

UN-REDD/ EB intersessional Decision 3/2020

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2021 Workplan and Budget: Technical Assistance (TA) for REDD+ Implementation

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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UN-REDD Programme

2021 Workplan and Budget: Technical Assistance (TA) for REDD+ Implementation

Overview

This document presents the 2021 Workplan and Budget for UN-REDD Programme's Technical Assistance (TA) for REDD+ Implementation. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the 2021 workplan will operate in a transition year, in which the current UN-REDD projects (national programmes and technical assistance to REDD+ implementation) will transition into the new UN-REDD results framework (which is aligned to the Paris Agreement and the new approaches and opportunities for forest solutions). In this sense, this transitional workplan and budget builds on the original (2015) UN-REDD Programme ToR and the priority countries of the 2018-2020 period, while referring to the new UN-REDD Results Framework (2021-2025). This workplan reflects the deliberation of the Executive Board at its 4th meeting in June 2020 and will be reviewed prior to the end of the year, to better align it with worldwide COVID-19 recovery plans and to incorporate insights from an inception process, notably with regards to UN-REDD role in supporting countries access new REDD+ performance finance, notably ART, the new REDD+ market platform with a high social and environmental standard (known as TREES).

Given the disruption and uncertainty caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected long-term planning and resource mobilisation efforts, the Programme will implement in 2021 a costed one-year extension of its 2018-2020 budget for TA for REDD+ Implementation, while the development of a new phase of operations through 2025 (with a view to 2030) continues in parallel.

The 2021 TA for REDD+ Implementation builds on the approved workplan and budget for 2020 while contributing to the results framework for the forthcoming period (2021-2025), which is structured by the following four inter-related outcomes:

1. **Forest solutions realised:** *On-the-ground actions to generate forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality, across countries and jurisdictions*
2. **Forest solutions rewarded:** *Mobilising finance for REDD+ results, including performance-based, finance schemes, emerging carbon markets and private sector's offset commitments*
3. **Forest solutions enhanced:** *Raising ambition and acceleration of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement*
4. **Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions:** *Deploying a global, transformative nature-based solution (NBS) movement to accelerate climate action.*

The 2021 Workplan and Budget, presented in narrative form below and with more detail in the annexes, covers the technical assistance and knowledge management support that will be provided by the UN-REDD Team over the coming year, with some indicative activities that can be anticipated now. It is presented through the following sections:

1. Country Support
2. Knowledge Management
3. Budget

Some general features and considerations follow beforehand:

TA 2020. For the TA 2020 to be completed, the UN-REDD Programme is adjusting implementation methods to continue to deliver support through virtual means, thus trying to keep the pace for ongoing REDD+ processes at country level and achieve the planned milestones. Through continuous adaptive management and the use of digital means, the UN-REDD Programme expects to deliver a significant part of the 2020 workplan, while acknowledging that some activities will be delayed or may even have to be postponed and completed in early 2021. In this sense, the inception process on the 2021 Workplan and Budget will be critical to examine and conciliate uncompleted TA 2020 tasks, TA 2021 plans and COVID-19 recovery alignments, and identify any possible carry-forward of activities and budget from 2020 to 2021.

Gender mainstreaming. UN-REDD will continue to systematically integrate gender equality and women's empowerment concepts across its technical support at local, national, regional and global levels, including in COVID-19 recovery efforts. To measure such commitment, the Programme will continue employing its [Gender Marker Rating System](#), which allows to comprehensively track and monitor the gender responsiveness of its support across the different outcomes, outputs, country streams and knowledge topics, as well as to identify any lessons learned and good practices for replication.

Inception process. The present workplan comprises activities that may be complemented or amended through discussions with governments and other partners, and as agreed by relevant agencies, during the inception process.

1. Country Support (Realising, rewarding and enhancing forest solutions / Outcomes 1-3)

Country support remains the key feature of the UN-REDD Programme. With the COVID-19 outbreak at the beginning of 2020, UN-REDD is in the process of assessing the implications for delivery of the approved 2020 TA to countries, which may affect the 2021 workplans (this will be reassessed at the end of 2020).

For the time being, the UN-REDD team assumes that in 2021 the Programme will continue supporting most of the countries as in the previous period 2018-2020 (see Annex I for tentative country plans for 2021), while making effective use of emerging opportunities to prepare countries for ART/TREES and the new, high-resolution satellite data being procured by NICFI. The UN-REDD Team is currently carrying out an inception analysis to calibrate the optimal deployment of technical assistance to partner countries over the next years. In particular, UN-REDD is scoping priority support to countries that may access ART/TREES, and meet high REDD+ standards, with a view to demonstrate the feasibility of high-standard REDD+ performance payments during the next UNFCCC CoP, as Article 6 of the Paris Agreement advances implementation details.

The planning process for country support in 2021 will contribute to the new UN-REDD Results Framework 2021-2025 (notably with regards to its outcomes 1, 2 and 3, listed below).

Over the last five years, there have been steady improvements in the quality and integrity of submissions to the UNFCCC for the measurement, reporting and verification of REDD+ results ([FAO 2019](#)). Building on this progress, there is scope to further improve data quality, reduce uncertainties and strengthen technical capacity. In combination with targeted capacity development, a catalyst for advancing the integrity of REDD+ results reporting has been FAO's [Open Foris](#) and [SEPAL](#) platforms. NICFI is procuring high resolution imagery for tropical countries around the globe, which can provide a novel basis to support REDD+ applications such as map creation with direct change detection and

Sample-Based Area Estimation (SAE). Targeted technical assistance related to forest monitoring systems and MRV will enable countries to make use of such tools and the improved geospatial data, and advance institutionalization of national forest monitoring systems.

Outcome 1. Forest Solutions Realised

UN-REDD will support country actions to generate forest-based GHG emission reductions and enhanced removals, of increasing quality (accuracy, certainty and permanence). In particular, the 2021 workplan and budget will cater for the following deliverables:

- Implementing REDD+ investment plans and programmes at country level to deliver their NDCs in terms of REDD+ results, and thus enable them to access international carbon financing, more specifically ART/TREES
- Support countries to develop deforestation-free commodity supply chains
- Measuring high-quality and accurate activity data, emission factors, emissions and emission reductions
- Support applications of innovative technical solutions (Open Foris and SEPAL) and NICFI high resolution imagery for generating high-quality activity data and REDD+ results reports
- Support countries addressing, respecting, monitoring and reporting safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions

Outcome 2. Forest Solutions Rewarded

UN-REDD will support countries to qualify for and access performance-based finance schemes and carbon markets for their high-quality REDD+ results. In particular, the 2021 workplan and budget will cater for the following deliverables:

- New and emerging carbon platforms, notably ART-TREES
- Mobilising private-sector forest carbon investments as part of a transition to decarbonised business models

Outcome 3. Forest Solutions Enhanced

UN-REDD will support countries to enhance significantly the forest component of their NDCs. In particular, the 2021 workplan and budget will cater for the following deliverables:

- Enacting policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks to halt and prevent deforestation and forest degradation as contribution to NDCs
- Assisting countries with reviewing and enhancing the land and forest component of their NDCs in the current NDC review cycle, as the UNFCCC prepares for a global stocktake at the CoP-26 in Glasgow in late 2021
- Assessing, accelerating and enhancing, through time, NDC mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors.

