenge categories. As a result of the project, these W+ results suggest that while exclusionary dynamics persist, women increasingly perceive themselves as having tools, legitimacy, or collective backing to contest or navigate these practices (full W+ results and reports from this project can be found here). - For International Women’s Day (8 March), a social media campaign was developed, in which a Photo Story on UN-REDD piloted efforts on W+ Standard application in Ghana and Costa Rica were featured. - The Social Inclusion and Gender Learning Journal and accompanying micro-learning tools were developed and then launched on Howspace in May, which also included development of blog post and video trailer. - Two gender work planning workshops/meetings with regional teams in LAC and Africa took place in June, to build capacity on the UN-REDD Gender Marker and identify entry points for gender-responsive actions within planned 2026 UN-REDD activities. Such support is also planned for AP region as well. - Regular monthly calls conducted with FCLP to enhance coordination for implementation of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, reporting on the in-country support to advance land-tenure through UN-REDD TA in 13 countries (which includes countries that have not yet endorsed the ILTC, and both FCLP and non-FCLP countries) - The Forest Guardians Invest – as a platform to drive private finance to Indigenous bioeconomy solutions that has been incubated under UN-REDD and other partners like Sacred Forests – continues receiving strong stakeholder support from both IPs and LCs and corporates. Bilateral meetings held and; public convenings, such as during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, indicated the need to consolidate the platform (see below). - On April 22, at UNDP offices in New York, hosted the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, and the Forest Tenure	IPs organizations demand for more support and funding to develop and consolidate the Forest Guardians Invest platform in order to expand their capacities to access private finance for their bioeconomy solutions. This has been raised, for instance, during the recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and at the London Climate Action Week. To address this challenge, UN-REDD devoted additional funding and technical assistance to IPs through the Forest Guardians Invest. In addition, discussions continued with IPs representatives and financiers like Sacred Forests and the P4F to mobilise additional funding to facilitate these financial partnerships for the Indigenous forest bioeconomies

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	Founders Group to discuss the progress of the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment since COP-30, and presented UN-REDD contribution to these efforts. • Sacred Forests continues to support the work of FG Invest. • A new donor confirmed for the Forest Guardians Invest: Amazon Investor Coalition, an NGO focused on developing the bioeconomy across the Amazon basin • Resource mobilization proposals for the Forest Guardians Invest prepared and presented to the UK's Partnership for Forests (P4F) and the Darwin Initiative (others, such as for Adaptation Fund, in development). • Partnership for the Forest Guardians Invest with new Head of Impact of Aveda corporation re-established, and partnerships with Sacred Forests; Rituals Cosmetics and others strengthened • Connected IP communities and organizations with partners such as Sacred Forests, Amazon Investor Coalition, through events and targeted meetings that led to innovative partnerships and new funds channeled to IP organizations. • Organized FG Invest participation in United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), including: ○ Participating in partners Amazon Investor Coalition, Rainforest Foundation US, Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance in a United for the Amazon evening reception and bioeconomy showcase highlighting the role of bioeconomy and bridging Indigenous peoples and private sector ○ Co-designing and co-running a Climate and the Mind: Conscious Capital event at Foundation House featuring Indigenous Peoples speakers, philanthropies, and allies. • The works of the Forest Guardians Invest show there is a growing demand for UN-REDD to support Indigenous and local bioeconomy efforts in forest territories, helping mobilise and channel financial resources for their ecosystem services, supply chains, and cultural assets. Some pioneering business and brands are keen to invest in Indigenous bioeconomy solutions in forest territories, but recognise lacking the experience and mechanisms to build fair and trusted financial partnerships.	
Cross-Cutting Element B: Knowledge Generation and Management Status: 	• Two Learning Journals and accompanying micro-learning tools were developed and launched on Social Inclusion and Gender and REDD+ under the UNFCCC. These knowledge products are designed to strengthen the capacity of policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders, while enhancing understanding of inclusive approaches to REDD+ implementation. • UN-REDD produced campaign packages comprising videos, social media assets, and advocacy cards to support global outreach and engagement during key international observances, including International Women's Day, International Day of Forests, and	• Sustaining active participation across countries with different levels of readiness and institutional capacity remains a challenge. The Working Group will continue to use targeted thematic sessions and practical country examples to keep exchanges focused, relevant and demand driven.

