



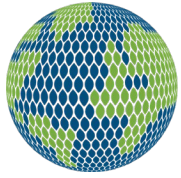
Frances Seymour Steps Down from ART Board to Take New U.S. Government Role

ARLINGTON, VA - November 16, 2023 - The Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) announced today that, effective November 5th, Frances Seymour has stepped down as Chair of the ART Board of Directors in order to take a newly created position as Forests Advisor with the Office of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. Frances served as ART's inaugural board chair from 2019, and over the course of more than four years thoughtfully guided the organization from the very first global public consultation on and publication of the TREES Standard in 2020, through the development and launch of TREES 2.0 in 2021, through the issuance of the first TREES credits in 2022, to today, when 18 jurisdictions are in the pipeline working toward registration of their jurisdictional REDD+ results and credit issuances.

"Frances' contributions to advancing the scientific, economic and policy foundations for forest protection and restoration at the jurisdictional level, broadly, and her contributions to the development of ART's program, specifically, have been nothing short of extraordinary. Her deep insight into forest and climate issues, her relentless advocacy for equity, and her commitment to inclusive, consensus-based approaches have been foundational to her leadership on the ART Board, as well as the contribution she will now make advising Secretary Kerry," said Mary Grady, the Executive Director of ART. "We express our warmest gratitude to Frances for her significant contributions and wish her the best in her new position; there could be no better champion for the world's forests in that role."

"It has been a privilege to support ART's efforts to unlock finance at scale for governments and communities that have achieved forest-based emissions reductions and removals," said Seymour. "Deforestation and forest degradation remain a critical element of the climate crisis, so ART's role in building confidence in the integrity of jurisdictional-scale forest carbon credits is needed now more than ever."

John Verdieck, currently the Vice Chair of the Board, will assume the position of Chair per the protocol set forth in ART's charter. John is the Director of International Climate Policy at The Nature Conservancy and is one of the



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world's leading experts on improving policy coherence between international climate change rulesets and national-level action in the land sector.

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