Indicative activities, under each of these outcomes, for each of the nine priority countries currently supported by the Programme are presented in Annex I.

2. Knowledge Management (Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions / Outcome 4)

The UN-REDD Programme is the UN's knowledge platform on forests and climate. In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme will continue to provide an ambitious suite of global knowledge management (KM), communications and advocacy support across a set of thematic areas, in which the Programme can add transformative value to its partner countries' needs based on 10+ years of experience and accumulated knowledge. Indicative knowledge management activities for 2021 are presented in Annex II.

These efforts will be channelled through several avenues, including webinars and South-South knowledge exchanges. The Workspace, the Programme's online knowledge hub with 5,000 regular users, will remain a pillar of the Programme's knowledge sharing universe. The Workspace reflects the participation of 65 partner countries and supports them and the wider REDD+ community in the sharing of lessons learned, good practices, guidelines and other knowledge products. A new online portal that combines the current website with an overhauled workspace as repository and collaborative platform will go live in 2021 and facilitate the organization and management of technical communities of practice under Outcomes 1-3. UN-REDD will continue to increase the capacities of countries, stakeholders and partners committed to REDD+ results and will serve as a proven scientific base to strengthen global and regional NBS networks and movements.

Geographically, the Programme will maintain focus on the priority partner countries of the 2018-2020 workplan while also maintaining enough pliability to ensure support to additional countries, should strategic opportunities arise and identified through inception analysis in the second half of 2020. The Programme's KM, communications and advocacy work to raise ambitions for climate action, engage stakeholders and share knowledge on forest solutions will range from the global level to regions and pay particular attention to complementing technical assistance to countries.

Forests are recognized as the most mature, scientifically proven, and concrete NBS with a potential to deliver 5.3 GtCO₂e annually and various co-benefits, from improved health to job creation - as such, they are the bedrock of NBS. The UN-REDD Programme will leverage the momentum of the growing NBS movement to increase ambition, action and funding for forests.

As with Country Support, the planning process for 2021 knowledge management activities will contribute to the UN-REDD Results Framework 2021-2025, specifically Outcome 4, as follows:

Outcome 4. Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions: a global, transformative NBS movement accelerates climate action

In particular, the 2021 work plan and budget will cater for the following deliverables:

- Capturing, managing and disseminating knowledge on how to accelerate REDD+ implementation at scale to accelerate climate action
- Building and enhancing multi-stakeholder ambitions, participation and alliances for NBS to accelerate climate action
- Promoting digital cooperation and country access to cost-efficient technical solutions to enhancing accessibility, transparency and robustness of forest data
- Support application of innovative technical solutions (Open Foris and SEPAL) for generating high-quality activity data and REDD+ results reports
- Support policy dialogues and international efforts to promote the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and forest communities in REDD+ action, including in partnership with the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform.

3. Budget

Table 1

UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2020 - 2021 IN USD		
Funds inflow – Income	2020	2021
MPTF current cash balance (Note 1)	1,605,552	2,990,985
Norway - pending NOK 5M from 2017 contribution (Note 2)	531,464	
Unspent balance from UN Agencies under the SNA project (Note 3)	1,353,254	
Unspent balance from UN Agencies under closed NPs (Note 4)	355,186	
Norway - contribution to Lower Mekong (Note 5)		4,068,887
Norway - contribution to Myanmar mangroves (Note 6)		1,028,701
Total	3,845,456	8,088,573
Funds outflow - Funding needs	2020	2021
Pending transfer to Chile National Programme (Note 7)	641,046	
Direct cost for Secretariat services budget – UNEP balance (Note 8)	213,425	
TA for REDD+ Implementation budget planned (Note 9)		9,208,227
FAO		3,005,170
UNDP		3,552,276
UNEP		2,650,781
Direct cost for Secretariat services budget planned (Note 10)		1,171,396
FAO		122,500
UNDP		313,313
UNEP		735,583
TA - Asia Lower Mekong (Note 5)		5,962,862
TA - Asia Myanmar mangroves (Note 6)		1,069,730
Total	854,471	17,412,215
Potential surplus/(deficit) to subsequent year	2,990,985	-9,323,642
Notes:		
<p>Note 1: The cash balance was calculated from data 29 September 2020. The figure includes all contributions received (including the last instalment from the EC - EUR 1,2 M - received on 6 August 2020: USD 1,425,240), Interest and Investment Income from fund and agencies, minus Administrative Agent Fee, bank charges and all other costs including transfers to the Agencies and refunds done from Agencies to the MPTF.</p>		
<p>Note 2: According to the SAA Addendum signed on 8 Nov. 2017, the Government of Norway agreed to an additional contribution of NOK 240 M to cover 3 years (2018-2020, NOK 80M per year). For first instalment, only NOK 75 M were transferred in 2017, resulting in a pending contribution of NOK 5M. The second tranche was transferred in 2018 (NOK 80 M) and the last payment was transferred in December 2019 (NOK 80M i.e. 8,773,373 USD). Amounts are in USD and consider the Operational exchange rate (NOK = 0.11 USD). The 1% Administration fee has been deducted.</p>		
<p>Note 3: Unspent balance as of 01 October 2020. After the project was operationally closed in 2017, FAO and UNDP refunded the unspent balance to MPTF, while UNEP is yet to return the balance.</p>		
<p>Note 4: Unspent balance as of 01 October 2020, resulting from operationally closed National Programmes due for financial closure.</p>		
<p>Note 5: According to the SAA Addendum signed on 31 March 2020, the Government of Norway agreed to an additional contribution of NOK 85 M to address forest crime in the Lower Mekong region, covering years 2020 and 2021. The first instalment (NOK 42M) was transferred to the MPTF on 30 April 2020 (USD 4,038,539). Funds were subsequently transferred to the UN-REDD agencies for implementation of 2020 activities (USD 2,906,180). The second instalment (NOK 43 M) is expected in March 2021. The amount budgeted for the implementation of 2021 activities according to the work plan is USD 5,962,862.</p>		

Note 6: According to the SAA Addendum signed on 6 July 2020, the Government of Norway agreed to an additional contribution of NOK 20 M to address the integration of mangroves into REDD+ implementation in Myanmar, covering years 2020 and 2021. The first instalment (NOK 10M) was transferred to the MPTF on 14 July 2020 (USD 1,062,067) and funds were subsequently transferred to the UN-REDD agencies for implementation of 2020 activities (USD 943,712). The second instalment (NOK 10 M) is expected in April 2021. The amount budgeted for the implementation of 2021 activities according to the work plan is USD 1,069,730.

Note 7: At the first EB meeting, Norway asked the Programme to consider transferring funds in tranches to National Programme based on delivery rate. In view of this, the fund transfer for Chile and Peru were split into two tranches. The first tranches were transferred to Chile and Peru in Oct. 2017 and Jan 2018 respectively. The second tranches were transferred in 2020. This amount represent the balance still pending to be transferred.

