Beyond Carbon Benefits Certification

June 2025

Webinar Logistics

- To ask questions:
  - Type questions into 'Q&A' box near bottom of your webinar pane
  - Questions can be submitted at any time during the webinar
- Webinar will be recorded and posted to: www.artredd.org/beyond-carbon-benefits/

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REDD+ Transactions

ART Overview

- A global voluntary carbon program (architecture) to register, verify and issue high-quality REDD+ emissions reduction and removals credits to countries and jurisdictions to attract REDD+ finance at scale

- ART aims to promote national ambition and contribute to Paris Agreement goals

- Governed and managed by globally recognized, independent, objective experts

The Challenge

- Forests do so much more than sequester carbon

- Jurisdictions want to highlight the breadth of impacts of their JREDD+ programs

- Buyers and investors need consistent, verified reporting of results

- IPLC organizations asked for an instrument to reflect their values

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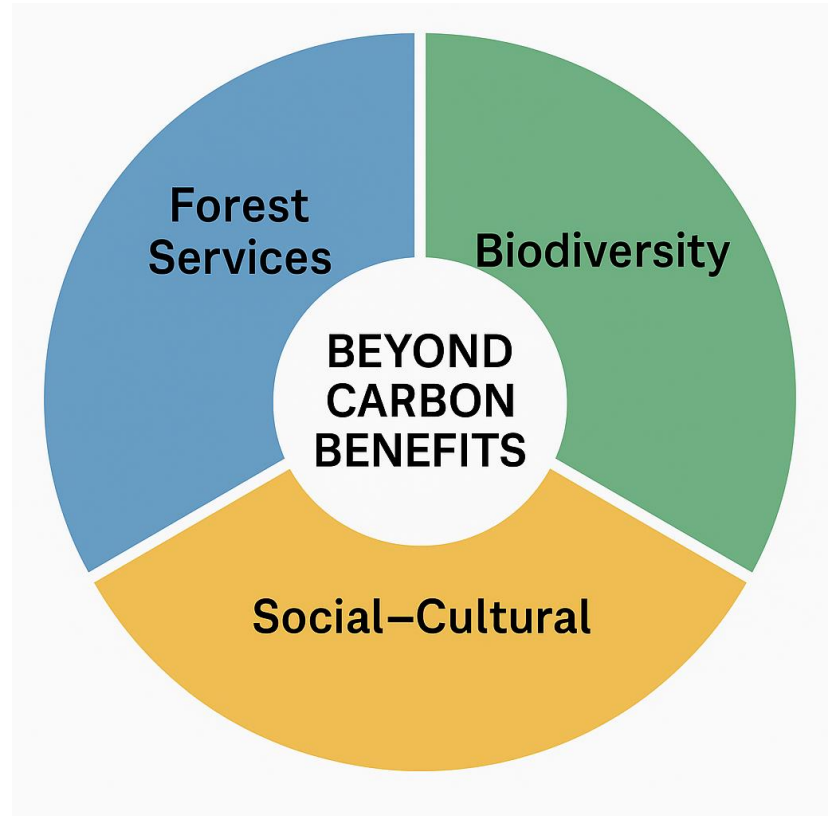
Beyond Carbon Benefits

- Builds on an existing market

- Integrates additional values to enable appropriate valuing

- Enhances the transparency, inclusivity, and environmental integrity of jurisdictional REDD+

- Incentivizes continuous improvement and holistic planning and implementation

How was BCB developed?

