

COP30 Presidency Roadmap to Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

Prompt:

The Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 is aimed at implementing paragraphs 33 and 34 of the outcomes of GST1. It is sought to be an action-oriented document that offers guidance for the achievement of these efforts; identifies existing means of implementation and solutions being accelerated through the Action Agenda; and highlights obstacles and gaps to be addressed. It also showcases policies and measures that have been successfully implemented in real situations and can be replicated in other contexts. Contributors are invited to submit concise inputs on one or more of the following questions:

(a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social — preventing the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation?

(b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation?

(c) What country, regional or sector experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared regarding forest conservation and restoration?

(d) How can forest conservation, sustainable management, and restoration best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development, the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and different degrees of forest cover? The Roadmap will address a diverse set of issues.

You may wish to consider one or more of the topics below when responding to the questions above. • Deforestation: drivers and solutions; • Forest degradation: drivers and solutions; • Forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation; • Sustainable forest management, bioeconomy and agroforestry; • Forest conservation; • Indigenous Peoples, local communities, forests and climate change; • Law enforcement and organized crime repression at the national level; • Forests, climate change, international cooperation and capacity building; • International forest finance, carbon markets and sustainable value chains; • International institutional challenges and solutions in areas such as trade rules and transnational environmental crime.¹

ART Response:

The Architecture for REDD+ Transitions (ART) would like to concisely address all four sections of the COP30 Presidency's call for submissions, focusing on finance for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

First (a), the most formidable **barriers** to halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation are unsustainable supply chain practices, subsidies that encourage destruction of forests, and the lack of finance for forest protection and enhancement.

Second (b), Jurisdictional REDD+ (importantly, as a conduit for channeling finance from carbon markets) is a critical and irreplaceable **lever** for accelerating implementation toward those goals of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/COP30Presidencyinvitation_to_submit_contributions.pdf

Third (c), and in recognition of this fact, we offer a concise summary in section II showcasing best practices that countries are currently taking in the context of their jurisdictional REDD+ programs. Our hope is that by showcasing these efforts, other countries will be inspired to replicate these practices and further innovate in this space.

Fourth (d), on the question of how conservation, sustainable management and restoration work in different contexts, including various stages of development and degrees of forest cover, and how they can be implemented using a rights-based approach, we offer a brief explanation of the logic model of jurisdictional REDD+, below.

The final section will examine how JREDD+ can facilitate international cooperation and the crowding in of private sector finance.

I. Introduction

Jurisdictional REDD+ aims to disrupt the typical environmental Kuznets curve of forest cover and development, wherein as a jurisdiction develops, deforestation increases. Instead, JREDD+ aims to create incentives for developing countries to actively reduce emissions from the land use sector by monitoring at the national level, establishing a baseline based on historical data, and gathering and reporting of safeguards information. To attract the scale of finance necessary to counterbalance pressures to destroy forest, this system of monitoring and reporting needs to be standardized across countries in a way that creates carbon credit units that are fungible across sectors. That is where the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) and its standard, TREES, comes in. TREES is highly conservative and rigorous, and it offers bespoke approaches for exceptional cases, like high forest, low deforestation (HFLD) areas, which are designed to provide for perverse incentives that are baked into the logic of REDD+ crediting in the rare cases where a jurisdiction has been successful for a long time in subduing forces that threaten to destroy forests. Importantly, TREES also includes an approach for crediting for removals at jurisdictional scale.

