UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNDP

UN environment programme

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UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy

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Executive summary

1. Introduction

The UN-REDD Programme is the flagship UN knowledge and advisory platform on forest solutions to the climate crisis. This five-year Strategy sets out the collective vision for the UN-REDD Programme for the period 2026-2030 to contribute to achieving the global goal – agreed at COP26 – of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by the end of the decade. The second half of this decade will be crucial for turning that commitment into reality. In doing so, UN-REDD will contribute to delivering ambitious and lasting transformations in the land and forest sector, building on the experience, trust and traction that it has gained at country, regional and global levels over the past 15 years.

2. Strategy

The Programme is framed around the vision of realising the full mitigation potential of forests. This involves the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, promoting conservation and management to enhance carbon stocks, and thereby contributing to averting the climate crisis and related planetary crises. Specifically, the goal of UN-REDD is to continue to support countries and other key actors to achieve systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies and incentives in the forest and land sector to achieve this vision.

For the 2026-2030 strategic cycle, UN-REDD is framed around four highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing outcomes, and three cross-cutting elements (see summary table).

3. Implementation

UN-REDD plans to continue to operate at the country, regional, and global scales with interconnected approaches and synergies between these three levels.

At the country level, UN-REDD will respond to country needs with a tailored and inclusive approach, building on the UN system, with the following indicative service lines:

- Technical Assistance: UN-REDD will mobilize technical and policy advisors from the three agencies to support governmental agencies and other national stakeholders.
- National Programmes: UN-REDD will provide comprehensive support to countries, including dedicated in-country operational budgets. It will include a wide range of support types, highly tailored to specific country circumstances, ranging from catalytic Targeted Support to fully fledged National Programmes (NPs).

A variable and modular approach will allow the Programme to cater for both high impact geographies, as well as other countries. Resources will be allocated in a balanced way to be able to cover needs and demands from countries while maximising the potential impact of the Programme. Building on the experience and knowledge gained from country level support, UN-REDD will also provide support at the regional and global levels.

Summary of the programmatic outcomes and cross-cutting elements

Integrity	Finance	Ambition	Results
Outcome 1: Demonstrating high integrity REDD+ results	**Outcome 2:** Unlocking finance for REDD+ results	**Outcome 3:** Enhancing climate ambition	**Outcome 4:** Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation
MRV **Output 1.1:** National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity	**RBF** **Output 2.1:** Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance	**NDCs** **Output 3.1:** Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target	**Forest sector** **Output 4.1:** Forest sector policy and governance changes supported
Safeguards **Output 1.2:** Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	**RBPs** **Output 2.2:** REDD+ RBPs secured	**ETF** **Output 3.2:** Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)	**Cross-sectoral** **Output 4.2:** Cross sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported
Benefit sharing **Output 1.3:** Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized	**Article 6** **Output 2.3:** Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured	**Policy capacity** **Output 3.3:** Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition	**Local solutions** **Output 4.3:** Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported
	VCM **Output 2.4:** VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured		**Investments** **Output 4.4:** Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized

Cross-cutting elements – Accelerating transformation through:

A.	B.	C.
Social inclusion and gender equality	Knowledge generation and management	Convening, advocacy, and communication

1 i.e. International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

CHAPTER 01



Introduction

In this chapter:

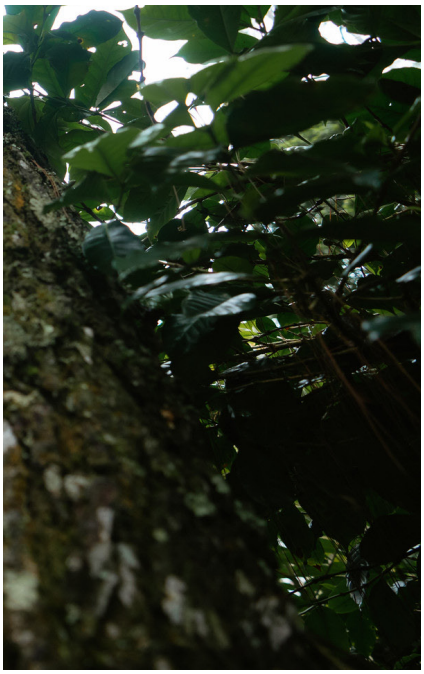
Background | Process | Rationale

Introduction

01







1.1. Background

UN-REDD is the UN's knowledge and advisory platform on forest solutions to the climate crisis. It is the UN flagship partnership, composed by three agencies – FAO, UNDP and UNEP – that work together to assist countries to implement the Paris Agreement (particularly Articles 4, 5, and 6), supporting countries with REDD+ implementation and increasing ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It does so through policy advice, technical assistance, convening and knowledge management. UN-REDD strives to reduce deforestation, promote sustainable land uses, advance international cooperative approaches to climate mitigation and mobilise climate finance to turn the tide on deforestation.

The UN-REDD Programme was launched at the end of 2008 and has been in operation since 2009. Building on a first phase (2008-2020) focused on readiness and capacity building, the 2021-2025 phase focused on implementation and results-based finance to support scaled-up action and finance for forests and climate.



UN-REDD works with **66+ partner countries** on forest solutions to the climate crisis.



Forests finance stands well below the **US$ 16 billion per year needed by 2030** to protect tropical forests. JREDD+ could generate nearly one third of the finance gap.



Up to 6.5 GtCO2e of mitigation potential lies within forests by 2030.

This five-year strategy sets out a vision for the UN-REDD Programme for the period 2026-2030. UN-REDD will contribute to delivering ambitious and lasting transformations in the land and forest sector, building on the experience, trust and traction that it has gained at country, regional and global levels over the past 15 years.

1.2. Process

The UN-REDD Programme undertook a comprehensive review and consultation during 2024 and 2025 to shape its future work beyond the current phase. This UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy has been prepared building on the current Strategy and its successes, insights from subject-matter experts from within UN-REDD, a formative review of the UN-REDD Programme (Final Report), and consultations with all stakeholders (national focal points, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, donors, and external partners, including a public consultation), to shape and make it fit for the future.

