

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

FEEDBACK ON TREES

August, 2019

1. **General Feedback:** Thank you for the tremendous work that has gone into building ART and TREES so far. The programme is well thought out, innovative and presents great scope and opportunity for forest countries in REDD+. Guyana welcomes this programme and looks forward to being a part of it.
2. **Reducing Emissions or Maintaining Low Emissions:** One of the objectives of ART should be maintaining low emissions where that may exist. For Guyana, delivering on REDD+ is not reflected by emissions reductions, as Guyana is a country with historically and continued low deforestation rate. Guyana aims not to reduce emission, but to maintain low levels of emissions as it has done in the past. Guyana notes that there will be a small but significant group of countries that will not be able to see the full impact of a programme like ART unless there is specific recognition of incentivizing performance even though the baseline has been low. The low baseline has been reflective of continuous good work of the past and should not be positioned as a disincentive.
3. **Inclusion of HFLD countries:** There is a risk that the ineffective treatment or potential exclusion of HFLD countries may present an unwanted outcome of growing the deforestation number in such counties that may be as an result of lack of sufficient incentive or leakage. E.g. Mining moving from Brazil to Guyana cross border.
4. **Timing of HLDf aspect:** Guyana looks forward to this aspect being developed as soon as possible, and would be fully supportive of the suggestion for this to come on stream in early 2020.
5. **Baseline:** The current structure, although the new aspect of the model for HFLD countries may address this, Guyana notes that the use of the previous 10 years, would not be ideal for a baseline for HFLD countries. It is proposed that an **adjusted historic baseline scenario** be used for HFLD countries.
6. **Pricing:** How will the payment mechanism work and what is the envisaged price for CO2 reductions? Will the price change over an agreement period or is it fixed?
7. **Parameters of Reporting:** What is the plan to ensure that there is consistency in reporting and therefore payment – for issues such as some countries measuring over 2 hectares as deforestation when some measure at over 1 hectares; some counties including forest degradation at difference scales for different drivers, when other do not, etc. These are all within UNFCCC accepted ranges as provided for in the Marrakech Accords but can be quite varied as it falls within a range.
8. **Accessing Other Financing Mechanism:** if Guyana were to be a part of ART, would this affect its participation in the GCF or any other support mechanism for REDD+?