United Nations
Climate Change

Boosting Forests: Empowering Parties to raise climate ambition with REDD+

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Introduction

REDD+ & Results-based finance

- REDD+ is a holistic framework to facilitate climate action in the forest sector.
- Under the REDD+ activities, developing countries can receive results-based payments for emission reduction achieved.
- Lima Info Hub for more information.

19 countries are eligible to receive results-based payments for a reduction of 11.63 GtCO2eq

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REDD+ & First GST

- Countries' efforts to **halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation** were also highlighted in paras. 33 and 34 of the first GST.
- Parties are expected to consider **enhanced efforts** for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 **in their next national climate plans** (nationally determined contributions: NDCs) due by February 2025.

33. *Further emphasizes* the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by conserving biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

34. *Notes* the need for enhanced support and investment, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, for efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, including through results-based payments for policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches;

Requirements for results-based finance

- National REDD+ strategy or action plan
- Forest reference (emission) level → **Technical assessment**
- REDD+ safeguards
- National forest monitoring system
- REDD+ results → **Technical analysis**

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REDD+ since COP28

40th GCF meeting (October 2024)

- The GCF Board adopted a proposal (GCF/B.40/11) for a landmark policy integrating REDD+ RBP into the Fund's regular project activity cycle.
- The policy is **fully aligned with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+**.
- To apply for the funding, countries need to have the framework referred to in A5.2 of the PA fully in place.

14th Article 6.4 SB (October 2024)

- A6.4 Supervisory Body adopted standards for methodologies and removals (A6.4-SBM014-A05 / 06).
- They indicate **the possibility for REDD+ activities under A5.2 of the PA to be credited under A6.4**.
- REDD+ projects by the private sector and/or at jurisdictional scale need to demonstrate that these are included in national reporting.

Strong signal for
- **Long-term implementation of national REDD+**

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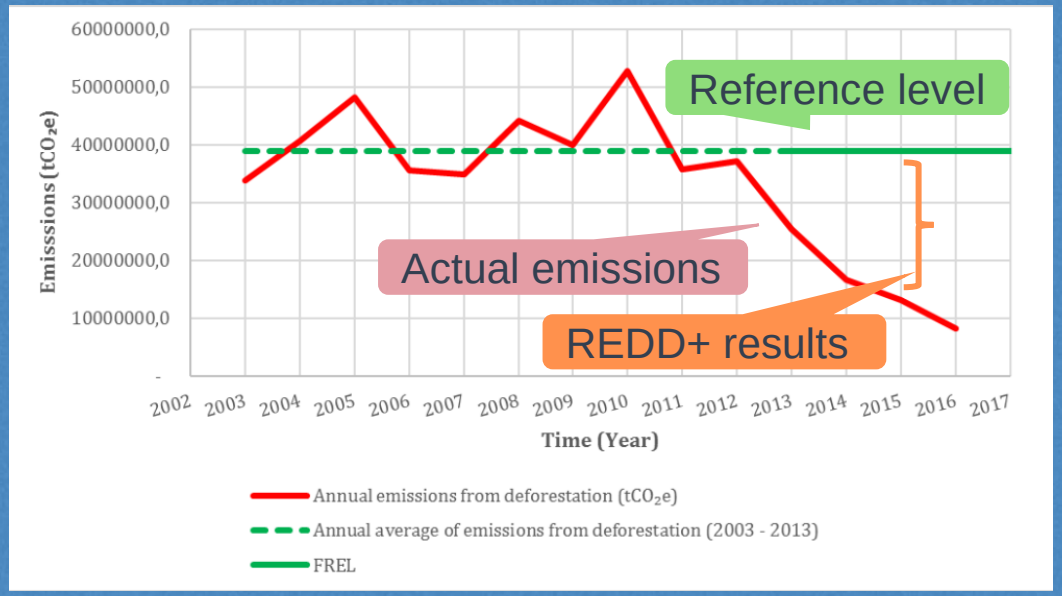
What is reference level?

- Forest reference (emission) levels (FRELs/FRLs) serve as **benchmarks** for assessing the performances of implementation of REDD+ activities.
- Reference levels are **technically assessed** by LULUCF experts in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the COP (annex to decision 13/CP.19).



Source: Mozambique's REDD+ Technical Annex to its first BUR

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Technical assessment for reference levels

- Technical assessment session is an opportunity for the Party to interact with LULUCF experts, and to provide clarification and additional information.
- After the technical assessment session, the Party may submit a modified FREL/FRL in response to the technical inputs of the experts.

Overall schedule of technical assessment

- Submission of a proposed FREL/FRL
- Desk review by LULUCF experts *(8 weeks)*
- **Technical assessment session** *(1w)*
- Further clarification by the experts *(1w)*
- **Preparation of a modified FREL/FRL** *(8w)*
- Preparation of a draft report by the experts *(8w)*
- Review of the draft report by the Party *(12w)*
- Finalization and publication of the report *(4w)*

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Scope of technical assessment

The technical assessment of FRELs/FRLs assesses…

a Consistency with the national GHG inventory

b How historical data have been taken into account

c Transparency, Completeness*, Consistency, Accuracy

d Relevant policies and plans (provided or not)

e (If applicable) Description of changes to previous FREL/FRL

f Pools, gases and activities

g Definition of forest

h Assumptions about future changes to domestic policies (provided or not)

i Consistency with the information provided by the Party

LULUCF experts provide technical inputs on these points, and the Party may reflect the feedback into the modified FRELs/FRLs.