Note 8: After receiving the Norway contribution in December 2019, MPTF transferred the 2020 budget allocations approved by the Executive Board for the TA for REDD+ Implementation and Direct cost for Secretariat services. However, there was no adequate balance in the AA account to cover the total requested amount for the 2020 allocations, thus the USD 213,423 deficits has been reduced from UNEP/Direct cost for Secretariat services budget.

Note 9: This amount represents the estimated budget for 2021 TA to REDD+ Implementation as per the 2021 work plan and budget document, which will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board.

Note 10: This amount represents the estimated budget for Direct cost of the Secretariat services in 2021, which will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board [actual amount being worked out; this figure is based on 2020 budget minus 2%]

Table 2 Outcome based budget

Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Realised				
Budget categories	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Staff and other personnel costs	1,103,200.00	1,112,465.94	286,000.00	2,501,665.94
Travel	25,100.00	44,498.64	10,422.43	80,021.07
Contractual services	125,500.00	-	-	125,500.00
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	50,200.00	56,250.00	9,916.82	116,366.82
Sub-total	1,304,000.00	1,213,214.58	306,339.25	2,823,553.83
Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Rewarded				
Budget categories	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Staff and other personnel costs	434,480.00	694,879.00	660,000.00	1,789,359.00
Travel	22,952.50	27,795.16	31,268.23	82,015.89
Contractual services	114,762.50	-	-	114,762.50
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	45,905.00	56,250.00	15,000.00	117,155.00
Sub-total	618,100.00	778,924.16	706,268.23	2,103,292.39
Outcome 3: Forest Solutions Enhanced				
Budget categories	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Staff and other personnel costs	465,920.00	385,937.35	154,000.00	1,005,857.35
Travel	14,560.00	15,437.49	10,417.76	40,415.25
Contractual services	72,800.00	-	-	72,800.00
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	29,120.00	56,250.00	7,300.00	92,670.00
Sub-total	582,400.00	457,624.84	171,717.76	1,211,742.60
Outcome 4: Global Knowledge Management: Connecting Actors for Forest Solutions				
Budget categories	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Staff and other personnel costs	258,459.50	782,568.65	1,100,000.00	2,141,028.15
Travel	7,601.75	31,302.75	25,000.00	63,904.50
Contractual services	7,601.75	-	124,039.86	131,641.61
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	30,407.00	56,250.00	44,000.00	130,657.00
Sub-total	304,070.00	870,121.40	1,293,039.86	2,467,231.26
Programme Costs	2,808,570.00	3,319,884.98	2,477,365.10	8,605,820.08
Indirect Support Costs	196,599.90	232,391.95	173,415.56	602,407.41
Grand Total	3,005,169.90	3,552,276.93	2,650,780.66	9,208,227.49

Annex I – Indicative activities for country specific support in 2021

The following profiles provide details on the support anticipated to the current UN-REDD TA priority countries and regions: Colombia, the Congo basin, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia. Technical assistance to a few other countries that are advanced in REDD+, in line with the UN-REDD objectives for 2021-2025, is envisaged and under scoping, notably with regards to helping countries access new REDD+ performance finance (notably ART/TREES). Validation of the country work plans, together with technical assistance to any other countries, will be conducted through an inception process informed by a variety of inputs, including: the recent Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), released by FAO in mid-2020; the Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment & NDC Tool (PLANT), developed by UNDP in the context of the Climate Promise initiative; the REDD+ Options & Assessment Tool (ROAT), developed by UNEP and WCMC; the NFMS Tool, developed by FAO; the outcomes of the ongoing NDCs review and submission cycle worldwide (through the NDC Partnership, the Climate Promise, the UNFCCC Hub); internal UN-REDD assessments of FREL submissions to the UNFCCC; and detailed consultations with national government experts and other in-country stakeholders. The activities of this workplan will contribute to the outcomes of the new UN-REDD Results Framework 2021-2025.

The proposed TA to countries (Colombia, Congo Basin, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Vietnam and Zambia) will ensure the use of NICFI's high-resolution imagery for generating high-quality activity data and REDD+ results reports. New satellite data will be used to generate information to monitor forest fires and diseases and forest restoration / forest management.

In addition, a briefing note on countries with potential to submit forest ERs to ART, including gaps and needs to meeting the technical requirements of TREES, and based on the above-mentioned methods, will further inform the 2021 workplan and budget process, including the inception. UN-REDD is currently assessing ART/TREES prospects for a number of countries that seem to have potential or that have expressed interest in ART, including Brazil (jurisdictions), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.

Colombia

Colombia has undertaken REDD+ actions that are integrated into its broader Peace Process and the anticipated rural investment frameworks and programmes. It has mobilized both national and international support, including the National Fund for Financing the Agriculture and Livestock sectors and various national development banks, so to align public finance with REDD+ goals. In a unique negotiation process led by indigenous peoples, the core elements of the national REDD+ strategy were integrated into the National Development Plan, which was endorsed by Parliament and will govern the current Presidential cycle (2019-2022). UN-REDD has supported implementation of these actions, including participation, policy dialogue and community forest management activities. Colombia has reported REDD+ Results to the UNFCCC.

Building on the broad foundational support for REDD+ readiness under the UN-REDD National Programme, UN-REDD has served to maintain momentum and institutional memory. The key value added and demand is particularly high on issues such as safeguards, supporting stakeholder discussions on policy developments on the forest-climate nexus, expanding community forestry efforts, enhancing the contribution of forest to local livelihoods, climate mitigation and economic recovery, as well as access to finance and enhancement of forest monitoring. UN-REDD is creating synergies and supporting coordination with other initiatives, such as the FCPF and the EU REDD Facility, as well as contributing to the achievement of targets established in the JDI.

For the year 2021, and on an interim basis, the UN-REDD Programme has defined the following work areas, which will be further scoped during the inception process, based on the REDD+ potential and ART/TREES prospects of Colombia that UN-REDD is currently conducting:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Provide technical inputs to support stakeholder discussions on policy developments on the forest-climate nexus, helping advance the provisions and execution of the Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in Colombia
- Support participatory spaces to foster and strengthen dialogue and consultation with indigenous organisations on issues associated with the formulation and implementation of the strategy to control deforestation and degradation
- Review plans and provide technical recommendations to enhance mitigation results from support to forest economies and governance in indigenous territories in the Amazon region to limit agricultural expansion into forest areas and enhance job creation, contributing to “building back better” in the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery phase
- Support the Fund for the Financing of the Agricultural Sector (FINAGRO) in the development of financial products and services for the forest and agroforestry sectors aligned to REDD+ results
- Provide policy recommendations to expand community forestry efforts, including monitoring, and consolidation of the existing pilots, enhancing the contribution of forest to local livelihoods and economic recovery
- Build and expand on existing innovative partnerships with private actors (e.g. Ecotierra) and impact funds (e.g. &Green Fund; Restoration Seed Capital Facility) identifying and scaling-up priority deforestation-free supply chain, and forest landscape restoration investment portfolios for (blended) finance and developing proof-of-concept pipelines of bankable deals in REDD+ countries and jurisdictions
- Continue the ongoing work to expand the capacity of the NFMS using SEPAL and high-resolution imagery for enhancing the quality of results through methodologies for monitoring additional REDD+ activities at the national level, especially forest restoration and forest management with linkages to forest policy
- Provide support for updating the design and implementing the safeguards information system (SIS) module as part of the National GHG emission reduction registry
- Strengthen national capacity for addressing and respecting safeguards, including to enhance territorial governance
- Support the organisation of a remote exchange between Colombia and countries in the LAC region on experiences and lessons learned on sustainable production and active participation during and post COVID-19