- Co-developed by three expert committees:
  - o Social Cultural
  - o Biodiversity
  - o Forest Services
- Drafts iterated with the committees
- Draft reviewed by the ART Board
- Public comment period
- Board will review feedback and approve final
- ART will review every three years

Structure

- All modules are required and must be done in addition to TREES reporting
- Each contains desired outcomes and indicators
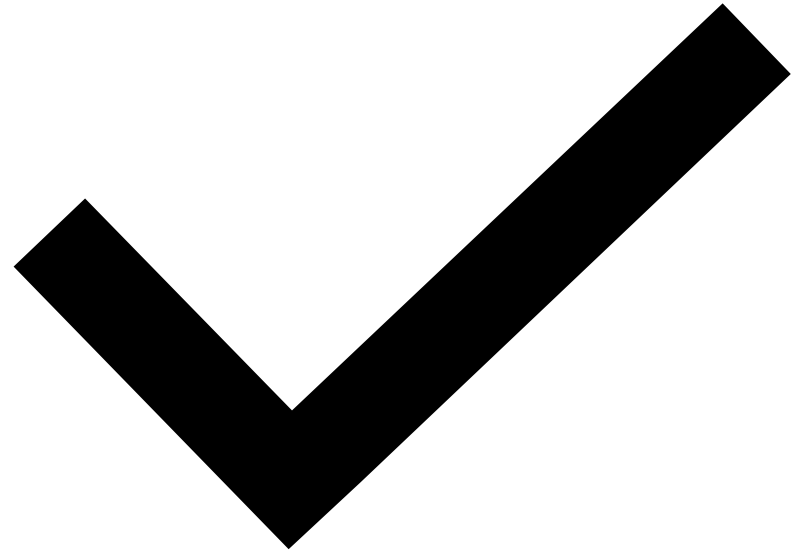 - Combination of mandatory and optional

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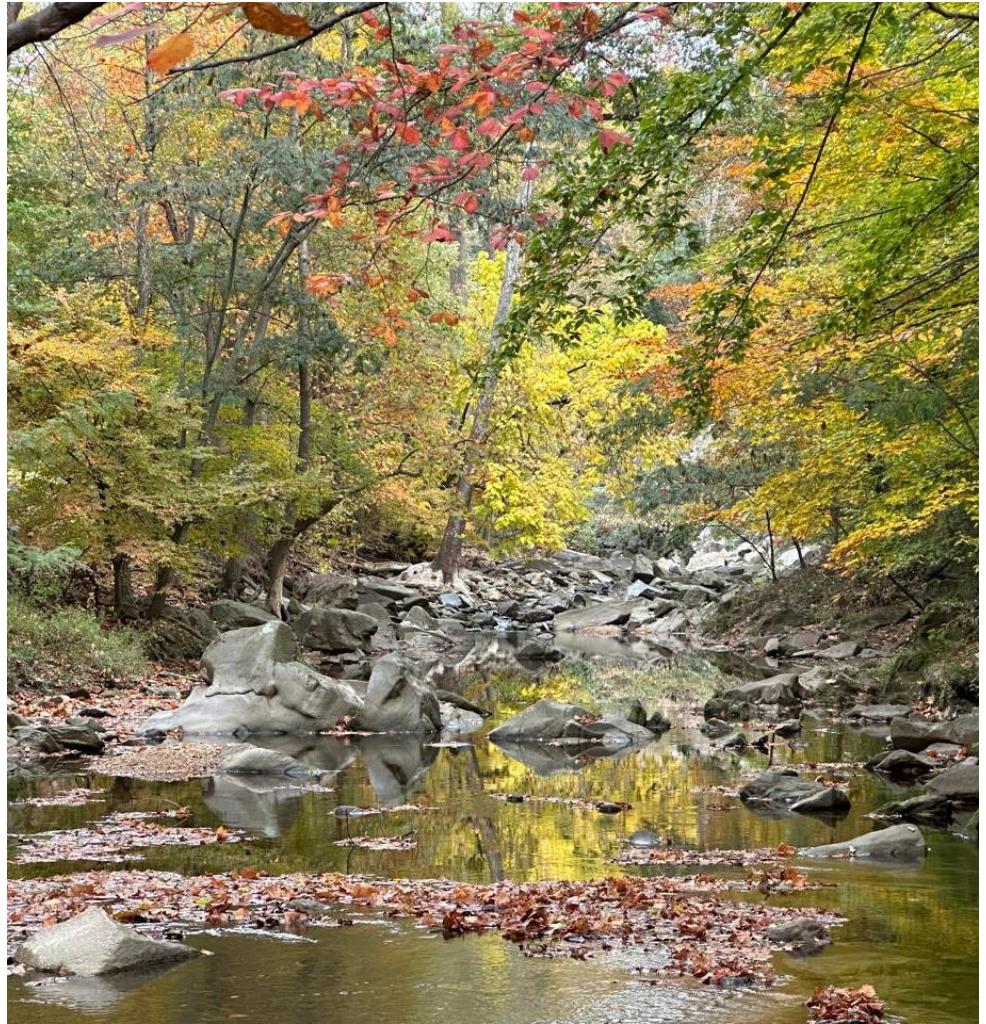# Alignment with Global Frameworks