During 2025, the programming phase is being undertaken, and 2026-2030 governance arrangements will be developed, ensuring that they are fit for purpose for the next phase of the Programme.

1.3. Rationale

If humanity is to avert a climate crisis, it is essential to accelerate and scale up climate mitigation actions that can achieve the necessary and urgent reductions and removals of carbon emission by 2030. As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “Sectoral emissions in pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C require land use change reaching net zero emissions by 2030” (IPCC, 2023).

Forests are essential to achieving 1.5° C and other non-carbon benefits

AFOLU mitigation options, when sustainably implemented, can deliver large-scale GHG emission reductions and enhanced CO2 removal (IPCC, 2022). Forests have a massive mitigation potential of 4.1 – 6.5 GtCO2e by 2030. AFOLU is also the sector with the greatest capacity to rapidly scale-up mitigation before 2030 and plays a critical role in climate recovery in the context of overshoot scenarios beyond 1.5°C, particularly in relation to forest restoration. Forest ecosystems, being subject to potentially irreversible tipping points, are also highly vulnerable to the impacts of overshooting itself. Consequently, their conservation and restoration are both essential and urgent to stabilizing the climate.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected, and integrated actions are key to addressing these challenges. Forest-based climate mitigation concurrently delivers multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits, bringing a unique alignment of NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and SDGs. Ecosystem services provided by forests are a

cornerstone of human well-being, both for Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and local communities (LCs), including traditionally non-represented groups, such as women and youth among them, as well as stakeholders at the national and international levels.

Time is of the essence

According to IPCC (2023), delayed mitigation action will further increase global warming, which will decrease the effectiveness of many adaptation options, including ecosystem-based adaptation and many water-related options, as well as increase mitigation feasibility risks, especially for solutions tied to ecosystems. For instance, forest fires are emerging as a major, and escalating, driver of tropical forest loss and degradation. As climate change intensifies, the frequency, severity and geographic spread of wildfires are expected to increase, pushing tropical forests closer to tipping points and undermining their role as carbon sinks.

The next round of new or updated NDCs under the Paris Agreement are being submitted to further enhance quality and ambition in 2025, with countries encouraged to include 2035 targets. Through the efforts of forest countries in alignment with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR), as well as global programmes, a growing number of forest countries are delivering forest mitigation results.

Notwithstanding these promising developments, emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in all regions continue. The top 20 deforestation-emitting countries released an average of 5.5 billion tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) per year between 2018 and 2022[2].

Multilateral and bilateral agreements for results-based payments for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which remains the core of REDD+ as defined under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, remain important to provide incentives for climate action in forest countries. However, results-based payments are thus far insufficient in both volume and scale to bring about the transformational, cross-sectoral changes that are needed to catalyze the volume of emissions reductions from the forest sector that are essential to address the climate emergency.



"We have what we need to save ourselves. Our forests, our wetlands, and our oceans absorb carbon from the atmosphere. They are vital to keeping 1.5 alive or pulling us back if we do overshoot that limit. We must protect them."

António Guterres | UN Secretary General

2 Estimated using annual deforestation emissions data from Global Forest Watch.

The problem to address

In 2021 at COP26, over 140 leaders, accounting for more than 90 per cent of the world's forests, committed to work together to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 as part of their commitment to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, which was subsequently reinforced in the first UNFCCC Global Stocktake decision in 2023. However, performance is falling well below this ambitious goal. The reasons for this are four-fold.



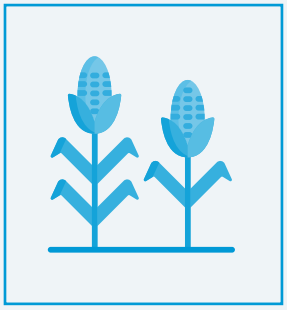
1. Financing for REDD+ implementation is insufficient



2. Policy action by forest countries is currently insufficient.



3. Countries often face challenges in fully tapping carbon market opportunities.



4. Global demand for commodities remains a key driver of deforestation.

First, financing for REDD+ implementation is insufficient. In 2023, forests received only USD 84 billion in financing, compared to an estimated requirement of USD 300 billion, annually, by 2030, resulting in an annual financing gap of USD 216 billion through to 2030. Tropical forest countries alone will require approximately USD 67 billion per year by 2030, including USD 16 billion specifically for forest protection (UNEP, 2025). By the end of 2022, global pledges to finance results-based payments during the period 2020-2025 reached over USD 1.7 billion, which accounts for only 24% of what is needed to achieve the equivalent of one gigaton of emissions (UNEP, 2022), well below the level needed to achieve longer-term goals. Yet jurisdictional REDD+ could offer up to USD 4.5 billion per year[3] in potential results-based finance (EDF 2024) – nearly one third of the tropical forest protection finance gap.

Ex-ante finance for the investments that support policy and structural socio-economic changes that are essential to halting and eliminating deforestation have also been insufficient. Between 2013 and 2020, climate action and investment in land-based mitigation, of which forest mitigation is a subset, received only about 2.5 per cent of climate finance tracked (CPI, 2022).

Major initiatives have increasingly focused on mobilizing private financing to fill the results-based funding gap. The underlying reasons set forth in the Glasgow Leaders Declaration for shortfalls in forest mitigation financial commitments include:

- Concerns over the integrity and robustness of emission reductions being reported by some countries; and
- Increasing domestic fiscal pressures and prevailing economic conditions.