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Document and share emerging lessons from the region on the use of proceeds from results-based payments (Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay)
- Provide inputs that contribute to the development of institutional, policy and operational arrangements to enable the country to participate in the implementation of Paris Agreement’s Article 6 cooperative approaches and other schemes
- Assess barriers to leveraging carbon finance from the domestic carbon market/tax compensation mechanism for blending finance for the forestry sector
- Provide assistance to meet the technical requirements of TREES including eligible activities, scope of REDD+ emissions reductions and enhancement of estimations for carbon accounting.

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Technically support the implementation of NDC actions, taking into account existing support and alliances (NDC Support Facility, NDC Partnership and CBIT)
- Contribute to discussions about the implementation of enabling conditions for strengthening stakeholder engagement, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples, in actions related to the execution of LULUCF NDC measures, considering the national legal framework, REDD+ safeguards, and social and environmental operational policies of financial institutions
- Provide technical inputs to enhance the implementation of Colombia's LULUCF NDCs measures, looking into alignment and taking into account progress achieved through REDD+
- Support the organisation of remote South-South exchanges focused on emerging lessons from development of roadmaps and investment plans for meeting the NDCs in the LULUCF sector

With these activities, Colombia will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its actions on the ground, mobilize additional finance and expand the range of REDD+ activities with improved multi-sectoral coordination.

* * *

The Congo basin

In 2021, UN-REDD will make technical assistance available, at the request of CAFI-funded investment programmes, to support implementation. In some cases, support to selected national systems, like NFMS, will be provided to help countries meet agreed targets in CAFI Letters of Intent. For countries that have an agreement with CAFI to pay for results, UN-REDD may, upon request, support countries assess opportunities and fulfil compliance with the TREES standard. In collaboration with the CAFI funded Drivers of Deforestation using SEPAL project, newly available imagery will be leveraged toward institutionalised forest monitoring capacity for accurate forest degradation and deforestation assessments for Congo Basin countries. To ensure optimal alignment with CAFI-funded operations in the region, UN-REDD will enhance coordination with the national REDD+ funding mechanisms (e.g. FONAREDD in the DR Congo) and the CAFI-funded investment programmes. Collaboration with the CAFI secretariat will be ensured, including sharing reports and analysis.

In 2019, the UN-REDD Programme supported the **Republic of the Congo** with the consolidation of the National Forest Management System and the revision of the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL). In addition, the UN-REDD Programme helped the country transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation, especially to mobilise funding for its REDD+ Investment Plan, including through CAFI and other international REDD+ investment sources. CAFI provided a formulation grant (as a separate project held by FAO Country Office) for the Congo's PREFOREST project proposal for the GCF, while the UN-REDD Programme provided technical expertise on establishing nurseries and fast-start tree plantations, wood energy and sustainable agro-forestry systems as options for REDD+ implementation in the country, and the use of improved cook stoves to reduce emissions and support more sustainable livelihoods. UN-REDD also provided support to scope for funding options (e.g. IFAD). For 2021, the following activities are anticipated.

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Support the implementation of REDD+ actions ensuring consistency of the REDD+ investments across domestic and international sources, with particular attention to CAFI support
- Carry out an analysis of options, and development of recommendations, for the reduction of tenure risks/ capitalization of the opportunities offered by the 2018 legislation on community

tenure and fulfilment of legal requirements and conditions to access REDD+ climate finance under different modalities

- Consolidation of the GHG inventory for the AFOLU sector, in coherence with the activity data produced by the NFMS and the FREL update (supported by CAFI funding). The NICFI acquired high-resolution high-cadence dataset of satellite imagery will be very relevant to ensure consistency.
- Support the production of the first summary of safeguards information, including progress and measures to strengthen addressing and respecting of safeguards, with particular attention paid to the indigenous peoples' legal status

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Assess specific forest stands to develop methodologies to assess emissions and emission reduction potential (and absorption) of different management practices/approaches (e.g. with or without management plan, certification, reduced impact logging, etc.)

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down national processes for the update of the FREL and the GHG inventories, but the country has adapted to the situation and working to deliver on the 2020 workplan. The 2021 proposal is in the direct continuation of these expected results and, along with CAFI support, will serve the country to implement the national REDD+ strategy and investment plan.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has already a fully-functional REDD+ implementation and funding mechanism: FONAREDD. UN-REDD sits in its technical committee, advising on the quality, coordination and alignment of the current REDD+ implementation portfolio and investment phase. In addition, in 2021 UN-REDD will offer technical assistance to CAFI-funded programmes, when such programmes and their implementing agencies request it. UNDP and the CAFI Secretariat are participating in discussions (including the UNDP DRC Country Office and UNDP's Nature, Climate & Energy team) to improve the implementation of investment programmes implemented by UNDP under FONAREDD.

Gabon has a strong record in sustainable forest management and, under CAFI, has agreed with donors to pursue performance-based payments. There are ongoing discussions between the country, the CAFI Secretariat and the UNDP technical teams (including UN-REDD) to determine best ways to assist with the assessment of options and potential for complying with TREES. The above-mentioned PLANT tool is meant to support in this scoping and assessment, from which TA can be derived.

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Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is politically committed to reducing deforestation and degradation, including through REDD+. Diverse governmental agencies are engaged in promoting forest solutions and REDD+, including the Ministry of Water and Forests and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The country has completed the REDD+ readiness phase, fulfilling the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (UNFCCC). As the leading cocoa producing and exporting country in the world, the cocoa-forest nexus remains the nucleus of the forest solutions in Côte d'Ivoire and the core of a successful REDD+ implementation. The COVID-19 pandemic is decelerating national and local processes during 2020; as a result, some of the 2020 plans will have to continue in 2021.

UN-REDD helped jump start the national REDD+ process and has been a key advisor to government as well as a promoter of multi-stakeholder approaches. UN-REDD currently works in partnership with various organisations and initiatives, notably the EU-REDD Facility and the partners of the Cocoa &

Forest Initiative, as well as with the UNDP Green Commodities Programme and the UNEP Finance Initiative. UN-REDD plays a role in policy dialogues, in bringing key knowledge and partners in, in supporting the governance aspects of the jurisdictional pilots, and in enhancing the NDC process.

Moreover, NICFI recently entered into a contract with KSAT, Airbus and Planet to provide universal access to high-resolution satellite monitoring of the tropics in order to support efforts to stop the destruction of the world's tropical forests. New cloud-free mosaics with a 3m spatial resolution will be provided monthly, free of charge. Historical archives will go back to 2015 and cover all tropical countries where deforestation and degradation is occurring. This dataset will be made accessible through the cloud-computing open-source SEPAL platform and complement the near-real time alert system of Côte d'Ivoire to enable a precise validation of deforestation and degradation events from 2015 onwards.

