



Date: 6 September 2023
Reference: MTP/TRANSP/Submissions/forest
reference levels
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MESSAGE TO PARTIES

Submission and technical assessment of proposed REDD+¹ forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in 2024–2025

Parties will recall that the COP, in decision 12/CP.17,² paragraph 13, invited developing country Parties, on a voluntary basis and when deemed appropriate, to submit proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(b), when undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of the same decision. Parties will also recall that the COP, in decision 13/CP.19, adopted the guidelines and procedures for the technical assessment of those submissions, decided that each submission shall be subject to a technical assessment and recalled that proposed reference levels may be technically assessed in the context of results-based payments.

The secretariat is pleased to inform Parties of the proposed **time frames for the technical assessments** of reference levels to be conducted in **2024–2025**.³ This information is being provided to facilitate developing country Parties' planning for submission of their reference levels and the efficient and effective organization of the technical assessment sessions by the secretariat in accordance with the procedures and time frames set out in decision 13/CP.19, annex.

Distribution: To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.

¹ REDD+ activities as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.

² All decisions mentioned in this message are available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/resources/redd-documents>.

³ Dates are indicative and subject to change.



To that end, the secretariat will, inter alia:

1. Organize the technical assessment sessions to take place once a year in Bonn, as mandated in decision 13/CP.19, annex, paragraph 10, which also states that submissions received no later than 10 weeks before a session will be assessed at that session and submissions received less than 10 weeks ahead of a session will be scheduled for assessment the following year;
2. Coordinate the technical assessment process;
3. Ensure balanced representation of LULUCF experts from developing and developed country Parties, with each submission assessed by two LULUCF experts selected from the UNFCCC roster of experts, one from a developing and one from a developed country Party.

In view of the above, the secretariat would appreciate early notification from developing country Parties intending to submit proposed reference levels for technical assessment. As noted, the secretariat must receive submissions **at least 10 weeks** before the start of the assessment session to ensure adequate and effective logistical preparation and organization (e.g. identifying, inviting and confirming experts). Note that all information pertaining to the submission must be forwarded to the assessment team **at least eight weeks** before the start of the assessment session to allow the participating LULUCF experts sufficient time to prepare for the week-long centralized assessment. The technical assessment process spans approximately **43 weeks**, including interaction time between the assessment team and the Party concerned, response time by the Party and time for preparing the draft and final reports.

After careful consideration of several factors that have implications for the timing of the technical assessment, such as the timing of all technical review processes being organized under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the timing of UNFCCC negotiation sessions, the availability of LULUCF experts during the year and the need for ongoing fundraising to support the organization of the technical assessment, the secretariat has identified the most feasible dates for the assessment sessions in 2024–2025 and the corresponding submission deadlines. The time frames for the technical assessment sessions in 2024–2025 are presented in the annex. Submissions of proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels should be sent by the UNFCCC national focal point to the secretariat at secretariat@unfccc.int copying TARL@unfccc.int.

In addition, the COP invited Parties to nominate technical experts with relevant qualifications to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Each Party should confirm to the secretariat the names of their active LULUCF experts on the roster and which experts will be able to participate in the technical assessment sessions in 2024–2025. Parties are invited to refer to the [roster of experts](#) with a view to nominating new experts and/or updating the information on those already nominated. Recalling decision 13/CP.19, paragraphs 7–8, in which the COP noted the budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat in relation to the technical assessment, the secretariat wishes to note that it will only be able to undertake the activities subject to the availability of supplementary funding and would like to take this opportunity to request Parties in a position to do so to support the technical assessment process, which is a critical step in developing country Parties' implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and as embodied in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.



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The secretariat kindly requests Parties' cooperation in adhering to the planned time frames for the technical assessment sessions in 2024–2025 with a view to facilitating their organization and coordination and ensuring successful outcomes. In addition, the secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to Parties for their continuing support for this important process.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by)

Simon Stiell



Annex

Indicative time frame for the technical assessment of proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in 2024–2025

	2024 technical assessment	2025 technical assessment
	Deadline/time frame	
Party to provide early notice of submission to the secretariat	30 October 2023	11 November 2024
Party to submit reference level (no later than 10 weeks before the assessment session)	8 January 2024	13 January 2025
Information to be forwarded to assessment team (8 weeks before the assessment session)	22 January 2024	27 January 2025
Assessment session in Bonn (1 week)	18–22 March 2024	24–28 March 2025
Additional clarifications to be sought from Party (up to 1 week)	25–29 March 2024	31 March to 4 April 2025
Party to provide clarifications (8 weeks), including submission of modified submission, if appropriate	27 May 2024	2 June 2025
Assessment team to consider modified reference level (4 weeks) (applicable when a Party modifies its submitted reference level)	27 May to 24 June 2024	2 to 30 June 2025
Assessment team to prepare draft report	15 July 2024	21 July 2025
Party to respond to draft report (12 weeks)	4 October 2024	3 October 2025
Assessment team to prepare final report within 4 weeks following Party's response	4 November 2024	10 November 2025
Final report to be published and technical assessment completed	2 December 2024	8 December 2025

For planning purposes, dates indicate the maximum time frames required as per decision 13/CP.19 and annex. Dates relating to the preparation of the draft report are based on the assumption that a modified submission will be made.