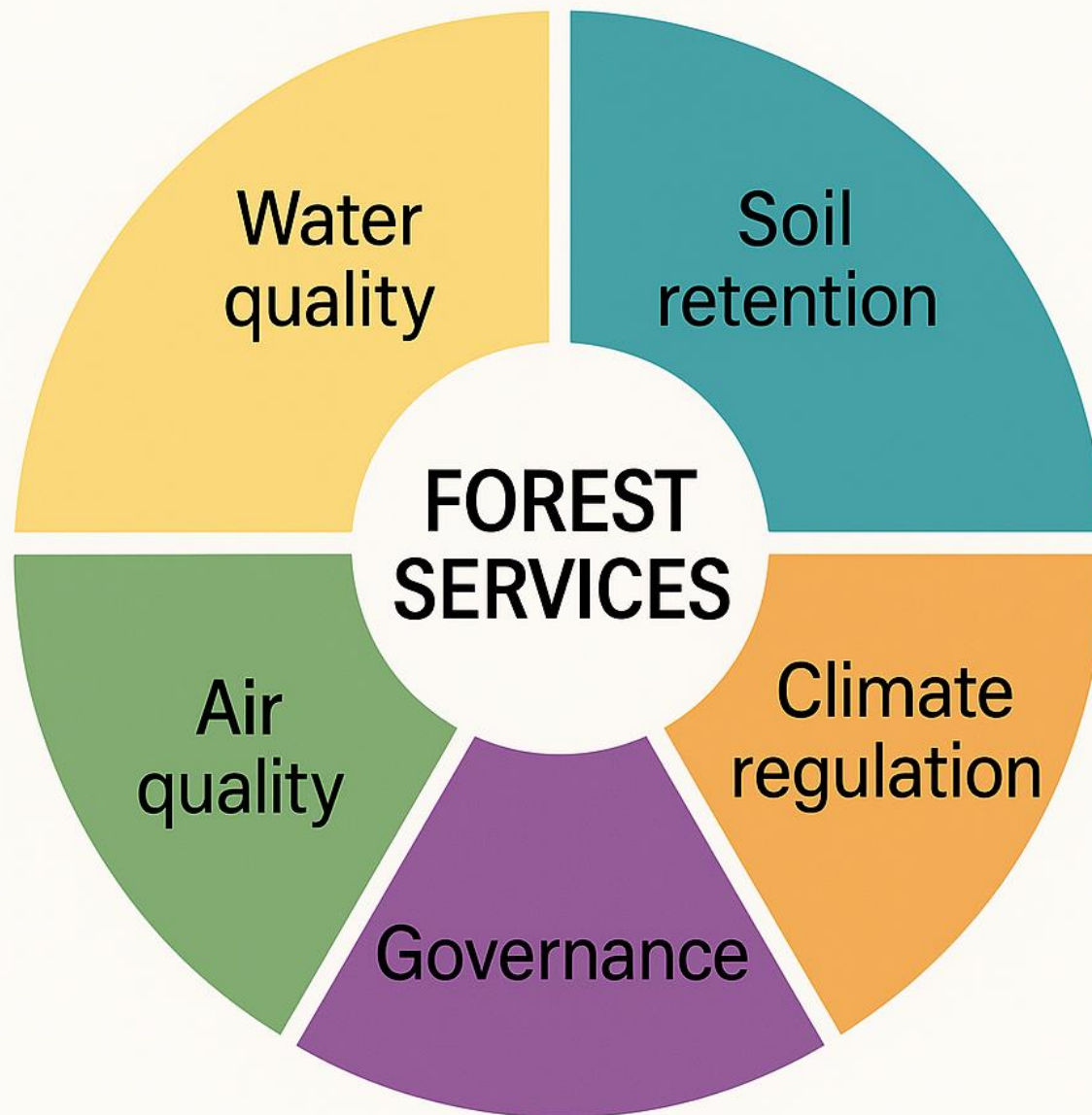- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Global Biodiversity Framework