3 Assuming 300 million tonnes CO2e sold at an average price of USD 10-20/tonne.

Second, policy action, with ambitious targets and effective, wide-scale implementation by forest countries is currently insufficient. The underlying reasons are many and varied, but include:

- Insufficient up-front and results-based financing from public budgets, the donor community, multilateral financing, and the private sector;
- Relatively small bursts of financing, while driving positive change, are insufficient to trigger deep transformations that could only be sustained by significantly larger finance flows;
- Increasingly complex requirements and high transaction costs placed on forest countries related to accounting, safeguarding, and measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV), requiring significant adjustments to current REDD+ readiness arrangements;
- Institutional capacity needs within forest country governments on the technical aspects of REDD+, requiring further investment and incentives to meet requirements that go beyond the internationally agreed requirements for REDD+ set forth in the WFR that underlies Article 5 of the Paris Agreement; and
- Weak forest and land sector governance, as well as limited alignment and support for cross-sectoral policies to reinforce and amplify forest and land sector reforms.

Third, while the emergence of carbon markets is an important source of carbon finance for forest solutions, it is associated with a variety of challenges for countries to make full use of this funding source, including:

Environmental and social integrity:

- How to access and enable various types of carbon markets while meeting and increasing ambition of their own NDCs.
- How to manage the potential overlap of claims on emission reductions and ensure the integrity of transactions across different geographic scales.
- How to ensure VCM projects and programmes avoid, mitigate and manage adverse social and environmental impacts and promote sustainable development outcomes.
- How to ensure that the carbon credits generated are of the highest integrity and support the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Finance:

- How to finance the significant upfront transformational changes that go beyond individual transactions (such as land and forest tenure reform).
- How to address the fact that current payments per tonne of carbon are below the opportunity costs of reducing emissions from forests and land use.
- How to ensure that the finance commitments of countries is not shifted to private sector yet, at the same time private sector markets are tapped to achieve financing at scale.

The market price and volume-related demand signals from the private sector and sovereign governments for high-quality jurisdictional scale forest-based emissions reductions have not yet generated sufficient incentives for forest countries to rapidly deliver high-quality, large-scale mitigation results. As a result, the virtuous cycle of implementing enhanced forest and land regulations, alongside payments for forest mitigation results, reinvested in actions to conserve and restore forests with increasing ambition with each turn of the cycle, has yet to materialize.

While carbon markets are undoubtedly an important and steadily improving climate mitigation finance tool, they should be considered as a tool that is complementary to, rather than a replacement of existing and much-needed ex-ante donor-funded efforts. Such ex-ante donor-funded efforts need to be aimed at achieving durable transformational changes in the institutions and structures that underly both the forest sector and the larger economy of forest countries to generate the level of forest emissions reductions that are needed to prevent climate change.

Fourth, global market demand for commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper, to name just a few, continue to be the principal drivers of deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems to commodity productions systems to meet this demand. These market forces drive countries to consider other climate mitigation measures that are easier and less costly to implement.

Recent demand-side policy developments that restrict the import of agricultural commodities associated with deforestation (i.e., the EU Deforestation Regulations and UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulations) provide incentives for producer countries to address agriculture-driven deforestation for their producers to maintain access to these markets. As elaborated upon in the Strategy section, effective capacity for cross-sectoral policy reforms and actions are essential to achieving the desired levels of national and global ambition for forest sector emissions reductions.

Transformative change is needed

The multisectoral nature of major drivers of deforestation imply that focusing REDD+ implementation on policies and measures limited to the forest sector will not be sufficient to achieve the level of forest emissions reductions that are necessary to avert a climate crisis.

The globally agreed goal of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 can only be achieved through systemic changes with structural shifts at the scale and speed typical of a “transformation.”

However, such systemic, structural shifts will require political will, significant finance, and acumen regarding the systemic shifts that can produce durable and lasting results. Such shifts must include tangible cross-sectoral policy reforms and incentives, and reforms and incentives within the forest sector. These systems-level shifts, policy reforms, and actions could also serve as an opportunity to strengthen the synergy between adaptation and mitigation, and deliver non carbon benefit outcomes.

As described in the Strategy section that follows, the UN-REDD Programme will take on a broader approach to build national ownership to shift complex systems. We will target our interventions to enable shifts in the complex systems that are preventing progress on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, rather than focusing on incremental changes which characterizes many current approaches to REDD+.

CHAPTER 02



Strategy

In this chapter:

Vision and goal | Theory of change | Assumptions | UN-REDD Programme value proposition

Strategy

02







2.1. Vision and goal

The UN-REDD Programme's vision for the future is that the full mitigation potential of forests is realized by halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, promoting conservation and management to enhance carbon stocks, and thereby contributing to averting the climate crisis and related planetary crises.

The goal of the UN-REDD Programme is to continue to support countries and other key actors to achieve systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies, and incentives in the forest and land sector to achieve this vision.

2.2. Theory of change

The globally agreed goal of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 can only be achieved through systemic changes and structural shifts in the highly complex dynamics underlying forest loss.

Building on 15 years of experience with REDD+ and deep trust relationships with key actors, especially at the national level, UN-REDD is poised to make a meaningful contribution to having a transformative impact at global, regional, and national levels by addressing the four key challenges outlined above and restated here:

- Reducing the financing gap through multiple actions aimed at containing costs and incentivizing public and private investments;
- Addressing the need for effective implementation of REDD+ actions in forest countries;
- Addressing ongoing challenges with carbon markets that are preventing such markets from playing a scaling role in the transformations needed to halt and reverse deforestation; and
- Addressing pressure on forests emanating from agricultural commodity markets.

The Programme will contribute to address these challenges by enhancing country-level capacities, assisting forest countries to make strategic interventions in their public policies both within and beyond the forest sector, generating and managing knowledge effectively, and convening and facilitating platforms at national, regional, and global levels that enable dialogue and knowledge exchange.

UN-REDD will help to scale up delivery from forest countries through country-owned and country-led processes designed to build both national and subnational capacity and institutional structures, and to adopt or amend laws and policies aimed at reversing and halting deforestation and accessing climate finance at scale. It will help forest countries to position themselves to access results-based financing, including facilitating scaling up finance by serving as a neutral broker of information among countries on financing opportunities and challenges.



UN-REDD will reduce risk and build trust through support for social and environmental safeguards, robust systems of benefit sharing, credible forest MRV, and sound and fair arrangements supporting forest carbon transactions. At the same time, these interventions will deliver non carbon benefit outcomes and synergies.