For the year 2021, and on an interim basis, the UN-REDD Programme has identified the following work areas for which there are ongoing work and advisory-support needs:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Provide a diagnosis of activities in the agriculture and forest sector targeting small-scale farmers/communities in selected areas of the country (La Mé, Agneby Tiassa and Sud Comoe regions) to support the preparation of land-use plans
- Build capacity (training workshops) on financing of agroforestry at scale and access to finance - develop guidance on financial solutions
- Assist with guidance and coordination approaches the ongoing pilot jurisdictional initiatives of Cavally and Belier, in close liaison with the GCF-TF programme, EU-REDD and the international Cocoa and Forests Initiative
- Finalise economic and financial agroforestry models rooted into landscape approach - models will include different commodities: cocoa, rubber and oil palm
- Foster further dialogue with stakeholders, including private and public partners for the inclusion of deforestation-free principles and criteria in national commodity platforms strengthen the platform for dialogue and coordination with stakeholders around optimal business models for the sustainable development of agroforestry systems and value chains
- Organise technical and knowledge exchanges between Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Ghana on deforestation-free commodity model (agroforestry models based on cocoa, coffee and rubber that contribute to) and deforestation-free commodity value chains. Strengthen the methodology for the assessment of forest degradation to be used for the development of the REDD+ technical annex
- Operationalize the near real time system alert to increase the frequency and quality of alert at the centralized level, with the use of new high resolution imagery, strengthen the connection with the departmental monitoring level, mainstream the information flow between the different geographic and administrative levels (top down and bottom up)
- Assist the country to strengthen their SIS report on the application of principles, criteria and indicators – update the architecture of the SIS database and provide inputs for planning the elaboration of the second summary of safeguards information, for submission to the UNFCCC

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Carry out an analysis and review of the status of emission reduction and/or carbon rights / titling in the framework of the development of the national REDD+ benefits sharing mechanism and assessment of potential legal options of emission reduction rights, respectful of the new forest code
- Continue institutional dialogues to establish a coalition of private and public sector partners to increase forest-based climate solutions in the country.

- Provide technical advice and policy support for the finalisation of the NDCs review process, including integration of the policies, measures and targets adopted in the national REDD+ strategy and recent developments on the cocoa-forest nexus – in close connection with the UN Climate Promise process

This preliminary workplan is based on digital conversations with, and updates from, national specialists, UN country offices and international partners. It takes into account the ongoing delays suffered by national processes and programmes due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This workplan is also connected to the ongoing NDC review the country is currently undertaking, in which UN-REDD is engaged for the land-use and forest components. This workplan will be reviewed once the country resumes normality and will be subject to discussions with the National REDD+ Unit, other governmental agencies and civil-society stakeholders, as well as international partners, in order to produce an adjusted and realistic workplan for 2021.

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Indonesia

Indonesia is a key country in REDD+ delivery worldwide, and the country is committed to reducing its emissions by at least 29% from the business-as-usual (bau) scenario by 2030. In 2019, the UN-REDD Programme supported its efforts to access REDD+ performance finance through different sources. In 2020, Indonesia is making major advancements in mobilising further performance-based finance for its REDD+ results in past years, which are all meant to be channelled through the newly established national Public Service Agency for Environmental Fund Management (BLU-BPDLH), under the Ministry of Finance. The BPDLH aims at distributing REDD+ proceeds to the grassroots level, as well as align them to the COVID-19 recovery efforts.

UN-REDD is currently implementing a strategically targeted set of technical assistance activities to further advance these efforts in 2020, notably through supporting the operations of the BPDLH. TA continues to assist the BPDLH to become fully operational within 2020, through the development of standard operating procedures that are aligned to international best practices.

In conjunction with the on-going development of the Presidential Regulation on Carbon Pricing or Economic Value of Carbon and subsequent associated ministerial regulations, the country is also internally assessing its prospects to access potential revenue from new carbon markets and the use of ART-TREES. UN-REDD has been consulting with Indonesia on its interest to participate in CORSIA and ART-TREES and will expand these conversations to explore the use of ART-TREES in other settings.. The above-mentioned PLANT is helping this scoping and the further identification of UN-REDD TA needs for 2021.

Delays in 2020 delivery, however, are expected as dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak is currently the government's focus. The programme of work in Indonesia has largely been on hold over Q2, and much of Q3, 2020. Workshops, trainings, and consultation meetings have been reorganized into webinars and online events. Recruitment of consultants and travel are delayed due to travel restrictions and visa approval suspension.

The concrete workplan of support to Indonesia in 2021 will be prepared later in the year through close dialogue with:

- national government (to determine country needs) - coordinating ministries for Economic Affairs and Investment, ministries of Energy, Environment and Forestry, Finance, Land Administration and Spatial Planning, and Transport, Indonesian Trade Promotion

Center, National Environment Fund, National Planning Board, and Peatland Restoration Agency

- donors and multilateral development banks (to identify synergies) - Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Canada, USAID, UK Climate Change Unit, Delegation of the European Commission, Royal Netherlands Embassy, World Bank, Asian Development Bank
- domestic and international civil society (to ensure added value) - Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN), Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law (ICEL), Center for International Forestry Research, Climate Land Use Alliance, Global Green Growth Institute, Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development, Partnership For Governance Reform, Tenure Facility, Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, and academia (Bogor Agriculture University, Gajah Mada University, University of Indonesia)

This will ensure the UN-REDD support is catalytic and suits both country demand and niche needs in terms of performance-based finance for REDD+ in Indonesia. **Indicative** activities comprise the following:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Support the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Provincial governments with options based on a review of countries' approaches on how to measure sub-national REDD+ activities in ways that support national mitigation goals and encourages private investment
- Advise the government and partners on the investment plan for the national funding instrument on REDD+, which includes: (1) review of REDD+ projects, programmes and funding proposals to the Public Service Agency for Environmental Fund Management (BLU-BPDLH) under Ministry of Finance and (2) advice to the design of the funding instrument for REDD+
- Guide policy reform on sustainable peatland management, build institutional capacity for the International Tropical Peatland Center Secretariat, and provide technical assistance on effective and feasible peatland and forest-fire management policies, in particular the "Cluster Approach" design for integrated fire management coordinated by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs (CMEA). Moreover, work with NASA and CIFOR to improve emission factors for mangroves, peatland and peat fires to deliver improvements in accuracy and completeness of FREL and Results Based Payment reporting.
- Provide technical support to sustainable forest management (SFM) standards to incentivize, record and measure the impact of legal and sustainable timber production, contributing to enhanced quality of REDD+ results
- Promote blended finance as a tool for sustainable landscape management, taking into consideration the needs of post COVID-19 recovery, through the existing Tropical Landscape Finance Facility
- Support capacity development using SEPAL and new imagery toward institutionalised forest monitoring capacity for accurate forest degradation, deforestation and fire monitoring with linkages to forest management and policy
- Provide technical support to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to improve the quality of emission reductions and enhancements using high-resolution satellite data to rapidly collect national or subnational statistics on deforestation and degradation.