Reporting and Verification

- Participants must submit a Beyond Carbon Benefits Monitoring Report

- Verification is conducted by an ART-approved VVB

- All three modules must be reported on and verified together

- Verified credits receive a Beyond Carbon Benefits label

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Module 1.
Forest
Services

F1. Water quality improvement indicators

- Percentage of riparian areas covered by native forests is maintained or improved

- REDD+ program has resulted in programs or activities maintaining or improving water quality in watersheds

F2. Soil retention indicators

- Percentage of areas with greater than 12% slope covered by native forests is maintained or improved

- REDD+ program results in programs or activities maintaining or improving soil retention

F3. Climate regulation improvement indicators

- Forest health is maintained or improved
- REDD+ program supports collection of data serving as a proxy for human health to maintain or improve conditions

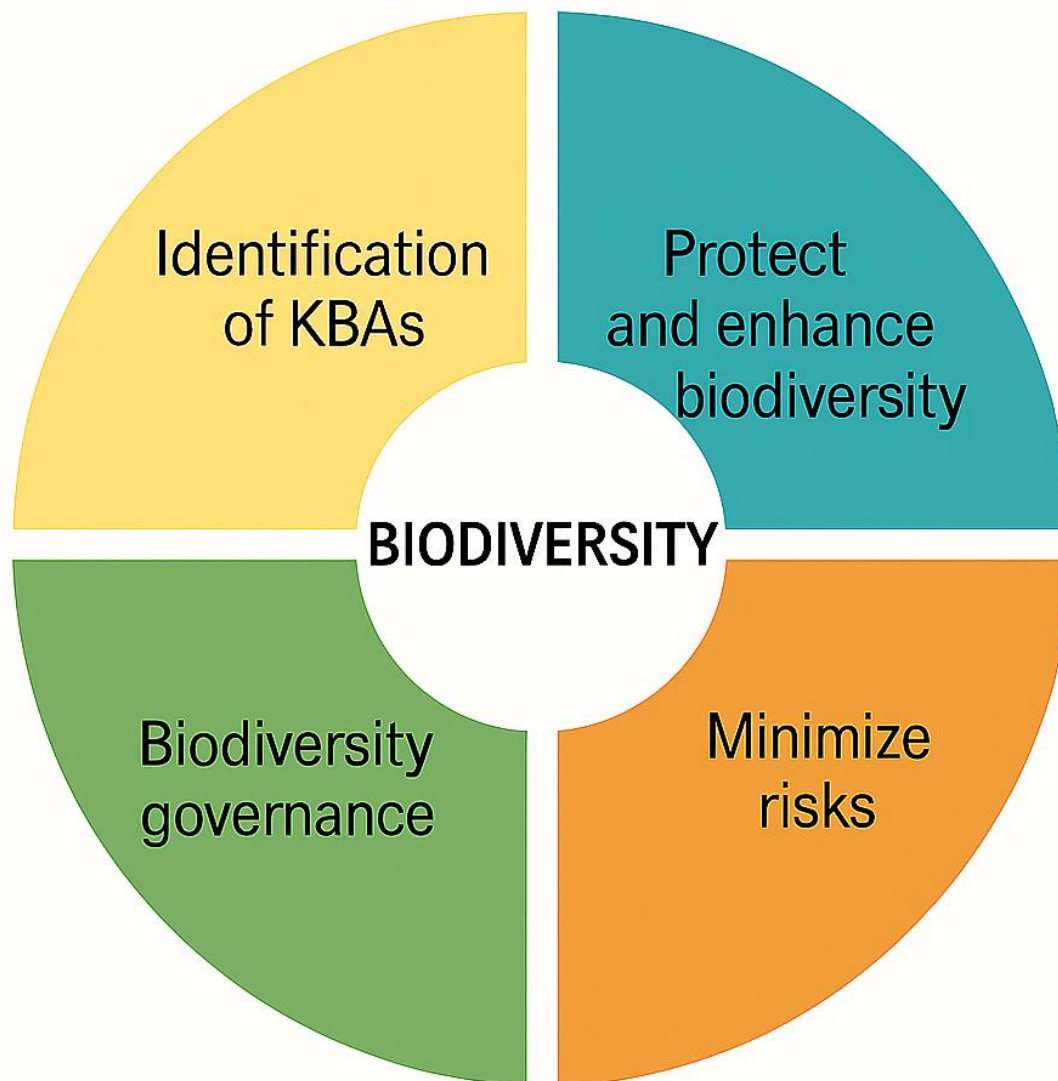# F4. Air quality improvement indicators

- REDD+ program supports forest fire management and control program

- REDD+ program supports the monitoring of the frequency and impact of forest fires

F5. Relevant governance improvement indicators

- Participant has laws, policies or other legally binding mandates for the management of environmentally vulnerable areas critical to water quality and soil retention

- REDD+ Program results in the prioritization of activities and programs that have the greatest potential for impact or change to forest services and human health

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Module 2.
Biodiversity

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B1. Identification of KBAs and other significant areas

- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and other areas significant for global and/or regional biodiversity conservation within the TREES accounting area are defined and identified

B2. Protect and/or enhance the biodiversity value of the areas

- REDD+ program leads to ecological restoration or improved management that conserves, and if possible, improves biodiversity values

- REDD+ program establishes and/or protects sites that are large and/or ecologically connected enough to conserve the biodiversity values