2.3. Assumptions

Internal assumptions

The theory of change (TOC) is based on several internal assumptions that support the overall Programme logic and drive delivery of results. These are defined as foundational narratives, or hypotheses, that inform and guide the overall Programme logic. Four key internal assumptions that guide this TOC are presented below:

- While REDD+ ERs are not as cheap, quick, and easy as was originally hoped, they are: a) essential to achieving the Paris climate goals; b) less costly and more quickly scalable than many other climate mitigation pathways; and c) have the potential to deliver significant non carbon benefits, including sustainable livelihoods, improved adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.
- Policies, measures, and other actions at the national scale (and at the project and subnational level) are essential for generating the massive volume of forest ERs needed from the forest sector to achieve the goal of reversing and halting deforestation by 2030.
- Promotion and respect for the rights and unique roles that Indigenous Peoples, and local communities - including women, men, and youth, as critical actors in the conservation and sustainable management of forest landscapes - is central to ensuring the social equity of forest emissions reductions.
- While project-scale intervention from carbon markets can play an essential role in achieving the scale of financing to meet the level of ambition needed, a series of fit-for-purpose measures, including sound systems for nesting project scale ERs with jurisdictional scale ERs, will be required in each country to ensure high-integrity emission reductions.

External assumptions

External assumptions are defined in this context as external conditions that will need to be met for the TOC to be realised or achieved. They are conditions over which the Programme has little or no direct influence. Some key external assumptions include:

- Sufficient national political will exists within the international community to increase ambition as well as financing for reduced deforestation.
- Forests and their role in reducing emissions continues to be a seen as a key aspect of the UNFCCC as well as other political processes linked to climate mitigation.

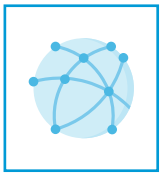
It is well understood that development and change are not linear processes, and progress is often made through evolving cycles that require reaffirmation, constant effort, and collaboration to move forward. In the context of REDD+ processes, this necessitates programme design that recognizes the highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing nature of programmatic outcomes and outputs.

2.4. UN-REDD Programme value proposition

Building on the mandate of the UN System to achieve international cooperation in solving international challenges, and more than fifteen years of delivering solutions for forest-based climate mitigation, the UN-REDD Programme's unique value proposition is:



Trusted in-country support: The Programme provides impartial and high-quality technical assistance as a trusted in-country partner on a wide array of forest-based climate mitigation solutions. Building on the in-country presence of the UN, a deeply rooted understanding of political economies, and direct access to the decision-makers in key ministries, UN-REDD support is always tailored to country needs.



Coordinating climate solutions: UN-REDD advises countries on how to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of market actors, TA providers, and political voices for REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme is not aligned with any specific crediting system or standard other than those aligned with the UNFCCC. Thus, our focus is on nationally-owned solutions that put countries in the driving seat to halt and reverse deforestation.



Convening for change: Through the Programme's role as a trusted convener at the country, regional and global levels, we are able to bring together diverse stakeholders across geographies and sectors to develop shared understandings that enhance coherent and effective action.

While there are numerous REDD+ technical assistance providers, many are focused on narrow support or operate in close association with specific market instruments. The UN-REDD Programme takes a neutral systems-wide view that is in line with country priorities, the Paris Agreement, and Sustainable Development Goals. These overarching points regarding the value proposition for the Programme are elaborated in the linked thematic briefs for each of the four programmatic outcomes and three cross-cutting programme elements described below.



CHAPTER 03



Results

In this chapter:

Programmatic outcomes and cross-cutting elements | Outcome 1: Demonstrating high-integrity REDD+ results | Outcome 2: Unlocking finance for REDD+ results | Outcome 3: Enhancing climate ambition | Outcome 4: Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation | Cross-cutting element A: Social inclusion and gender equality | Cross-cutting element B: Knowledge generation and management | Cross-cutting element C: Convening, advocacy, and communication