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Support investment of the REDD+ results-based funding to maximise benefits for local communities as a contribution to COVID-19 economic recovery, including benefit sharing mechanisms
- Support the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in the development and implementation of the Ministerial Regulations on Carbon Pricing or Economic Value of Carbon as a national

framework to regulate how market-based instruments can support achieving NDC targets, which is a critical legal and regulatory effort to facilitate the country access to, and engagement with new REDD+ markets such as ART/TREES).

- Support the Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Environment and Forestry on collaboration for ICAO-CORSIA implementation - Indonesia is voluntarily joining the first implementation scheme, which will start on 1 January 2021 and on ways to encourage airlines to invest in Indonesian carbon credits

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Support the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and other related ministries with policy and technical analyses on new potential land-use sectors to be included under the NDC
- Technically assist: (1) improvements to Indonesia's NDC on emission factors and activity data for peatlands and mangroves; and (2) capacity development in NDC requirements and practical calculations for UNFCCC reporting

In summary, UN-REDD's support to Indonesia will focus on maintaining and strengthening REDD+ implementation to deliver and enhance their NDC and access international carbon financing, particularly possible future forest carbon markets.

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Mexico

Mexico has made significant progress both at the national and jurisdictional level in its REDD+ preparation and implementation. However, public budget constraints and staff cuts have forced the government to explore opportunities to enhance efficiency, mobilize additional funding and promote low-carbon, profitable activities. Mexico plans to present its first REDD+ technical annex and potentially seek performance finance. Mexico is now advancing REDD+ at sub-national level: several states are pursuing jurisdictional approaches within the GCT-TF framework. Forest ERs are nowadays more likely to be generated from jurisdictions. After notable UN-REDD technical assistance to the national process in previous years, now UN-REDD assistance could focus on some of the advancing jurisdictions. At the same time, Mexico continues to work in its market readiness efforts. Of central relevance for Mexico in 2021 is to strengthen its collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, given that the draft NDC expects a significant reduction in emissions from livestock, a major national driver of deforestation.

Based on dialogues with the country, the workplan covers areas of strategic value to the REDD process in Mexico. For the year 2021, on the basis of the early dialogues, the UN-REDD Programme has defined the following work areas for which there is demand and for which progress is likely:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Carry out an analysis and provide recommendations to remove barriers and facilitate access of private capital for sustainable low-carbon rural development
- Provide technical recommendations on modalities for the involvement of the private sector in REDD+ action and finance
- Technically support the identification and assessment of potential long-term sources of finance (post-2020) to be included in the financing strategy for integrated landscape management
- Support financial and operational planning for large-scale forest programmes with States that are members of the Governor's Climate and Forest Task Force in Mexico (an initiative of the California Government supported by Norway's NORAD) and other relevant states that might wish to enter into emission reduction programmes

- Technically assist the implementation, scaling up and monitoring of silvopastoral schemes/systems at subnational level
- Contribute to increase the quality of results (including enhancing ways to address risks of reversals and displacements) through the design of an integrated information system, identification of methodological options for the updated analysis of the drivers of deforestation, and the cost of REDD+ actions and their impact at national and subnational levels
- Technically support scaling at the national level of SEPAL tools (machine learning) and high-resolution imagery to deploy early warning systems and accurate forest monitoring including forest fires
- Provide technical support and inputs for strengthening and updating national safeguards system, including continuous improvements in SIS operations, and strengthened national and state policies, procedures and institutional capacities to address and respect safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+
- Provide technical support and inputs to the second summary of safeguards information, helping to monitor, demonstrate and report on how safeguards have been addressed and respected
- Provide technical assistance and inputs on safeguards, mainstreaming of gender, and non-carbon benefits for REDD+ funding proposals

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Support design of benefit sharing arrangements and provide relevant inputs for participation platforms (Technical Advisory Committee of REDD + and Technical Committee on Climate Change and Forests)
- Contributions in the technical discussion for the development of the REDD + Technical Annex for BUR 3 to enable access to performance finance.
- Support selected jurisdictions on their REDD+ efforts, reinforcing the support from the GCF-TF initiative and ensuring national-jurisdictional alignments.

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Support dialogue on the role of the Forest Sector achieving the NDCs and the role of domestic and international carbon markets
- Help the country assess feasibility of converting the FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Programme in their five States into meet the ART-TREES standard, and exploration of non-state (corporate) potential demand sources
- Develop a study with policy recommendations on the estimated implication of voluntary carbon markets (REDD+ projects) on Mexico's NDC
- Support dialogue on the role of the AFOLU Sector achieving the NDC with key institutions (Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Climate change Institute and Agrarian Attorney)

These activities will enable Mexico to enhance the collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, while laying the foundation for multi-scale implementation and accounting that enables further financing and higher quality results.

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Myanmar

Myanmar has completed the national REDD+ strategy development process through an inclusive and gender-responsive stakeholder engagement process, and the final document is now in process of official endorsement. The country is currently designing its REDD+ Investment Plan to enable

government and partners to set and advance priority actions. Ways to engage ethnic organisations on REDD+ issues and implementation in areas with mixed governance and conflict have been scoped out. Conflict sensitive and Human Rights based approaches are increasingly important for implementing REDD+ actions in Myanmar, especially in areas where both impacts from past or ongoing conflict are prevalent, and to build and maintain trust developed through the REDD+ strategy consultation process. In particular, consistency with the National Ceasefire Agreement must be ensured with regard to implementation of all further UN-REDD TA outputs.

The updated NDC of Myanmar, with a 50% reduction target of emissions from land-use change and forestry by 2030 (conditional) and 25% reduction target (unconditional) against the baseline from the 2018 Forest Reference Level is setting the strategic framework for REDD+ implementation over the coming decade 2021 – 2030. In order to meet the conditional target, a substantial amount of additional international climate finance from public and private sources is needed. During the first half of the next decade conditions need to be established in order to prepare the country for receiving results-based payments as well as developing mechanisms for market-based climate finance.

Critically important for Myanmar is the new freely accessible high-resolution imagery, together with improved capacities for using SEPAL for deforestation and degradation assessment. The development of much needed assessment capacities for changes on existing forest areas will facilitate subnational and jurisdictional REDD+ implementation, as well as widening the scope of REDD+ monitoring capacities in general.

Myanmar will benefit from the UN-REDD Technical Assistance Initiative “Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Forest Governance in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR)” and the Initiative “Integrating Mangroves into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar”. Outputs identified in this document are therefore designed to be complementary to those under these two Initiatives.