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	World Environment Day. These materials amplified messaging on gender equality, forest conservation, and climate action across target audiences and partner networks. • The Programme also implemented a communications campaign around London Climate Action Week 2026, producing promotional materials and social media content for a series of high-level events on forest finance, climate action, carbon markets, and community-based conservation. The campaign helped raise awareness, drive participation, and showcase UN-REDD's thought leadership on forests, climate, and sustainable development. • In addition, the Programme released three editions of the REDD+ Resource newsletter (Feb, March, May), reaching more than 10,000 UN-REDD stakeholders worldwide. The newsletters served as a key communication and knowledge-sharing channel, providing updates on programme activities, new knowledge products, country progress, events, and emerging developments in REDD+, forest finance, and nature-based climate solutions. • The Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in LAC generated practical learning across countries by enabling peer exchange on emerging safeguards requirements, including how safeguards systems, grievance mechanisms, benefit-sharing arrangements and reporting processes can support access to high-integrity REDD+ finance. • Country capacities were strengthened through targeted thematic sessions, including Thematic Session 3 on safeguards approaches for TREES programmes, with participation from countries including Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and others. • The Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in Africa was launched. Including the participation of 13 African countries and 2 sessions delivered between March and June. • Draft blueprint on national traceability systems and stocktaking report of national traceability systems in Asia-Pacific developed. • Published the technical note Enhanced reporting on forest public expenditure: Outcome of the pilot activity in Latin America, presenting results from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. The enhanced methodology increased identified forest-related public expenditure by an average of 30 percent, helping make investments in forest conservation, restoration and sustainable forest development more visible. The publication was promoted through the article "New FAO technical note shows how better reporting can make forest investments more visible." • Analytical framework linking policy coherence, public expenditure and implementation across agriculture, forestry and other land-use sectors advanced and validated through a multistakeholder workshop in Ghana. Around 40 government, farmer, academic and civil-society representatives contributed to refining the framework. The process was documented in the UN-REDD article "Stakeholders validate analytical framework to enhance forest policy coherence and public expenditure". The lessons from Ghana and	

	HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS	CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
	Uganda (already included in past reporting periods) will inform a practical framework for wider country application. - Spanish and French editions of the UN-REDD “The Solutions-tree: halting deforestation through sustainable agrifood systems transformation” (the Solutions-tree) finalized and released, marking an important step in broadening access to practical knowledge on how to tackle deforestation through systemic shifts in agrifood systems, leveraging the Building Global Capacity on Halting Deforestation and Conversions from Agricultural Commodities (BIG-CHANCE) project. - Joining efforts and leveraging BIG-CHANCE, finalized, released and promoted two certified e-learning courses “Enhancing policy coherence through public expenditure analysis for forests”. The course introduces methods for identifying, classifying and analysing forest-related public expenditure and linking public spending with national forest policies and global climate and biodiversity objectives; and “Agrifood systems solutions for halting deforestation”, providing practical guidance on how agrifood systems transformation can contribute to reducing deforestation, strengthening sustainable supply chains and supporting climate and biodiversity goals. The courses benefit in terms of sustainability, dissemination and impact from being part of the corporate FAO e-learning Academy portfolio, delivered in partnership with multiple universities and knowledge institutions, offering official digital certification upon completion. Both have reached thousands of learners worldwide, strengthening capacities across government, academia and civil society. - Methodology and first drafts developed of key products to guide sustainable commodity production in agriculture–forest frontier landscapes that boost livelihood, sustainability and reduce deforestation with case studies/ deep dives in Cambodia and Ecuador by leveraging FAO regular programme funding and technical expertise. Work will continue towards publication and south-south exchanges through the second semester	
Cross-Cutting Element C: Convening, Advocacy, and Communication Status: 	- Organized, in collaboration with partners, two flagship events during London Climate Action Week: From Forests to Finance and Forests for Climate, Communities and Conservation, to promote high-integrity forest finance and the role of forests in climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development outcomes. UN-REDD has been also contributing at critically important events and sessions related to the FCLP ILTC and facilitated specific JREDD+ working group and plenary discussions. Contributions were also provided at consultations related to the COP30 roadmap for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, highlighting UN-REDD as one of the key programmes to support implementation in tropical forested countries. - Organized a regional exchange under the REDD+ Academy on forest investments in Viet Nam, bringing together representatives from Africa and Asia-Pacific, Small and Medium-	

