



The Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART)

What is ART?

The Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) is a global voluntary initiative that seeks to incentivize governments to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), as well as restore forests and protect intact forests (+).

ART's mission is to serve as a global quality benchmark for jurisdictional REDD+, providing the confidence needed in the integrity of emission reductions and removals from forest protection and restoration to unlock finance at scale for ambitious climate action and to incentivize governments to achieve those results.

A Leading Standard – TREES

ART's standard for measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification, The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard, known as TREES, is based on a decade of learning and evolution of REDD+.

TREES is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement by requiring that forests be included in the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); addressing ambition through a regularly updated, conservative crediting level that cannot increase; including UNFCCC-aligned environmental and social safeguards; and putting measures in place to avoid double counting with Paris Agreement targets and the CORSIA.

Overview of TREES

Three categories of activities are eligible to generate TREES Credits

Removals

ART credits for carbon removals from the establishment of new forests on land without forest cover.

Reducing deforestation and degradation

ART credits for emission reductions from reducing deforestation and forest degradation — the most urgent priority for the forest sector.

High Forest Low Deforestation Areas

ART credits for emission reductions and removals in jurisdictions that have high forest cover and low rates of deforestation (HFLD).

REQUIREMENTS

TREES specifies requirements for the quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals from REDD+ activities at a national or large jurisdictional scale.

What sets ART apart?

1 INDEPENDENCE AND EXPERTISE

ART was designed to enhance confidence. ART is a standalone program independent of governments or donor countries with standardized procedures for all participating jurisdictions. It includes an inclusive, transparent process governed by globally recognized experts and operated by an independent Secretariat, supported by expert technical committees.

2 SCALE

ART credits only at the jurisdictional level, to national governments and large subnational jurisdictions. This is important not only for achieving results at scale, but also because it provides incentives to governments of supplier jurisdictions to do what only governments can do: regulate land-use, enforce laws and recognize Indigenous Peoples' land rights. Working at a jurisdictional level also helps to mitigate some of the key risks inherent in project-based approaches to REDD+ such as leakage — which is the displacement of activities that cause emissions – and reversals.

While ART does not directly credit project-level activities, they can be implemented under a jurisdictional REDD+ program through a variety of scenarios. ART fully recognizes the important role that projects can play in implementing a jurisdictional REDD+ Strategy.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRITY

Upholding an extremely high standard of environmental and social integrity is at the center of ART's mission. Integrity is the key to scaling the market for jurisdictional emission reductions and removals; not only delivering climate impacts, but also a range of other social and environmental benefits.

TREES includes rigorous requirements for establishing a crediting level based on verifiable data and for monitoring and reporting on emission reductions and removals, all subject to third-party verification. These requirements apply to all Participants ensuring consistent, transparent accounting methodologies that buyers can easily understand and count on for comparability of results among jurisdictions.

TREES' environmental, social and governance safeguard requirements directly align with the safeguards defined by the UNFCCC for the implementation of REDD+ activities — known as the Cancún Safeguards. TREES unpacks these safeguards into themes and specific indicators to ensure consistent implementation and reporting by Participants, while maintaining flexibility to respect countries' autonomy for design and implementation based on their own REDD+ activities.

Several of the themes focus specifically on ensuring the recognition, respect, protection, and fulfillment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Conformance with safeguards is also verified during the independent audit process.

4 TRANSPARENCY

ART upholds full transparency in both design and implementation of its program. All comments received during public consultations of TREES are published on the ART website with individual responses. Documents are published describing key updates to TREES as well as the rationale behind the ART Board's decisions. Participant documents that are submitted to ART are made publicly available on the ART Registry providing stakeholders with an opportunity to submit comments and concerns to ART. The ART Registry includes public reports of TREES Credit status, including issuance, retirements and transfers.