



ART launches initiative to capture the value of jurisdictional REDD+ beyond carbon

ARLINGTON, VA, 27 January 2023 – The Secretariat of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) announces the launch of an initiative to develop an optional certification for the co-benefits of jurisdictional REDD+ beyond carbon. When complete, the new certification is intended to bring additional value to carbon credits that are certified and issued by ART in conformance with The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES).

The certification will enable ART Participants to objectively demonstrate the positive impacts of their REDD+ programs that go beyond greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals. The certification's three distinct modules will be for biodiversity benefits, non-CO₂ climate benefits, and socio-cultural benefits of forests to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

The certification will permit ART Participants to demonstrate the multiple co-benefits of their forest protection and restoration activities in a transparent and consistent manner. Impact claims will be independently verified, providing the market with added confidence in the results. ART will announce committees for each module in the next month to begin work and will post additional information on its website as updates and timelines are available.

“Nature based solutions, and forests in particular, are an essential element of achieving the climate goals of the Paris Agreement in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Carbon markets offer a proven, globally scalable system to channel climate finance to REDD+ activities, however, they have not yet succeeded in properly capturing the value of the unique benefits that stable forests provide beyond simply storing carbon. Our goal with this initiative is to allow markets to value forest carbon credits with commensurate pricing that reflects their many positive contributions to nature, people and the planet,” said Mary Grady, Executive Director of the ART Secretariat.

“Over the past eight months, the ART Secretariat team has discussed this challenge with many stakeholder groups. We are pleased to have had so many key partners reach out and express a desire to collaborate on the development of the certification,” Grady added.

During these stakeholder discussions, a number of core questions were raised that will guide the work of the committees, which include:

- How do we ensure jurisdictions can demonstrate these beyond carbon contributions of their REDD+ actions and demand a higher price for their results?
- How can the voices of stakeholders like Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the issues that are most important to them be reflected as part of the carbon program and be considered by buyers when making choices?
- How do we create a system for the market to understand and properly value these additional attributes?
- How can we help buyers understand the multiple values of jurisdictional REDD+ and offer a framework for them to report the impacts beyond carbon of their purchase of TREES Credits?
- And how can we design a certification that adds value without adding undue burden, and that leverages existing frameworks rather than building something completely new?



ART's development of the co-benefit certification will follow the standard development requirements in TREES. The ART Secretariat will work with the expert committees to design a draft, which will be iterated with key stakeholder groups and reviewed and approved by the ART Board to put forth for a global public consultation. Comments received during the consultation will be reviewed by the ART Board and revisions made as appropriate before the certification is published for use.

The ART Secretariat anticipates that global public consultation will begin prior to the end of 2023.

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