II. What Countries Are Doing

Halting Deforestation

Deforestation is driven by a range of activities, which vary widely across the globe, but generally include agricultural expansion, illegal activities, infrastructure development, critical mineral and fossil fuel exploration, and weak governance. Solutions include coherent land-use planning, enforcement of forest and land laws, conditioning agricultural and export finance on zero-deforestation compliance, and deploying jurisdictional approaches that minimize leakage. Robust monitoring systems, transparent data, and regular reporting enable adaptive policy improvement. Replicable successes include, *inter alia*, Brazil's PPCDAm and jurisdictional REDD+ programs [such as Guyana's](#). Other examples of successful jurisdictional REDD+ programs include those implemented by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, and Vietnam. They include activities that reduce deforestation such as the establishment of protected areas, supporting land titling for Indigenous villages and other land tenure legalization, strengthening core systems for monitoring forest loss, establishing pathways for legal timber exports, promoting climate-smart agricultural crop commodities production systems, and increasing sustainable forest management certifications that emphasize traceability. All these activities are features of jurisdictional REDD+ programs, for which support and clear standards are readily available now. Countries implementing interventions to protect forests from loss can document and independently verify the results of their activities by participating in jurisdictional scale carbon crediting programs, thereby receiving finance from market actors.

For more information about these (and other) REDD+ programs, please visit the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Registry: <https://art.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=111>

Halting Forest Degradation

In many developing countries, emissions from degradation exceed those from deforestation. Forest degradation results from a wide range of activities including selective logging, fires, mining, and unsustainable extraction. Policy responses include strengthening forest management standards, fire prevention and control, restoration obligations, and incentives for reduced-impact practices. Data on forest degradation can come from a variety of sources which can be integrated into national reporting systems. Activities that reduce degradation in jurisdictional REDD+ programs include promoting improved harvesting practices such as reduced impact logging via training programs, strengthening law enforcement, and coordinating institutional MRV systems to identify common drivers of degradation like selective logging, charcoal production, and wildfires, furthering the capacity for informed land-use planning that involves participation of multiple stakeholders, like NGOs and local communities. These successful examples implemented by countries like Ghana, Guyana, and Vietnam are documented in independent registries, such as the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART): <https://art.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=111>. Countries implementing interventions that address forest degradation can document and independently verify the results of their activities by participating in jurisdictional scale carbon crediting programs, thereby receiving finance from market actors.

Forest Restoration, Reforestation and Afforestation

Restoration and reforestation address past forest loss while supporting climate, biodiversity, and livelihood goals. Key barriers include land tenure uncertainty, financing gaps, and limited technical capacity. Countries can deploy national restoration strategies, blended finance, and performance-based incentives, with clear metrics and long-term monitoring. Costa Rica's Payments for Ecosystem Services provide a replicable model. FRRRA activities in jurisdictional REDD+ programs include landscape level planning and management, establishing target species nurseries, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest reserves through reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, and community conservation agreements. [ART's approach jurisdictional-scale crediting for restoring forests](#) - which incrementally remove and store carbon from the atmosphere - provides a pathway to help drive transformational change in the forest sector. Successful examples implemented by countries include, inter alia, Costa Rica and Ghana, and are documented in independent registries, such as the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART): <https://art.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=111>. Countries implementing FRRRA activities can document and independently verify the results of their efforts by participating in jurisdictional scale carbon crediting programs, thereby receiving finance from market actors.

Sustainable Forest Management, Bioeconomy, Agroforestry

Sustainable forest management and forest-based bioeconomy strategies enable economic development compatible with conservation. Agroforestry, sustainable timber, and non-timber forest products diversify incomes and reduce pressure on forests. Supportive policies include access to finance, market development, extension services, and integration into national development planning. SFM activities in jurisdictional REDD+ programs include landscape level planning and management, training government and Indigenous leaders on land-use planning and environmental governance, integrating Indigenous life plans into territorial planning, promotion of sustainable production systems for timber and non-timber forest products via technical assistance and financial incentives, and increasing sustainable forest management certifications that emphasize traceability. These successful examples implemented by countries like Ecuador, Ghana, Guyana, and Vietnam are documented in independent registries, such as

the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART): <https://art.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=111>. Countries implementing SFM activities that generate positive carbon impacts can document and independently verify the results of their efforts by participating in jurisdictional scale carbon crediting programs, thereby receiving finance from market actors.