For the year 2021, and on an interim basis, the UN-REDD Programme has defined the following work areas for which there is demand and for which progress is likely:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Support in developing policy response to avoid potential reversal risks in the wake of COVID-19 food security and emergency measures mainstreamed into post pandemic recovery plans and strategies
- Provide support to operationalise and enhance legal and policy framework as well as organisational coordination for REDD+ implementation. Support development of a decision support tool on safeguarding forest conservation following COVID-19 recovery investment
- Support capacity development using SEPAL and new imagery toward institutionalised forest monitoring capacity for accurate forest degradation and deforestation assessments with linkages to forest management and policy.
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- Adaptation of MRV concepts for subnational forest reference levels and the monitoring of NDC implementation
- Support in updating the national Forest Reference Level including the gradual widening of scope to include changes on existing natural forests including mangroves, in accordance of the pace of REDD+ and NDC implementation as well as corresponding updating of National Communications and GHG-Inventory. Strengthening efforts to addressing and respecting of safeguards, as well as SIS operations, for improved transparency and ability to access REDD+ finance, in accordance with a Human Rights-Based Approach.

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Build capacity for the establishment of mechanisms and agreements to promote post-2020 Article 6 (Paris Agreement) Readiness (market readiness) in line with NDC targets and the development of priority climate assets
- Support to the development of the National REDD+ Investment Plan in line with the NDCs. Support in updating the national Forest Reference Level including the gradual widening of scope to include changes on existing natural forests in accordance of the pace of REDD+ and NDC implementation as well as corresponding updating of National Communications and GHG-Inventory

These activities will enable Myanmar to develop the capacities to better set out and implement key REDD+ actions aimed at achieving the newly quantified targets of the revised NDC for the (A)FOLU sector, establish the bases for future access to performance based REDD+ finance and start preparing the country for Article 6 Readiness (Paris Agreement). At the same time, UN-REDD support will help to prevent potential negative outfall from the present COVID-19 crisis responses on longer term key climate change objectives.

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Peru

Peru has advanced in the implementation framework for its National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change (ENBCCC), including the establishment of stakeholder participation and institutional coordination mechanisms. Capacity building and scoping exercises were also undertaken to prioritize REDD+ actions at the regional levels and identify investment opportunities to contribute to the implementation of Peru's ENBCC and NDC. The NDC of Peru, currently under review for robustness and enhanced ambition, envisages a reduction of GHG emissions equivalent to 30% in relation to a projected BAU scenario (20% unconditional and 10% conditional) for the period from 2021 to 2030. The role of forests and REDD+ is a major component of Peru's NDCs and the ongoing revision, which is being supported by a multi-stakeholder platform around NDCs, known as "Dialoguemos".

Peru is currently implementing the JDI, which enables payments followed by the accomplishment of specific policy milestones. The third phase will entail performance-based finance for measured, reported and verified GHG emission reductions. The technical assistance of UN-REDD is directed to advance these lines of work, with a specific focus on a national submission to ART – as the new, most progressive mechanism for REDD+ performance payments. This work will entail a mix of policy work, forest monitoring capacities, technical expertise and safeguard provisions. Delays in the ongoing technical assistance 2020 delivery, however, are expected as responding to the COVID-19 outbreak is currently the government's priority. The activities comprising the following 2021 workplan builds on, and extends, the Programme's ongoing technical assistance, and includes additional activities with significant potential to contribute to REDD+ (current and future) results.

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Provide advice on the overall execution of the JDI's Phase II Implementation Plan, including inputs to ToRs and products aimed at accomplishing JDI's phase II deliverables; this will include assist with the design of, and participate in working sessions and specialized meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Continue to provide technical assistance to credit and savings cooperatives on environmental and social risk management in agricultural financing and on financial products and services for sustainable agriculture
- Support capacity development using SEPAL and new imagery toward institutionalised forest monitoring system to enhance the quality of results, ensuring consistency and improvement of Peru's FREL and REDD+ Technical Annex

- Provide assistance to complete the SIS.

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Support the national government scope options and address critical needs to access ART and comply with ART's TREES.
- Provide inputs that contribute to the development of institutional, policy, and operational arrangements for the future implementation of Paris Agreement's Article 6 cooperative approaches and other schemes
- Provide technical inputs to the national carbon market readiness process for potential inclusion of forest emission reductions
- Explore innovative partnerships with private actors (Ecotierra) with the aim to scale up investments in REDD+ and NDC implementation, including through South-South cooperation with other Amazon countries, including indigenous peoples and local communities

Outcome 3 – raising ambition and acceleration of NDCs

- Provide technical inputs to support discussions on policy developments for forests and climate change, including in the context of Peru's "Integral CC Management Framework"
- Provide technical inputs for the implementation of Peru's LULUCF NDCs measures and enhancing their contribution to economic recovery and "building back better"
- Contribute to the implementation of enabling conditions for strengthening stakeholder engagement, including that of indigenous peoples, in actions related to the execution of LULUCF NDC measures, considering the national legal framework REDD+ safeguards, and social and environmental operational policies of financial institutions
- Provide technical inputs to enhance the implementation of Peru's LULUCF NDCs measures, looking into alignment and taking into account progress achieved through REDD+

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Viet Nam

Viet Nam is one of the most advanced countries in the Asia Pacific region in terms of REDD+ readiness. Following the approval of the revised REDD+ Strategy (National REDD+ Action Programme - NRAP) through Prime Ministerial decision in 2017, submission and revision of the FRL and completion of a national forest monitoring and information system that incorporates information on safeguards, the country is moving towards measurement of REDD+ results and the development of multi-sectoral and sub-national approaches to the implementation of the NRAP objectives.

Viet Nam will benefit from the UN-REDD Technical Assistance Initiative "Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Forest Governance in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR)". Outputs identified in this document are therefore designed to be complementary to those under the LMR Initiative.

For the 2021, and on an interim basis, the UN-REDD Programme has defined the following work areas:

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Provide policy advice and guidance to support land-use planning that integrates forestry in the EU-funded Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management through Deforestation-free Jurisdiction in Lam Dong and Dak Nong
- Support fundraising efforts for REDD+ implementation
- Support Viet Nam farmers' groups and SMEs to access opportunities in sustainable production market and benefit from deforestation-free and reduced-impact supply chains

- Promote underlying economic rationale for the adoption of sustainable practices by coffee producers and other actors in the supply chain, while also developing financial products to support and deliver the transition
- Provide technical advisory on uncertainty assessments and other related areas for the estimation of REDD+ results against the FREL/FRL, so to generate high-quality REDD+ ERs and access international performance-based finance schemes

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Provide technical assistance to meet safeguards requirements and reporting related to REDD+ performance finance, building on Viet Nam's country approach to safeguards

This set of activities proposed in 2021 are intended to advance Viet Nam's capacities to address pressure on forests, particularly those related to commodities in key jurisdictions in the country.

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Zambia

The country has made much progress against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and is working in 2020 to secure additional funding for REDD+ implementation. In parallel, a jurisdictional programme in the Eastern Province is being developed for support by the BioCarbon Fund. The private sector has launched several carbon projects to work with communities towards reducing deforestation. The recent community forest management regulation and a forthcoming statutory instrument on carbon management are important milestones for the Forestry Department to manage a multi-level approach to REDD+. Technical support during 2021 should promote such efforts.