**Completeness here means the provision of information that allows for the reconstruction of the FRELs/FRLs.*

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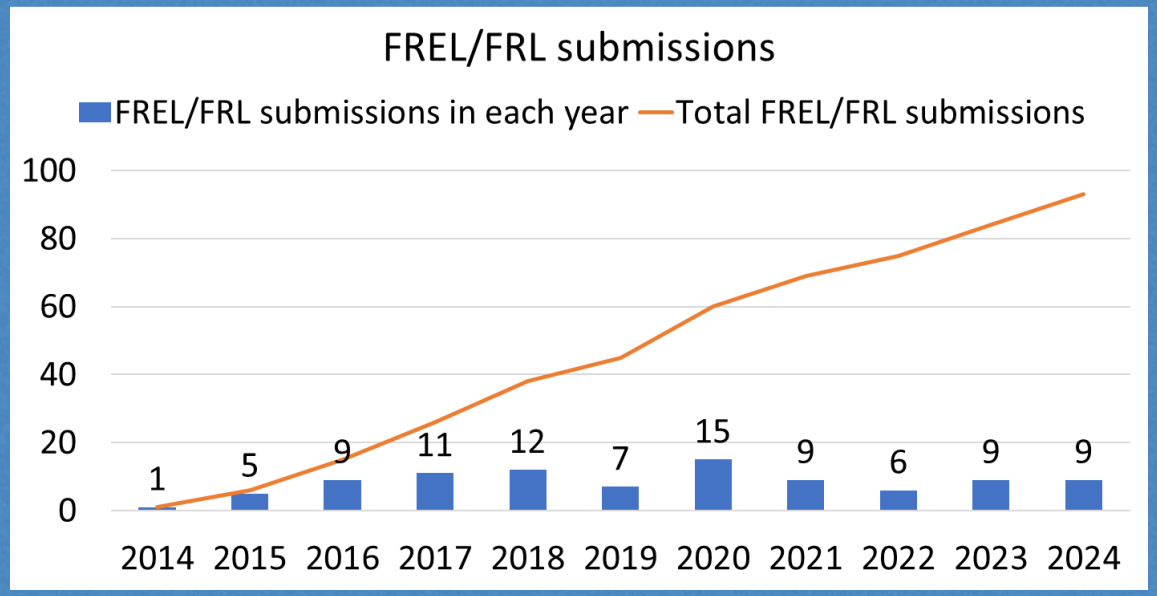
How technical assessments drive the improvements of FRELs/FRLs?

Submission status

- 93 FRELs/FRLs have been submitted from 63 Parties, and underwent the technical assessment session (as of 18 November 2024).
- Among 81 FRELs/FRLs (12 are still in progress), **77 modified FRELs/FRLs were submitted (95%)**.



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Technical improvements in modified FRELs/FRLs (1) – (4)

- **78% of modified FRELs/FRLs** updated its value (more transparent, complete, and consistent and accurate) from their proposed FRELs/FRLs.
- There were improvements in the selection of pools (14 submissions), gases (5), activities (6) and forest definition (4).

01	**Pools**	Added significant pools (e.g. DOM and SOC) and/or excluded pools where data was lacking to make more comprehensive and accurate FRELs/FRLs.
02	**Gases**	Added non-CO_2 (CH_4 and N_2O) emissions from fires to broaden emission sources covered by the FRELs/FRLs.
03	**Activities**	In(ex)cluded "+" activities (enhancement/conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests) based on national circumstances.
04	**Forest definition**	Improved consistency of the definition with other reporting (e.g. Global Forest Resources Assessments).

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Technical improvements in modified FRELs/FRLs (5) – (8)

Improvements in methodologies, parameters, activity data and uncertainties resulted in **accurate estimates of GHG emissions and removals from forests**.

05

Improvements in methodologies

Developed and applied country-specific methodologies for establishing the FRELs/FRLs.

06

Improvements in parameters

Applied more accurate parameters in accordance with national circumstances and data availability.

07

Improvements in activity data

Established more robust forest area data using advanced approaches.

08

Improvements in uncertainties

Newly included or enhanced uncertainty estimates for the FRELs/FRLs.

Technical improvements in modified FRELs/FRLs (9) – (12)

Transparency is the most dominant element where improvements could be seen, followed by accuracy.

09	10	11	12
Improvements in transparency	**Improvements in completeness**	**Improvements in consistency**	**Improvements in accuracy**
Added necessary information and data in the report, including relevant policies and capacity-building needs.	Enhanced clarity on how to establish FRELs/FRLs by providing excel spreadsheets and clarifying data sources	Applied consistent parameters and activity data to establish FRELs/FRLs.	Applied country-specific data instead of default values. Excluded data with high uncertainty.

**Completeness here means the provision of information that allows for the reconstruction of the FRELs/FRLs.*

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Conclusion

- Technical assessments enhance country's capacity to report GHG emissions and removals in the forest sector, helping to build trust and **enabling them to track progress towards achieving NDCs**.
- Using the insights gained from the technical assessments, countries increase their domestic long-term capacity to gather and analyze data, which in turn **helps to inform policy decisions and implement more ambitious climate action in the forest sector.**
- Technical assessments **identify areas of technical improvement and capacity-building needs**, attract support to those areas, and build trust in the system and in the information reported.

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Thank you!

Are you interested in joining technical assessment sessions as an expert?

1. Register on the Roster of Experts. The system will contact your National Focal Point for approval of your self-nomination
2. Opportunity to participate in e-training organized by the secretariat
3. Be eligible to be invited to participate in REDD+ technical assessment

For more info, check out REDD+ Web Platform!

(https://redd.unfccc.int/, Questions: dnemitz@unfccc.int)

Panel Discussion

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