



## ICAO Eligibility Expanded for ART-Issued TREES Credits for Use in CORSIA

***Broadened eligibility based on approval of ART's updated approaches for crediting Removals and High Forest-Low Deforestation (HFLD) jurisdictions***

ARLINGTON, Virginia, March 29, 2022 – The Secretariat of the [Architecture for REDD+ Transactions \(ART\)](#) is pleased to announce approval by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to expand the eligibility of ART-issued TREES Credits for compliance under the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). The decision further broadens ART's ICAO eligibility to include TREES Credits issued for the enhancement of carbon 'removals' through reforestation and forest restoration as well as TREES Credits issued for the ongoing protection of forests in jurisdictions with High Forest cover and Low rates of Deforestation, known by the acronym HFLD.

ART was initially approved by ICAO in November 2020 to supply vintage 2016 to 2020 TREES Credits from jurisdictions that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This decision marked an important milestone as the first international regulated carbon market to approve crediting of emission reductions from REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).



The ICAO approval was expanded in December 2021 to include ART-issued credits generated between 2021 and 2023 based on ART's published rules to avoid double counting with Paris Agreement targets. The latest decision to extend eligibility to TREES credits generated using the Removals and HFLD crediting approaches marks the first ICAO approval of a jurisdictional REDD+ program to supply distinct credits from the protection and restoration of forests for airlines to meet their CORSIA targets.

*"ART is pleased with ICAO's latest decision to expand the scope of eligibility of TREES Credits for use in the CORSIA based on the consistency of our published crediting approaches for removals and HFLD jurisdictions with the ICAO Emission Unit Criteria,"* said Mary Grady, Executive Director of the ART Secretariat at Winrock International. *"This approval offers airlines access to a broad range of credits from jurisdictional REDD+ and, for the first time, offers forest countries access to an important global compliance carbon market for the full scope of climate solutions from the forest sector. This includes credits from reduced deforestation as well as from the continued protection and restoration of forests at a jurisdictional scale."*

In the fight against climate change, the urgency of reducing deforestation, restoring and regrowing forests and protecting intact ecosystems in areas with low historic rates of deforestation is well understood. Scientists estimate that these natural climate solutions can provide one third of needed climate action this decade.



The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), ART's high-integrity standard for measuring, monitoring, verifying and crediting climate progress

in the forest sector, was the first jurisdictional crediting standard for REDD+ developed and published after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, ensuring full alignment with the objectives and ambition of the global accord. TREES is also the first jurisdictional crediting standard to offer distinct pathways for crediting for the full range of forest actions to address climate change. The standard also ensures social and environmental integrity aligned with UNFCCC decisions including the Cancún Safeguards and the avoidance of double counting with Paris Agreement targets.

In 2016, ICAO approved the CORSIA as a global market-based mechanism to achieve carbon-neutral growth in international aviation starting in 2020. The ICAO Council's decision follows recommendations from the 19-member Technical Advisory Body (TAB) that was established to evaluate programs' compliance with Emissions Unit Criteria for offsetting requirements in the 2021-2023 pilot phase of CORSIA. To date, ICAO has approved only eight carbon crediting programs globally to supply offset credits for the CORSIA, which is expected to reduce or offset between 2.5 and 4 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-e through 2035.

[END]