

ART Board Meeting Minutes

31 October 2022

ART Board members: F. Seymour, W. Bumpers, A. Kalibata, C. Nobre, L. Ruiz, R. F. Adjei, P. D. Sherpa

ART Secretariat: M. Grady, C. Magerkurth, F. Paniagua, L. Madrid, A. Takimoto, B. Hemphill

The ART Board meeting was dedicated to reviewing the Validation and Verification Process for Guyana for the 2016-2020 Crediting Period, answering questions and making a determination of issuance of TREES Credits.

1 November 2022 – 8 November 2022

The ART Secretariat held two unofficial meetings with Board members via teleconference as well as numerous emails answering questions and providing additional information.

9 November 2022

ART Board members: F. Seymour, W. Bumpers, A. Kalibata, L. Ruiz, R. F. Adjei, P. D. Sherpa

Absent: C. Nobre, who submitted vote via email ahead of meeting

ART Secretariat: M. Grady, C. Magerkurth, F. Paniagua, L. Madrid, A. Takimoto, B. Hemphill

The ART Board met in Sharm El Sheikh (COP27) and via zoom to vote on approval of issuance to TREES Credits to Guyana for the 2016-2020 Crediting Period.

1. Introduction

INFORMATION

For both official meetings, the Board Chair provided opening remarks to the ART Board members and outlined the Board's role as stated in TREES 2.0.

DISCUSSION:

- The Board discussed its role in the process.

ACTION ITEM:

- None

2. Meeting Overview

INFORMATION

Ahead of the 31 October meeting, the ART Secretariat provided the ART Board members with the following information:

1. Summary of the validation and verification process, documents and statements
2. TREES Registration Document
3. TREES Monitoring Report
4. Validation Report
5. Verification Report
6. Copies of all public comments received

At the 31 October meeting, the Secretariat presented the Board with an overview on the following topics:

1. TREES Validation and Verification Process and how it was applied to Guyana's REDD+ program
2. Validation and Verification Body qualifications and information regarding the Validation and Verification Body selected by Guyana
3. Summary of findings and resolutions
4. Summary of the public comments received and how public comments were incorporated into the validation and verification process

At the 9 November meeting, the ART Secretariat did not make a formal presentation. Instead, the ART Board continued discussions and took a vote as noted below.

DISCUSSION:

1. Members of the Board identified that the materials sent ahead of the meeting totaled over 600 pages which made it challenging to review and fully digest in the two weeks allocated. It was suggested that more time may likely be required to complete their review.
2. The Board asked numerous questions regarding the validation and verification process:
 - a. Process requirements under ART,
 - b. The impact of conducting validation and verification simultaneously,
 - c. The timing of the audit steps, and
 - d. How the audit timing related to public comments received as well as consultations conducted.
3. Members of the Board inquired as to when revisions of key TREES documents occurred, what versions were publicly available at what time, how the public comment period was communicated, and how comments were solicited.
4. The Board asked questions regarding the approval and oversight process for ART's validation and verification bodies and the qualifications of the validation and verification body specifically for the Guyana audit.
5. The Board also asked additional questions regarding the consultations conducted by the Government of Guyana especially relating to the Low Carbon Development Strategy and the National Tshaos' Council's agreement with the government.
6. Members of the Board discussed at length the public comments received, especially the concerns raised relating to Indigenous Peoples, and reviewed how these were incorporated into the validation and verification process and assessed.

7. The Board asked several clarifying questions regarding the scope of activities and timeframe covered by the validation and verification.
8. The Board also asked questions regarding the calculations and totals reported for the emission reductions.
9. Members of the Board also asked questions regarding opportunities for stakeholders to revisit benefit-sharing arrangements in the future.

Given the number of questions remaining at the end of the first meeting and the significance of the outstanding discussions, the Board elected to not take a vote at that the end of the 31 October 2022 meeting. Instead, additional meetings were scheduled to ensure that all the questions could be fully addressed.

Informal meetings were held on 2 November 2022 and 4 November 2022 to continue discussions and answer questions.

A final meeting was held on 9 November to complete discussions and to take a vote.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

31 October 2022

DECISION: With quorum and by consensus at the 31 October 2022 ART Board meeting held virtually, the ART Board decided to not hold a vote to approve the issuance of TREES credits for Guyana's REDD+ program for the 2016-2020 crediting period.

ACTION ITEM: The ART Secretariat will hold at least two informational meetings to answer Board questions and provide a forum for further discussion. Email will also be used to provide additional information.

9 November 2022

DECISION: With quorum and by consensus at the 9 November 2022 ART Board meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh (COP27) and virtually, the ART Board voted to approve the issuance of TREES credits for Guyana's REDD+ program for the 2016-2020 crediting period.