Figure 1. UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy Overview

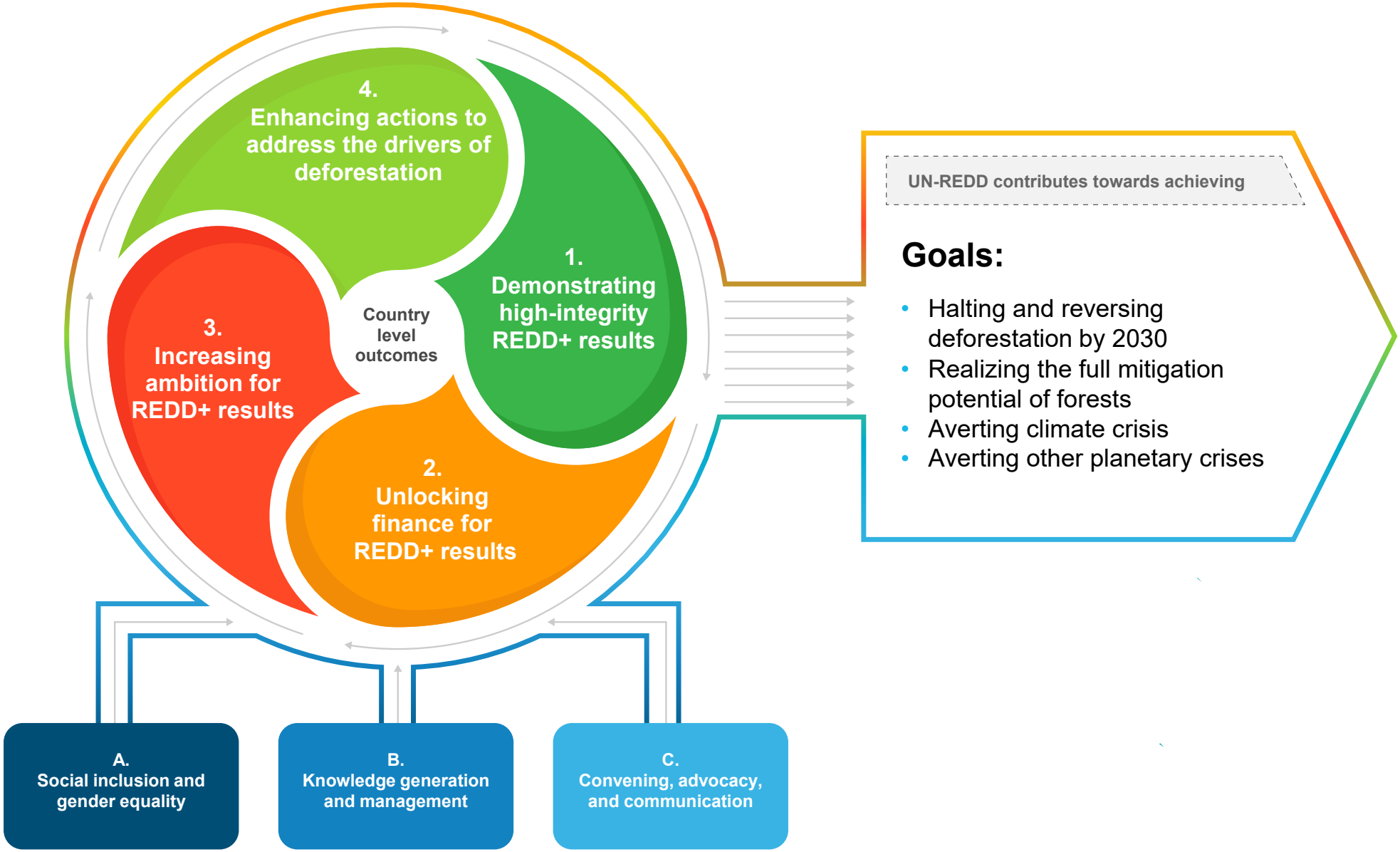


Table 1. Summary of the programmatic outcomes and cross-cutting elements

Integrity	Finance	Ambition	Results
Outcome 1: Demonstrating high integrity REDD+ results	**Outcome 2:** Unlocking finance for REDD+ results	**Outcome 3:** Enhancing climate ambition	**Outcome 4:** Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation
MRV **Output 1.1:** National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity	**RBF** **Output 2.1:** Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance	**NDCs** **Output 3.1:** Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5°C target	**Forest sector** **Output 4.1:** Forest sector policy and governance changes supported
Safeguards **Output 1.2:** Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported	**RBPs** **Output 2.2:** REDD+ RBPs secured	**ETF** **Output 3.2:** Enhanced Transparency Framework supported (forest and land use focused)	**Cross-Sectoral** **Output 4.2:** Cross sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported
Benefit sharing **Output 1.3:** Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized	**Article 6** **Output 2.3:** Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured	**Policy capacity** **Output 3.3:** Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition	**Local solutions** **Output 4.3:** Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported
	VCM **Output 2.4:** VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured		**Investments** **Output 4.4:** Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized

Cross-cutting elements – Accelerating transformation through:

A.	B.	C.
Social inclusion and gender equality	Knowledge generation and management	Convening, advocacy, and communication

4 i.e. International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

3.1. Programmatic outcomes and cross-cutting elements

For the 2026-2030 strategic cycle, UN-REDD is framed around four highly interrelated and mutually reinforcing outcomes, and three cross-cutting elements as depicted in Figure 1 and Table 1.

A summary of UN-REDD's proposed support is provided below for each outcome, associated output, and cross-cutting element. More detailed information is provided in linked thematic briefings for each of the breakthrough topics. These briefings provide a more operational summary of the programmatic work at the thematic level, presenting the challenges, value proposition and illustrative deliverables. They are recommended reading for those interested in better understanding the complex challenges in the land and forest sector, and how UN-REDD aims to contribute to delivering ambitious and lasting transformations.



3.2. Demonstrating high-integrity REDD+ results

Consolidating, institutionalising, and updating forest monitoring and MRV, and safeguards systems, in line with country approaches (e.g. nesting models), supporting countries to demonstrate the integrity of results, results-based finance, and socially inclusive and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms

- **Output 1.1: National Forest Monitoring Systems, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems consolidated with Environmental Integrity** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support partner countries in operationalizing robust systems of forest and carbon monitoring, measuring, reporting, and verifying actions and results, aligned with existing global programmes and affiliated initiatives. Specifically, UN-REDD will support countries to consolidate MRV systems for climate finance needs, align reporting and data generation processes across international agendas, and use enhanced data generation for improved policy and transparency frameworks.

- **Output 1.2: Safeguards addressed, respected, monitored and reported** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support partner countries to develop robust and credible nationally-owned systems for safeguarding REDD+ results-based financing arrangements at national and subnational levels in ways that respond to the increasingly diverse and complex requirements being demanded from such schemes.

- **Output 1.3: Just and fair benefit sharing mechanisms and social equity operationalized** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support countries to design and operationalize mechanisms to share benefits from REDD+ in a socially inclusive and gender-responsive[5] manner at the national and subnational level.



3.3. Outcome 2: Unlocking finance for REDD+ results

Supporting national and subnational jurisdictions to access REDD+ results-based finance from different climate finance sources aligned with Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement, including a) scaled-up, country-led, results-based payments without transfers; b) international carbon markets under the Paris Agreement (Article 6.2 and 6.4); and c) voluntary carbon markets for high-integrity mitigation results.

- **Output 2.1: Country-tailored improved knowledge and trust on market and non-market forest carbon finance** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support countries in evaluating key considerations in results-based finance sources.

- **Output 2.2: REDD+ RBPs secured** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support country access, both at the national and -subnational level, for entry into results-based payment transactions.

- **Output 2.3: Forest finance options under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (and other UN-governed markets) secured** (Thematic Brief)
  As Article 6 operationalization takes place, this output will support countries to fill regulatory and institutional gaps and to complement these actions with capacity building.