- REDD+ program includes or incentivizes sustainable forest management (SFM) practices that are biodiversity friendly (Optional)

- REDD+ program includes or drives the identification and promotes the protection of threatened species and ecosystems

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B3. Minimize the risk of harming biodiversity value of the areas

- REDD+ program includes activities or programs to prevent over-exploitation of biodiversity resources

- REDD+ program includes management plan or program to prevent the use of invasive alien species and minimize the use of alien species in REDD+ program activities

- REDD+ program includes management plan or program to mitigate the impact of invasive alien species found in KBAs from Indicator 1-1

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B4. Creation and maintenance of a biodiversity governance mechanism(s)

- A biodiversity governance mechanism that results in the long-term conservation of the identified key biodiversity areas

- A biodiversity governance mechanism(s) that is designed, implemented, and monitored in a participatory process, inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Module 3.
Social -
Cultural

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Social-cultural committee

S1. Sustainable Indigenous and Community Economy (Mandatory)

- IPLCs directly receive funds, carbon credits and/or other non-monetary benefits from the REDD+ program's benefit sharing.

- REDD+ program contributes to establishing and operating mechanisms agreed with the IPLCs for channeling funds that are accessible, culturally appropriate, and without excessive requirements

- REDD+ program contributes to financing actions decided in the territorial management instruments of IPLCs and ensures effective participation of community members, including women and youth

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S1. Sustainable Indigenous and Community Economy (Optional)

- Revenues derived from the REDD+ program strengthen IPLC sustainable enterprises

- REDD+ program has contributed to closing gender and age gaps by improving the economy of women and youth in IPLCs

S2. Enabling Conditions and Capacity Building (Mandatory)

- REDD+ program has contributed to strengthening the knowledge and capacities of IPLC and their representative institutions

