

ART Board Meeting Minutes

21 February 2023

ART Board members: F. Seymour, L. Ruiz, R. F. Adjei, J. Verdiek, P. Umunay

Absent: P. Sherpa, C. Nobre, W. Bumpers

Note: A preliminary meeting was held on February 14th with P. Sherpa, W. Bumpers and F. Seymour from the ART Board and C. Magerkurth from the ART Secretariat to review all of the materials and obtain input and reflections from the Board members unable to attend the meeting on February 21st.

ART Secretariat: M. Grady, C. Magerkurth, A. Takimoto

Board members held a special meeting to review the validation, verification, and issuance process of TREES credits to Guyana.

1. Introduction

INFORMATION

The Board Chair welcomed ART Board members and provided opening remarks.

2. Review results and recommendations

INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented a comprehensive summary of the validation and verification process for Guyana as well as TREES credit issuance and consequent communications with stakeholders.

Information presented during the ART Board meeting included:

- Updates around Guyana issuance
- Things that went well in the process
- Opportunities for Improvements
- Recommendations for change/modifying the process from the Secretariat
 - 1) Add a page on the ART website for submission of complaints
 - 2) Continue to conduct deep-dive training with IPLC and other stakeholders as requested to build understanding
 - 3) Modify the training for governments as well
 - 4) Revise TREES templates to be more prescriptive or more robust (Guidance document)
 - TREES TRD and TMR

- TREES V&V reports
 - TREES Safeguards Guidance Document
- 5) Require TREES documents to be translated into relevant primary national language and posted alongside of English version
 - 6) Require Participants to more actively solicit stakeholders' comments
 - 7) Consider modifying the ART Board review process to prevent such a large influx of information at the end

DISCUSSION

- The Board discussed how the website should have a stakeholder engagement page rather than simply a complaints page. All of the mechanisms a stakeholder can use to engage with the Secretariat, Participants and Validation and Verification Bodies should be housed in a single location to assist stakeholders file a question, comment, or complaint.
- The Secretariat explained the details of recently conducted deep-dive ART training with IPLC and plans to expand the training to other stakeholder groups. The Board suggested organizations and occasions for these training courses to be implemented.
- The Board discussed other stakeholder groups which could benefit from having ART training and suggested government supporting organizations and private sectors that may be able to assist.
- The Board discussed the potential to update the TREES Templates and where additional, specific information should be requested in the next version of the templates.
- The Board discussed how to define the translations that should be required for TREES documents.
- The Board discussed the role that the Secretariat can/should play to support the Participants in communications regarding their status under ART.
- Board members discussed ways to improve the Board review process including potentially forming a subcommittee to follow the verification closely throughout the process.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

DECISION: The ART Board approves the Secretariat modifying the website and templates.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will propose language for the Board to review regarding requiring translation and solicitation of public comments during the verification process.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will start modifying the website and documents format and will provide updates to the Board.

ACTION ITEM: The Board will discuss whether a sub-committee is appropriate or other options to improve the process for Board review of information prior to making an issuance decision.