III. International Cooperation

While the international community has seen measured success utilizing a range of strategies to address the economic and political factors driving threats to forests, they are insufficient for the task at hand in the timeframe we have (just three and half years). High-integrity, jurisdictional-scale forest carbon crediting programs offer a ready, additional revenue stream, and they incentivize governments to take action that only they can: recognize land rights, regulate land use, enforce the law, and align fiscal incentives with forest conservation goals. Voluntary and compliance carbon markets enable the sale of carbon credits to countries and corporations to offset emissions on the path to net-zero. This approach provides financial rewards for forest conservation while incorporating the societal costs of emissions from other sources into financial decision-making.

In order to take full advantage of the potential of jurisdictional REDD+, international cooperation is essential. In most countries, there continue to be formidable technical and institutional gaps. Priorities include capacity building for forest monitoring, measurement methodologies, data systems, and alignment with international standards. Initiatives such as the GFOI, UN-REDD, the UK TAF and Model Forest Act Initiative (MOFAI) can support legal and institutional strengthening.

With that support however, scaled, predictable finance can be delivered. This level of international collaboration is critical to meeting the goals of paragraphs 33 and 34 of the first Global Stocktake (halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation). Although efforts to secure such finance have been ongoing for some time, they have been fragmented and disjointed. However, with the COP30 Presidency and its initiatives to coordinate and focus the Action Agenda, the maturity of jurisdictional REDD+ for immediate and scaled deployment, and the establishment of new mechanisms for raising and channeling forest finance, the international community now has a unique opportunity to make the goals of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation a reality.

The COP30 Presidency's Action Agenda provides a practical implementation framework to accelerate forest action and carbon market deployment without reopening negotiated mandates. Following the first Global Stocktake, the COP30 Action Agenda focuses on scaling proven solutions, aligning finance and markets, and mobilizing non-state actors to deliver results before 2030. For forests, this approach emphasizes deployment over new commitments, positioning international cooperation, results-based finance, and carbon markets as core means of implementation.

In that context, jurisdictional REDD+ is an essential tool -- available now -- for mobilizing finance at scale, and enabling system-level change, as governments are core participants in jurisdictional programs. Under the Action Agenda's pillar on Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity, the Presidency elevated jurisdictional and national level approaches as the primary scale for halting and reversing deforestation. Jurisdictional REDD+ (JREDD+) was highlighted as a mature, scalable instrument capable of delivering verifiable emission reductions and removals, strengthening forest governance, and channeling finance directly to forest protection and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP & LCs). Ministerial and

technical dialogues convened by the Presidency underscored that JREDD+ can tap into public climate finance, private finance through both voluntary and compliance carbon markets, and national development priorities, while minimizing leakage and other so-called integrity risks. Independent carbon crediting programs for JREDD+ (e.g. the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions, ART) are already approved for regulated markets such as CORSIA and have resulted in finance flowing to developing countries that implement measures to address deforestation and degradation and restore forests.

The Action Agenda also helped mobilize predictable, long-term forest finance through the launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF). Designed to provide sustained, area-based payments for standing forests, the TFFF complements jurisdictional REDD+ by addressing conservation and permanence outcomes over the long term without risk of double counting of carbon units. Together, jurisdictional REDD+ and the TFFF have the potential to form a mutually reinforcing finance architecture: REDD+ rewarding measured emission reductions and removal of carbon (through the enhancement of forest carbon stocks through activities like forest restoration, reforestation, and afforestation), and the TFFF sustaining low-deforestation trajectories based on simple area-based metrics. Both mechanisms emphasize transparency, accountability, and equitable benefit sharing.

The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) has the potential to significantly enhance the impact of jurisdictional REDD+ efforts when it becomes operational. However, it is crucial that the work on TFFF does not divert attention from the immediate need to scale jurisdictional REDD+. Jurisdictional REDD+ is essential for channeling private finance towards halting and reversing deforestation in the next three years. To achieve this, we must utilize carbon markets. Regarding carbon markets, the COP30 Presidency used the Action Agenda to advance market readiness and integration, rather than renegotiate Article 6 rules. The Presidency promoted coalitions and partnerships aimed at improving integrity, predictability, and demand signaling for high-quality credits, with particular emphasis on jurisdictional forest credits aligned with national accounting systems. This included initiatives, for example the Open Coalition for Compliance Markets, to harmonize standards and link carbon market systems in ways that support Paris Agreement implementation, enable countries to exceed their NDCs, and mobilize private capital at scale.