- **Output 2.4: VCM transactions for high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ secured** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will support country entry into transactions, including social (including gender), environmental, and accounting integrity of emission reductions to scale up the speed and volume of financial flows.

5 A gender responsive approach proactively identifies, understands, and implements interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions. Gender responsiveness in application attempts to re-define women and men's gender roles and relations and contributes pro-actively and intentionally to the advancement of gender equality. More than 'doing no harm', a gender-responsive policy, programme, plan, or project aims to 'do better.'



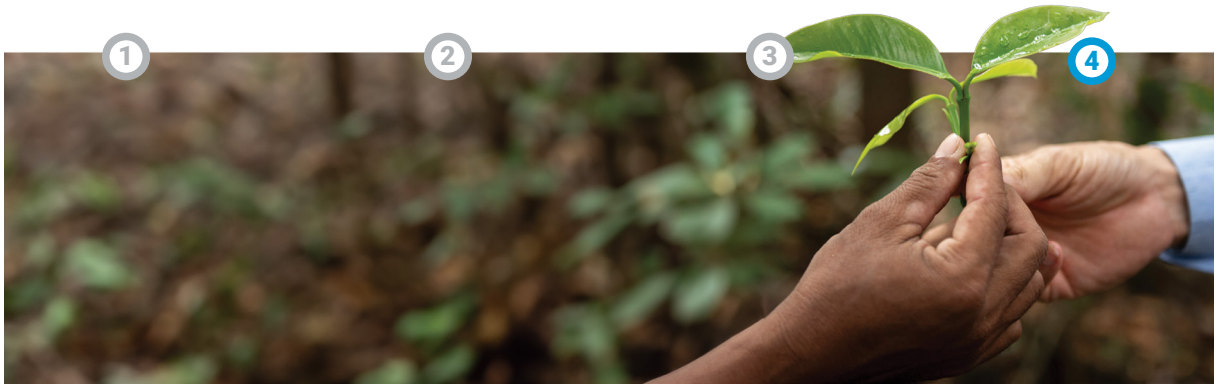
3.4. Outcome 3: Enhancing climate ambition

Within the framework of the UN Climate Promise, supporting countries to enhance the climate ambition of their forest and land sector, in line with the global 1.5o degrees Celsius target. This comprises support along the NDC cycle, including coordination, stakeholder engagement, quality assurance, enhancement, financing and implementation (thus contributing to Outcome 1), as well as reporting on NDC progress through the associated Enhanced Transparency Framework. The NDC support will integrate acceleration, ambition, and inclusivity.

- **Output 3.1: Ambitious, inclusive NDCs mitigation targets in the forest and land-use sector aligned to the global 1.5oC target** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will work at two distinct levels. At country level, support will be provided through technical inputs and review of country-level products and processes, participation in technical workshops, and country-oriented analysis and assessment. Secondly, this output will work at global-level support through a wide-ranging set of technical advisory, convening, and knowledge management efforts.

- **Output 3.2: Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) supported (forest and land use focused)** (Thematic Brief)
  UN-REDD will support the building of global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector. Countries will be supported to meet the ETF Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) and enhance their systems and reports over time, with a focus on forests and land use.

- **Output 3.3: Policy analysis and information systems supported to improve action and unlock ambition** (Thematic Brief)
  Under this output, UN-REDD aims to leverage its analytical capacity to both enhance REDD+ implementation while also enabling clear pathways for greater ambition.



3.5. Outcome 4: Enhancing actions to address drivers of deforestation

Linking and leveraging actions and actors to address deforestation drivers. Strengthening and aligning policies, governance, and incentives within the forest sector and across relevant land use sectors and stakeholders towards protection of forests and reduction in forest emissions. Promoting appropriate solutions towards transformative change that address and respect safeguards. and support rural and smallholder producers, engage private sector actors, and foster cross-sector collaboration. UN-REDD will promote solutions that support transformative change, aligning mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity agendas, and strengthening access to upfront finance to enable implementation of these solutions.

- **Output 4.1: Forest sector policy and governance changes supported** (Thematic Brief)
  This output will focus on connecting, aligning, and climate-linking ongoing national, regional, and global forest policies and governance frameworks and initiatives with national REDD+ strategies and broader climate objectives. In particular, countries will be supported to harmonise biodiversity restoration and climate resilience initiatives, including those related to fire management, within national and subnational forest-climate mitigation responses and plans. UN-REDD will support countries to assess and expand the contribution of social and community forestry to the climate mitigation agenda ensuring enhanced forest value, better livelihoods and entrepreneurship with forest products.

- **Output 4.2: Cross sectoral policy, agrifood systems and governance changes supported** (Thematic Brief)
  Under this output, UN-REDD will support countries to strengthen multisectoral dialogues to decouple agriculture from deforestation, develop sustainable value chains — including by facilitating compliance with and alignment to emerging trade and production regulations — and produce new tools to fill critical knowledge gaps on available deforestation solutions, traceability and the multi-functional value of forests. Support to cross-sectoral policy reforms will also address fire-related deforestation linked to agricultural expansion, including promoting fire-free land clearing practices and aligning land-use regulations with climate resilience goals. Through these catalytic actions, Output 4.2 contributes directly to reducing emissions from land-use change, supporting REDD+ implementation and advancing national climate commitments.

Output 4.3: Indigenous and local solutions scaled up and supported (Thematic Brief)
This output will work to support Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities to strengthen, formalise or protect their rights to forests, lands, and natural resources within the context of REDD+ policy processes and implementation, as well as catalysing access to finance through existing and innovative mechanisms. This includes, inter alia, support to strengthen Social Forestry, as well as scaling up traditional fire management practices that enhance forest resilience and reduce fire-related emissions.