- REDD+ program has generated or strengthened enabling conditions for the participation and influence of IPLCs and their representative institutions in public decisions and policies, including the enabling conditions for participation of women and youths

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S2. Enabling Conditions and Capacity Building (Optional)

- REDD+ program has developed administrative, financial, and resource management capacities in IPLCs and their representative institutions

- REDD+ program has strengthened capacities and opportunities for the development of financial sustainability mechanisms or strategies of IPLCs, beyond carbon market revenues

- IPLCs directly manage funds for the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of REDD+ activities

- REDD+ program provides means for IPLCs to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities of REDD+ components

S3. Territorial Rights (Mandatory)

- REDD+ program has contributed to the consolidation of the legal recognition of IPLC land ownership rights

- REDD+ program has contributed to reducing existing barriers to gender equity in access to land and natural resources and to strengthening women's ownership, use and/or access rights to land and natural resources

- REDD+ program has contributed to the development or strengthening of recognition of IPLC rights to the ownership of or benefits from CO_2 emission reductions and removals associated with their lands and/or activities

- REDD+ program has strengthened the regulatory framework and/or their implementation to guarantee the right of IPLCs to the sustainable management and use of the forests in their territories

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S3. Territorial Rights (Optional)

- REDD+ program contributes to regulatory framework and public policies that recognize the right of the IPLCs to the ecosystem services provided by their territories

- REDD+ program contributes to regulatory framework and public policies to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of IPLCs relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

- REDD+ program contributes to regulatory framework and public policies to ensure that IPLCs have access to genetic resources and to the distribution of benefits arising from their utilization

- REDD+ program strengthens the regulatory framework and its implementation to protect the rights of the IPLCs from public and private legal and illegal activities that affect their territories

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S4. Recognition and Recovery of Ancestral Knowledge and Cultural Identity (Mandatory)

- REDD+ program incorporates the knowledge and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities about biodiversity

- REDD+ program strengthens biodiverse and sustainable ancestral or traditional land use systems

- Country NDC reports recognize and make visible the contributions of IPLCs

S4. Recognition and Recovery of Ancestral Knowledge and Cultural Identity (Optional)

- REDD+ program implements measures to protect, respect, recover, strengthen, and adapt according to community decisions the cultural identity and knowledge systems of IPLCs

- REDD+ program contributes to transmission of cultural identity and ancestral knowledge to the youth and children of the IPLCs through mechanisms led by IPLCs themselves

- REDD+ program improves protection and conservation of sites of high cultural value for IPLCs

- REDD+ program contributes to measures to protect the territories of uncontacted Indigenous Peoples and to enforce their decision to remain out of contact

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S5. Territorial Governance (Mandatory)

- REDD+ program contributes to strategic agreements for territorial governance between IPLCs, governments, and other stakeholders through effective participation processes

- REDD+ program contributes to measures to facilitate and increase the participation of women and youths in decision-making spaces related to forests and territories

- REDD+ program contributes to strengthening or creating platforms for dialogue and territorial governance between IPLCs and governments

S5. Territorial Governance (Optional)

- REDD+ program strengthens organizational capacities and governance structures of IPLCs

- REDD+ program results in development or operation of IPLC internal bodies for the implementation of sustainable actions and for financial operation

- REDD+ program contributes to strengthening internal transparency and accountability by the IPLCs and their representative institutions

- REDD+ program contributes to strategies and effective measures to protect IPLC environmental defenders

- REDD+ program contributes to strengthen and implement the schemes, mechanisms, principles, or proposals that IPLCs have previously built related to REDD+

How to submit comments?

- https://artredd.org/beyond-carbon-benefits/

- Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French

- Submit your comments until August 11, 2025 and will be accepted in any language.

- Send an email to REDD@winrock.org
  - Include Beyond Carbon Benefits Comments in the subject line
  - Section number or title and requirement of the standard that is being referenced as well as the comment, suggestion or other feedback

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Thank you

REDD@winrock.org

www.artredd.org