Importantly, the Action Agenda reframed forests and carbon markets as means of implementation, not substitutes for mitigation ambition. It reinforced that carbon markets—particularly jurisdictional approaches—should operate in support of national climate strategies, contribute to NDC achievement and ambition raising, and deliver tangible social and environmental co-benefits.

For international cooperation, the COP30 Action Agenda demonstrates how Parties can align finance, markets, and policy frameworks to accelerate forest outcomes within existing mandates. It provides a pathway for scaling jurisdictional REDD+, and once operationalized, innovative finance mechanisms such as the TFFF, as well as strengthening cooperation on market infrastructure and regulatory alignment—collectively enabling countries to deliver rapid, durable progress toward halting and reversing deforestation by 2030. But it is important to recognize that the Action Agenda, and indeed international cooperation through the United Nations cannot be the only avenue for action. It is imperative that private finance be crowded into this space as soon as possible.

With an estimated USD 70 billion finance gap, and just three and a half years to go, there is no time to lose. In addition to action to reduce within value chain forest destruction, effective use of carbon markets for forest conservation and enhancement is critical for channeling private

finance to the places that need it most. It will be important for forest countries and everyone who cares about meeting the goals of halting and reversing deforestation to engage with processes like the operationalization of the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) to ensure that nature-based solutions remain eligible at scale for transaction in carbon markets. High integrity carbon crediting programs like ART provide an opportunity for forest countries to tap into multiple demand pools across compliance and voluntary regimes. Beyond the market for PACM credits, international compliance regimes like the International Civil Aviation Organization's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and domestic compliance schemes like Singapore's (created by its Carbon Pricing Act) offer access to large-scale, consistent demand. For the voluntary market, ART has gained widespread recognition as a high integrity standard for carbon crediting, including approval from the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM). Coalitions like the Coalition to Grow Carbon Markets and the Open Coalition for Compliance Markets offer opportunities to replicate these gains and achieve economies of scale by utilizing consistent metrics for supply-side integrity across voluntary and compliance pools of demand.

Markets for JREDD+ credits alone could deliver between \$3 billion and \$6 billion per year to tropical forest countries – complementing prospective payments from the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) launched by Brazil at COP30. Together, JREDD+ and TFFF could provide significant incentives to stop forest loss. Importantly, however, the international community will only be able to achieve this scale of finance if initiatives like the Science Based Targets Initiative expand recognition and reward and/or communicate to prospective buyers the unique attributes of jurisdictional REDD+ credits, which include high integrity fungible carbon credits, and benefits well beyond carbon.

These mechanisms for channeling finance toward halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation are critical tools, but they must be complemented by enhanced efforts in the bioeconomy, redirection of supply-chain practices and finance, aligning fiscal policies, and leveraging sovereign debt instruments -- all of which can be better aligned through a coherent Action Agenda.

IV. Conclusion

The COP30 Presidency has the potential to drive transformative progress by organizing efforts to mobilize the estimated USD 70 billion annually required to protect forests by 2030. While this is a challenge, the COP30 Presidency stands at a unique vantage point, from which it has the opportunity to draw connections to improve the coherence of ongoing efforts, and thereby help to scale up the tools we have. One critical part of its work will be through support for the expansion of jurisdictional REDD+, as well as by operationalizing the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), and helping to align economic incentives with zero-deforestation outcomes. Markets for JREDD+ credits alone could generate between \$3 billion and \$6 billion annually for tropical forest countries, complementing the prospective payments from the TFFF, which Brazil launched at COP30. Timely, predictable finance and decisive policy action will determine whether the goals of the Paris Agreement—avoiding catastrophic effects of climate change by limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius with minimal overshoot—remain attainable.