

ART Board Meeting Minutes

29 April 2021 and 30 April 2021

ART Board members (29 April): F. Seymour, A. Nababan, C. Nobre, B. Bumpers, L. Ruiz, D. Zarin, A. Kalibata

ART Board members (30 April): F. Seymour, A. Nababan, C. Nobre, B. Bumpers, L. Ruiz, D. Zarin

ART Secretariat (29 April and 30 April): J. Kadyszewski, M. Grady, J. Orrego, C. Magerkurth, F. Casarim

Board members met over two days primarily to review and discuss the comments received during the 60-day public consultation period for TREES 2.0. Particular attention was paid to comments received on the High Forest, Low Deforestation crediting approach, the Removals crediting approach, and pathways for Indigenous Peoples' participation.

1. ART Board Meeting Minutes December 2020

INFORMATION

The Secretariat provided draft meeting minutes from the December 2020 ART Board Meeting.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

DECISION: The ART Board approved the ART Board Minutes from the December 2020 meeting and for the Secretariat to develop redacted minutes for posting on the ART website.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will develop and post redacted December 2020 Board meeting minutes to the ART website.

2. Launch of the LEAF Coalition

INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented information regarding the recently launched LEAF Coalition and the Coalition's call for proposals for jurisdictions to supply TREES credits for 2022-2026. ART is not part of the LEAF Coalition but TREES has been selected as the Standard of choice for ensuring high environmental and social integrity.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed ART's role in supporting both supply jurisdictions and Coalition members in understanding the requirements of TREES, while maintaining its independence as a Standard.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will provide clarifications as requested to support the Coalition members and supply jurisdictions wishing to submit proposals.

3. Key outcomes from TREES 2.0 public consultation

INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented an overview of the volume of comments received by topic during the TREES 2.0 Consultation period. The areas of TREES receiving the most comments were the HFLD approach, removals, participation of Indigenous Peoples, avoiding double counting and uncertainty. These topics will be discussed in more depth.

INFORMATION Topic 1: HFLD Crediting Approach

The Secretariat provided a summary of the key themes in the comments and provided four options for moving forward for the Board to consider. The options included not changing the proposed approach, starting over with the development process and developing a separate HFLD Standard that would not generate credits fungible with TREES credits, and revising the approach based on stakeholder suggestions for incorporating key aspects of HFLD jurisdictions. The Secretariat provided a summary of internal analyses on revising the approach based on stakeholder comments and feedback received during outreach consultations with stakeholders.

DISCUSSION Topic 1: HFLD Crediting Approach

The ART Board discussed each option and the benefits and challenges associated with each of them. Significant discussion occurred on the many suggestions for revision from stakeholders and the implications of various proposals. The Board considered how best to reconcile the at times opposing viewpoints and comments from different stakeholders. Revising the approach based on stakeholder feedback would likely require a second public consultation period in order to ensure a transparent development process and allow all stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the revised approach. The ART Board also discussed the importance of the HFLD Crediting Approach to climate change mitigation and its relationship to the addition of a meaningful pathway for Indigenous Peoples inclusion in TREES.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS Topic 1: HFLD Crediting Approach

ACTION ITEM: The Board directed the ART Secretariat to develop options for revising the HFLD Crediting Approach based on stakeholder comments for the Board to consider further.

INFORMATION Topic 2: Removals

The Secretariat provided a summary of the key themes in the comments and provided suggestions for modifications to the approach for the Board to consider. The suggestions centered around ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place for removals activities and whether crediting of early action removals activities should be permitted.

DISCUSSION Topic 2: Removals

The ART Board discussed the suggestions and potential impacts of the revisions. In addition, the Board discussed at length the potential to revisit inclusion of crediting for forests remaining forests.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS Topic 2: Removals

ACTION ITEM: The Board directed the ART Secretariat to draft revised language for the removals safeguards.

ACTION ITEM: The Board directed the ART Secretariat to develop options for crediting early action removals activities for the Board to consider.

INFORMATION Topic 3: Participation Pathways for Indigenous Peoples

The Secretariat provided a summary of the significant number of thoughtful comments regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with the pathways included in the consultation draft along with potential options for the Board to consider based on the comments.

DISCUSSION Topic 3: Participation Pathways for Indigenous Peoples

The ART Board discussed the desire of ART to ensure a pathway for inclusion of Indigenous Peoples within the Standard, while ensuring the pathway was equitable and inclusive to all Indigenous Peoples and ensured the recognition and protection of their rights. The critical link to an HFLD Crediting Approach was also discussed.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS Topic 3: Participation Pathways for Indigenous Peoples

ACTION ITEM: The Board directed the ART Secretariat to schedule another meeting to continue discussions regarding this topic.

Additional topics had been scheduled but time did not permit discussion. These topics will be included in the next Board meeting.