- **Output 4.4: Incentives aligned, and upfront finance mobilized** (Thematic Brief)
This output will support partner countries to access upfront forest and climate financing instruments and products in support of REDD+ investments. This output will support countries to align domestic finance sources for REDD+ actions, develop or access payment for ecosystem services mechanisms (such as the proposed Tropical Forest Finance Facility - TFFF) and create the conditions that facilitate private sector investment in forests. A range of private sector actors - financial institutions, anchor companies, micro, small and medium enterprises – will be engaged in the design and operation of a variety of financial instruments.








Cross-cutting elements

The Programme has three cross-cutting elements, which contribute to the overall achievement of the four programmatic outcomes. These elements will be designed in full alignment and coordination with delivery of the substantive components of the programme in order to enhance their reach and impact. Given this active global support for the programme as a whole, it will necessitate budgetary allocations and sound coordination and planning mechanisms. These supportive actions will be implemented to reinforce and strengthen the four outcome areas while aiming to build enhanced understanding and trust among stakeholders.

Cross-cutting element A: Social inclusion and gender equality

Promoting social inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment in REDD+ policy formulation and governance, monitoring and safeguarding results, sharing benefits, delivering mitigation action, and participating in and accessing forest-climate finance. This will be achieved through an integrated package of county support, knowledge generation and management, convening, communication, and advocacy activities. (Thematic Brief)

Cross-cutting element B: Knowledge generation and management

Creating and disseminating practical research and knowledge about innovations, particularly levers of transformative, systemic change in forest and land-use governance, policies, and incentives. (Thematic Brief)

Cross-cutting element C: Convening, advocacy, and communication

Convening: Targeted policy and technical dialogues will be convened to identify as well as build consensus and trust on key issues, with a view to raising ambition.

Advocacy: Customized, evidence-based advocacy messaging to strengthen the position of forests and land-use as an essential climate mitigation opportunity.

Strategic communications: Influence the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of diverse audiences associated with forest and land-use sectors. (Thematic Brief)

CHAPTER 04



Implementation

In this chapter:

Delivery modalities | Partnerships | Funding framework | Monitoring framework

Implementation

04



4.1. Delivery modalities

For the 2026-2030 period, the UN-REDD Programme plans to operate at the country, regional and global scales with interconnected approaches and synergies between these three levels. To be impactful, the Programme will operate across all outcomes and levels with the delivery modalities described below.

Country Support

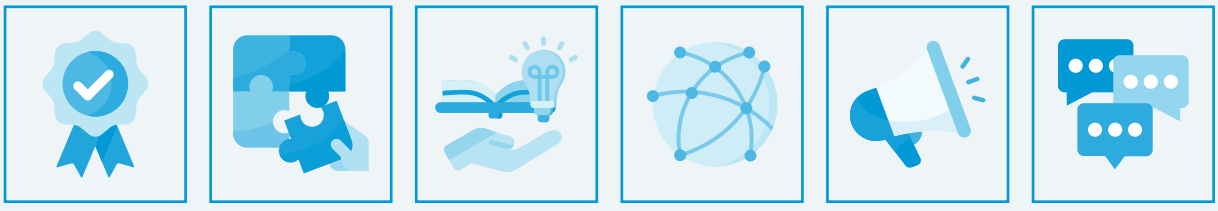
At the country level, UN-REDD will respond to country needs, ensuring that social inclusion and gender equality are addressed by promoting inclusive rights-based practises. It will do so with a tailored and inclusive approach, building on the UN system capacities and country presence of the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Teams. The following service lines are being explored:

- Technical Assistance: UN-REDD will mobilize technical and policy advisors from the three agencies to support governmental agencies and other national and subnational stakeholders.
- National Programmes: UN-REDD will provide comprehensive support to countries, including dedicated in-country operational budgets. The nature and scale of this support will vary across countries depending on specific country needs and resources available. It will include a wide range of support types, highly tailored to specific country circumstances, ranging from catalytic Targeted Support to fully fledged National Programmes (NPs). Future NPs will build from best experience from UN-REDD and other partners. NP-scale investments will be assessed to ensure longer-term investment in institutional capacities, policy alignment, reform and integration, multi-stakeholder governance platforms and processes, particularly for inclusive NDCs, and brokering trust between stakeholder constituencies. For instance, when requested by national governments, this could include in-country coordination of national and subnational efforts of government and non-state stakeholders to advance FOLU-based mitigation at scale and speed, and with environmental and social integrity.

A variable and modular approach will allow the Programme to cater for both high-impact geographies, as well as other countries. Resources will be allocated in a balanced way to be able to address needs and demands from countries while maximizing the potential impact of the Programme.

Global and Regional Support

Responding to the needs of the global and regional climate agenda and building a virtuous connection global to local, UN-REDD will provide support also at the regional and global levels with the following service lines (as described above):



Technical oversight and quality assurance

Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

Knowledge Generation and Management

Convening

Advocacy

Communications

4.2. Partnerships

Collaboration and partnerships are essential to support delivery at the pace and scales required and, as such, are at the centre of UN-REDD's approaches. Partnerships are made with all stakeholders with the influence or ability to deliver on the objectives of the forest and climate agenda – most notably governments of forest countries, donors, CSO's, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector, and international organizations. This diversity is reflected in the composition of the UN-REDD Programme's Executive Board. The Programme is also a large-scale example of the UN "Delivering as One", where the three participating UN agencies come together to provide an integrated delivery approach.

The Programme will pursue internal and external approaches to leverage impactful partnerships. A summary is provided below, and a full mapping of partners is being undertaken to further identify where UN-REDD can best focus its support.

Internal partnerships

The primary modality for funding the results framework of the UN-REDD Programme will continue to be through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Pooled funds remain a high priority for Member States and donors. The UN development system has engaged UN pooled financing as an instrument to promote UN coherence and advance global and national development goals. UN leadership and its Member States have recognized pooled financing as an effective instrument for improving collaboration with and within the UN – a major tenet of the reform process across all of its pillars. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on repositioning the UN Development System (A/RES/72/279) committed to reduce fragmentation to "double inter-agency pooled funds to a total of USD 3.4 billion" per year by 2023. The United Nations Funding Compact, approved in 2019, contains a set of commitments between the UN and Member States to raise the quality of funding and delivery of development assistance. The compact includes specific targets on inter-agency pooled funding where, for Member States, 10 per cent of non-core resources are committed to development-related activities and channelled through inter-agency pooled funds.