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	sized Enterprise (SMEs), and investors to strengthen cross-regional learning and promote investment in sustainable forest and land-use initiatives. - Contributed to the delivery of the UNFCCC Global REDD+ Summit (Nairobi) through two events on forest finance and the UN-REDD “Levers and sustainability elements to halt and reverse deforestation: priorities from country experience”, session which captured country practitioners’ priorities for accelerating implementation towards 2030 and used UN-REDD’s Solutions Tree as a shared framework for discussion on governance, sustainable production, finance, monitoring, livelihoods and equity. . Key knowledge products, including REDD+ impact stories and REDD+ Academy resources, to support knowledge exchange and capacity development were also showcased enhancing UN-REDD visibility and prompting strategic dialogues. - Co-hosted, together with the World Bank, a session at Innovate4Climate in Singapore on Deal-ready Carbon Credits: Integrity, Scale and Market Pathways, highlighting approaches to strengthen carbon market integrity and scale high-quality carbon credit generation. - Contributed to the application of knowledge on safeguards, Article 6 and TREES across Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Mexico through country engagement in the Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in Latin America and the Caribbean. - Contributed with clear nature messaging to the Climate Futures APAC Summit 2026. - Supported regional exchange on safeguards, jurisdictional REDD+, and linkages with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement through participation in the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) Latin American Climate Summit in Mexico. - Participated in the Colombia Carbon Forum and the annual meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force, helping to integrate private sector and other stakeholder perspectives into technical assistance on safeguards provided at the country level. - Regional knowledge exchange on safeguards and integrity was strengthened through the UN-REDD Programme Safeguards and Integrity Working Group in LAC, which convened country representatives and technical experts to share experiences on safeguards approaches, Article 6, TREES and high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+. - Webinar series Strengthening governance systems in support of forest carbon markets in Latin America and the Caribbean Article 6, carbon rights & MRV Readiness for Carbon Markets in agrifood systems organized in tandem with the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership and the Platform of Latin American and the Caribbean for Climate Action on Agriculture (PLACA) and first session delivered. The series convene governments and stakeholders from agrifood and forest sectors to align expectations on Article 6 carbon markets, their potential to unlock AFOLU mitigation opportunities, and approaches to ensure environmental and social integrity in high-quality	

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	market mechanisms (Strengthening governance systems in support of forest carbon markets in Latin America and the Caribbean) • Provided technical contributions and supported the facilitation of the International Dialogue on Payment for Environmental Services (PES) - led by the Government of Brazil, and the first of three structured dialogues around core PES challenges and opportunities. The next event is scheduled to take place in Costa Rica in October. • Co-produced with representatives from ten countries in Africa and ten countries in Asia regional roadmaps to decouple agriculture supply chains from deforestation (Addis Action Roadmap; and Asia-Pacific roadmap – currently under publication). The roadmaps were developed bringing together more than 200 participants from 20 countries to strengthen peer learning, facilitate country-to-country exchange, showcase successful approaches, and share practical tools and solutions for sustainable land use and forest-positive agricultural systems. Progressed with the organization of the workshop sessions to develop the Latin America roadmap (Q3-Q4). Such regional roadmaps can inform international efforts and political agenda as well as national forest roadmaps, as a bottom up- country-led and country-owned initiative. • Enhanced knowledge and facilitated dialogues on how to strengthen coordination among the different actors in the cocoa, coffee and livestock value chains and advance towards more resilient, inclusive value chains through a series of three regional webinars “From Farm to consumers” (i) Strengthening deforestation-free coffee value chains; ii) Regional dialogue to strengthen sustainable and deforestation-free cocoa value chainsl iii) challenges and opportunities for sustainable livestock farming in Latin America) reaching 334 participants from 32 countries • Website and online knowledge hub are accessible with up-to-date information: unredd.com and Howspace	