Outcome 1 – actions to generate forest-based emission reductions of increasing quality

- Pilot forest monitoring spatially to the level of projects: test a baseline allocation tool that could be used to establish deforestation risks and that could be basis for allocating a part of the reference level to subnational areas into the national forest monitoring system
- Collect activity data for the years 2019-2020, using the newly available high-resolution imagery, assess emissions during 2019-2020 and calculate any emission reductions against the 2009-2018 reference level
- Provide technical advice on the design of a registry (database) for REDD+ mitigation actions: report on other countries' efforts to set up such databases and how these are tools to implement approval regulation for carbon projects and programmes. Analyse the draft Statutory Instrument on Carbon Management to understand the specifications of a supporting database and develop a design recommendation
- Advice on mitigation approaches for responsible agriculture and forestry systems
- Technically assess the Forest Reference Emission Level: provide technical advice during the assessment and technical support for any necessary modifications
- Collect activity data for the years 2019-2020, and assess emissions during 2019-2020 and calculate any emission reductions against the 2009-2018 reference level
- Finalize the architecture of SIS database, including updated templates for collecting safeguards information
- Provide inputs for the elaboration of the second summary of safeguards information

Outcome 2 – forest solutions rewarded from results-based payments and carbon markets

- Scoping private investment options supportive of forests and climate change objectives

In sum, support in 2021 will focus on securing progress achieved, further stepwise improvement of the Warsaw pillars on safeguards and forest monitoring, while continuing to lay the necessary groundwork for bringing public and private REDD+ investment to the country. The above preliminary workplan was drawn together under great time pressure and with uncertainty on availability of funding. Nonetheless, initial consultations have been undertaken with the government that indicated general agreement.. As soon as appropriate, a (virtual) inception mission should take place where detailed planning can then be undertaken.

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Other countries and inception process

As UN-REDD unfolds its new strategic framework 2021-2025, some countries in advanced stages of REDD+ are approaching the Programme to request technical assistance. These requests mainly focus on accessing performance finance as well as getting ready for, and engaging in ART.

As part of the inception phase of its new strategic framework, the UN-REDD team is scoping – through diverse methods and approaches – country opportunities to deliver REDD+ results, access REDD+ performance finance schemes of high standards and enhance their NDC's forest components. This scoping is revealing potential in a few countries, additional to the above-mentioned ones, notably with regards to accessing ART-TREES. In this sense, this workplan and budget may need adjustments as it unfolds, with due discussion with the UN-REDD Board members, donors notably.

Demands for technical assistance from other countries that can generate high-quality ERs for the emerging carbon markets will also be considered. In any case, prior to delivery of technical assistance to new countries, UN-REDD will assess formal requests by these beneficiary countries and consider the feasibility in terms of staff time, expertise and budget.

Annex II – Indicative activities for knowledge management support in 2021

Capturing, managing and disseminating knowledge on how to accelerate REDD+ implementation at scale to accelerate climate action.

In 2021, technical assistance to country level delivery will be supported by a number of cross-cutting knowledge management activities. These activities also achieve a wider reach by further elaborating global-level normative best practices, informed by real-world experiences in the countries:

- Produce and disseminate knowledge products on scalable and innovative solutions to topics under Outcomes 1-3 through briefs, reports and videos
- Maintain a functioning online repository and collaborative platform, as a core knowledge management tool, responding to needs of partner countries, communities of technical practice and wider forest solution constituencies
- Organize (especially South-South and regional) webinars and knowledge exchange events on REDD+ and forest solutions
- Produce and disseminate regular newsletters to share country and thematic knowledge with UN-REDD partner countries and wider forest solution constituencies
- Organize and manage communities of technical practice on Outcomes 1-3 to bring together practitioners and experts capitalize on experience and to scale up delivery
- Support the knowledge dissemination to, and engagement of, indigenous peoples in complex endeavours for climate and forests, e.g. REDD+ investment programmes, results-based payment schemes, NDC review and the advancement of the Paris Agreement
- Facilitate knowledge-based collaborations with diverse international and regional indigenous peoples' organisations and partnerships: e.g. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, International Indigenous Women's Forum, UNFCCC LCIP Platform, AIPP, COICA

The set of topics for knowledge management activities in 2021 includes, but is not limited to, the focus areas covered by the 2017-2020 workplan: (i) Landscape approach and planning; (ii) Forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples; (iii) Financing and private sector; (iv) Forest monitoring systems and MRV; (v) Linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs; and, (vi) REDD+ funding mechanisms.

In addition to cross-cutting activities, supplementing country support across the other three outcomes, a number of specific global-level knowledge management activities for 2021 have also already been identified:

- Contribute to the Facilitative Working Group of the new UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Platform. Systematize and disseminate evidence on indigenous peoples and local communities' management of forests and biodiversity in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Identify opportunities for IPs and LCs to have their own climate actions and traditional knowledge recognized and contribute to NDCs, and in order to participate more effectively in the work of the UNFCCC.
- Systematize, assess and share evidence on the cost and effectiveness of REDD+ actions to inform priority setting
- Undertake and share comparative analysis of rights, title, and benefits of REDD+ results-based actions and options to reduce of potential conflicts associated with tenure/rights.
- Share information on eligibility and REDD+ readiness status of priority jurisdictions for the leading REDD+ schemes (ART/TREES, California TFS, FCPF Carbon Fund)
- Advance and share discussions on triggers of transformational change and monitoring of results to foster enhanced NDC ambition at the World Forestry Congress (May 2021)

- Facilitate south-south exchange on the science-policy interface for forest monitoring (e.g., a global workshop about using data or better decision-making at the World Forestry Congress 2021)

Building and enhancing multi-stakeholder ambitions, participation and alliances for NBS to accelerate climate action.

The 2021 work plan for country TA comprises support only to forest-based solutions to generate increasing quality of emissions reductions. In 2021, this support will be provided through technical assistance to:

- Develop the climate, forest and COVID-19 narrative, highlighting the multiple benefits of forest-based solutions, supported by data and evidence
- Align the NBS process to COP26, connecting and convening stakeholders (partner countries, NBS champions, private sector, CSOs, indigenous peoples, women and youth organisations), to increase ambition and action for forest-based solutions
- Connect and convene stakeholders (partner countries, forest solution champions, private sector, CSO, indigenous peoples, women and youth organisations) to gain support for forest solutions across relevant arenas such as online movements and conferences, advocacy communication campaigns, including strategic social media, tailored to targeting global and national key audiences

Promoting digital cooperation and country access to cost-efficient technical solutions for enhancing accessibility, transparency and robustness of forest data and information.

In 2021, this support will be provided through technical assistance to:

- Advance resource-efficient solutions for countries to plan and implement data collection, management and analysis that build on existing successful systems (e.g. further development of the existing and successful Open Foris platform)
- Advance technical and legal solutions for making country data open and accessible (e.g., webportals, data sharing agreements, communication strategies for forest monitoring data).
- Assess barriers to digital cooperation and virtual engagement among marginalised groups – particularly indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth – and scope corresponding solutions to improve their availability and accessibility
- Develop and pilot (e.g. in Cote d'Ivoire, Mexico, Myanmar or Lao PDR) an interactive tool navigator to inform decision-making at landscape level, reducing conflicting priorities for resources and deforestation from agriculture expansion.