To maximize its value to the forest and climate agenda and its stakeholders, the three UN-REDD agencies will enhance their capacities to leverage and connect other relevant initiatives managed or funded by the agencies outside the UN-REDD Programme.

An agile and pragmatic approach to funding modalities will also be taken when necessary to fully engage in external partnerships such as those described in the next section.

As such there will be two integrated typologies that the agencies will use to provide a coherent platform of support to partners: UN-REDD core and associated interventions:

- **UN-REDD core programme and affiliated initiatives.** This is the current modality where funds are administered through the MPTF, and the agencies jointly manage the delivery. UN-REDD core includes the possibility (already an established practice) to earmark funds within the MPTF to achieve programme results, on specific themes or geographies (e.g. ASEAN Social Forestry, African Forest Forum (AFF), and the REDD+ Academy). It will also include climate and forest initiatives that are relevant to the UN-REDD Programme, funded through the MPTF, but managed independently by one or more of the UN-REDD agencies in close collaboration with the core UN-REDD Programme (e.g., AIM4Forests).
- **UN-REDD associated initiatives.** This will include instances where the UN-REDD Programme will be engaging in climate and forest initiatives that are relevant to the UN-REDD Programme, but funded outside of the MPTF, and implemented by the agencies in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme. When UN-REDD funds are contributed to the effort (e.g., FAO-Japan Building Global Capacity on Halting Deforestation and Conversions from Agricultural Commodities, aka Big Chance, or the FAO-UNEP Global Wildfires Hub), the expectation is that specific activities will be co-branded with our partners. In other instances, UN-REDD agency involvement in an initiative will not be considered a formal partnership with the UN-REDD Programme. Still, it will be leveraged to advance the overarching goal of halting deforestation by 2030.

External partnerships

Deepening strategic partnerships with key multilateral system partners that operate in the forest and climate space is a priority. This includes the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Climate Funds including the World Bank and GCF, Rio Conventions, FCLP, LEAF Coalition, as well as key UN system partnerships and beyond, such as the NDC Partnership.

With the Technical Assistance (TA) landscape becoming increasingly complex, it is also important to strengthen the coordination across TA providers in order to increase the traction and impact of support. The UN-REDD Programme proposes to serve as a catalyst of TA coordination on an as-needed and as-requested basis. Such coordination can occur at global, regional, and country levels, with an understanding that TA coordination at the country level is likely to be the most effective and impactful locus of such support. The purpose of TA coordination undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme is to optimize the value and impact of TA provided to countries from multiple sources. The ultimate goal of coordinated TA is to advance FOLU-based mitigation at scale and speed, and with environmental and social integrity. TA coordination undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme would not endorse, on behalf of governments, work plans of any third-party TA providers.

4.3. Funding Framework

The 2026–2030 Strategy recognizes the growing global trend of government cuts to development aid budgets. Traditional grant funding, which has historically served as the foundation of development assistance, is contracting as a result of evolving donor priorities, economic uncertainty, and increasing geopolitical instability. While securing predictable, flexible, multi-year investments remains a central objective of UN-REDD's funding framework, the Programme is also proactively adapting to ensure it can meet expectations around value for money, delivery capacity, and the ability to support a critical portfolio of actions and geographies. To deepen the Programme's impact and strengthen financial resilience, the Programme will continue to explore further diversification of its donor base, including through engagement with emerging donors, philanthropic actors and climate finance mechanisms.

UN-REDD operates under a set of conditions that determines how resources can be mobilized: it is a specialized initiative with a wide regional presence, and it is entrusted with a broad and multi-faceted mandate to develop, manage and implement complex programmes and approaches funded from a diverse range of donors.

Drawing on lessons from previous budget cycles, the high case scenario of USD 300 million for the 2026-30 period would enable UN-REDD to deliver its full mandate – providing comprehensive support across geographies, thematic priorities and service lines, and also provide a critical de-risking function for public and private sector investment. A low-case scenario of USD 100 million would allow the Programme to maintain a core offering, though with a narrower scope and reduced depth of technical assistance. Under this scenario, UN-REDD would prioritize strategic countries and interventions where impact and catalytic potential are greatest, ensuring continued relevance and credibility while advocating for increased resourcing.

The funding framework will be further elaborated in the programming phase.

4.4. Monitoring Framework

UN-REDD will continue to apply robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems aligned with UN standards and agency-specific evaluation policies. The Programme will maintain a common results framework with clearly defined output and outcome indicators, enabling joint tracking of progress across the interagency partnership. Annual and semi-annual reporting, complemented by periodic independent evaluations, will inform adaptive management, transparency, and strategic oversight.

The common results framework for UN-REDD 2026-2030 is being developed in close coordination with the 2026–2030 Strategy. Its design draws on lessons from the UN-REDD Formative Review, comparative analysis with similar international initiatives, and initial consultations including at the UN-REDD Ninth Executive Board meeting (19-20 June 2025). The results framework will be finalized in 2026, shaped through targeted consultations with key stakeholders. A mid-term review is planned to help validate the framework, ensuring adaptive management and alignment with donor priorities.

Annex 1: List of acronyms

CO_2AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
ART-TREES	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions' The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
CBR+	Community-based REDD+
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ER	Emission Reduction
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreements
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EUDR	EU Deforestation Regulation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCLP	Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, or Practices
KM	Knowledge Management
LEAF	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance Coalition
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank

MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MPG	Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
RBP	Result-Based Payment
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIS	Safeguards Information System
TFFF	Tropical Forest Finance Facility
TOC	Theory of Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCM	Voluntary Carbon Markets
WFR	Warsaw Framework for REDD+

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UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNDP

UN environment programme

www.un-redd.org