



# FORESTRY COMMISSION (CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS)

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Our Ref: FC/A-10/Sf-21/v.7/66

Your Ref: .....

29<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EMERGENT FOREST FINANCE ACCELERATION, INC.  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Dear Sir,

**RE: THE LEAF CALL FOR PROPOSAL - 2021**

In response to the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition Initiative's Call For Proposals (CFP), the Government of Ghana through the Forestry Commission submits herewith the populated CFP template for your attention and consideration regarding a sub-national REDD+ jurisdiction programme.

The Government of Ghana appreciates the effort by the LEAF Coalition Initiative towards protecting and reducing emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Tropical forests.

We look forward to work together on this objective and towards your positive feedback.

Yours faithfully,

**JOHN M. ALLOTEY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ACCRA**

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**VISION:** To leave future generations and their communities with richer, better, more valuable forestry and wildlife endowments than we inherited.

Forestry Commission\_ CFP Proposal

Institution name: **Forestry Commission**

Country: **Ghana**

Focal point's name, title:

[REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Brief description of legal authority to represent country or jurisdiction:

The Forestry Commission of Ghana, is a government organization under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of the Republic of Ghana, whose principal address is at P.O. Box MB 434 Accra-Ghana. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the regulation of utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the coordination of policies related to them. The Forestry Commission is a creation of an Act of Parliament of Ghana; Forestry Commission Act-1999 (Act 571)<sup>1</sup>.

The Climate Change Directorate of the Forestry Commission, which also serves as the National REDD+ Secretariat is mandated to assist the Forestry Commission to achieve its overall mission and vision by designing climate change mitigation/adaptation plans and strategies for the Forestry Sector of Ghana, while promoting sustainable development.

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[https://www.oldwebsite.fcghana.org/library\\_info.php?doc=44&publication:Forestry%20Commission%20Act,%201999%20Act%20571%20&id=15](https://www.oldwebsite.fcghana.org/library_info.php?doc=44&publication:Forestry%20Commission%20Act,%201999%20Act%20571%20&id=15)



Please check applicable category that best defines your institution:

- National government
- Sub-national government(s)(please specify applicable administrative level of government. If more than one subnational jurisdiction, please specify)

Please confirm that:

- The boundaries of a subnational accounting area correspond with the entire area of one or several administrative jurisdictions no more than one level down from national level and one or several recognized indigenous territories;
- Total forest area of at least 2.5 million hectares;
- The national government will provide the participant with a letter from the relevant national entity authorizing the Participant's application to and participation in ART.
- Recognized indigenous communities ( TBC – depending on inclusion under the finalized ART TREES 2.0)<sup>2</sup>

Please confirm that:

- The boundaries of a subnational accounting area correspond with the entire area of the territory/ territories;
- Participating territories must be comprised of a total area (forest and nonforest) of at least 2.5 million hectares;
- The national government will provide the participant with a letter from the relevant national entity authorizing the Participant's application to and participation in ART.


#### Expression of Consent

- The Supplier, by checking the box, agrees to negotiate in good faith towards entering into an Emission Reductions Purchasing Agreement (ERPA) with interested LEAF Coalition participants if the proposal is assessed as eligible.

1. Please note: if a proposal overlaps geographically with another proposal, the LEAF Coalition will require a plan for how the two potential Suppliers will distribute benefits amongst themselves as well as the Supplier Country's authorization in the form of a letter, in accordance with ART/TREES.

Date of submission: **July 29, 2021**

Name of authorized representative: **JOHN M. ALLOTEY**

Signature: 

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ACCRA**



## 1. Forest Emission Reduction Targets (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please provide a narrative and applicable links, outlining Supplier's forest goals related to emission reductions from REDD+, for example, 2030 zero deforestation goals.

### Ghana's Nationally Determined Contribution

Ghana's national climate actions to reduce GHG emissions are presented in its first [Nationally Determined Contribution \(2015\)](#) submitted to UNFCCC. Through its avoided deforestation programmes, it will contribute to both the unconditional as well as the conditional national emissions reduction targets. The expected cumulative effects of the policies and measures are estimated to lead to a 45% reduction of business-as-usual greenhouse gas emissions of 74 million tons by 2030. In all, the mitigation target translates into 33 million tons over 2016-2030.

Ghana's NDC lists the following unconditional targets in the forest sector:

- Support enhancement of forest carbon stocks through 5,000 ha per annum enrichment planting and enforcement of timber felling standards;
- Continue 10,000 ha annual reforestation/afforestation of degraded lands;

Whilst these targets are conditional on the availability of international support:

- Double 10,000 ha annual reforestation/afforestation of degraded lands translating to 20,000 ha on annual basis;
- Promote sustainable utilization of forest resources through REDD+;
- 45% emission reduction through result-based emission reduction programme in cocoa landscape; and
- Wildfire management in the transition and savannah dry lands in Ghana.

Ghana is currently updating its NDC to make it more ambitious and shall be published by end of year 2021

### REDD+ in Ghana

REDD+ is a mechanism under the UNFCCC, that seeks to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, incorporate the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks in developing countries.

Ghana joined the REDD+ readiness process through the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in 2008. Following the approval of the Readiness Preparation Proposal in 2010, funding was secured from the FCPF to implement the readiness activities starting 2012. Subsequently, Ghana developed its [Ghana REDD+ Strategy](#) in 2016 to guide the implementation of its REDD+ programmes over a 20-year period (2016-2035) consistent with, and anchored to, its NDC. Of these programmes, two have been developed and are being implemented; the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project and the [Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Project](#) (GCFRP).

The GCFRP is expressly relevant as Ghana proposes to build on this project for the ART/TREES programme and this LEAF proposal. This means *inter alia*, the stakeholder engagement structures and approach through Hotspot Intervention Areas, institutional framework, the national safeguards framework, forest monitoring and the recently crafted benefit sharing



plan. The programme FRL is 4,951,174 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e, with total uncertainty of 22.1%. The GCFRP will generate 13.5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>-e over the 5 and half -year ERPA period 3,487,320 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e into uncertainty and reversal buffers. 10,012,680 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e will be available for transaction under the terms of the ERPA. Over the 20-year programme, the ambition is to produce over 294 million tCO<sub>2</sub>-e of ERs.

Ghana developed an Emission Reductions Programme Document in 2017 and signed an Emission Reductions Payment Agreement with the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) as trustee of the FCPF in 2019. The ERPA terminates on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Four Monitoring Reports would be generated over the ERPA period as follows:

- First Monitoring Report for 2019
- Second Monitoring Report for 2020/2021
- Third Monitoring Report for 2022/2023
- Fourth Monitoring Report for 2024

The vision of Ghana's REDD+ Strategy is for REDD+ to serve as a pillar of action for the national climate change agenda, and a pathway for sustainable, low emissions development. The goal is to develop partnerships that will ultimately result in ecosystem protection, resilience and community benefits. In this regard, Ghana is open to the voluntary carbon market and opportunities presented by Article 6.2 and 6.4. of the Paris Agreement.

2. Progress towards, or readiness to meet (non-safeguards elements of) ART/TREES requirements (500 words excluding links and appendices)

*Please provide a summary of the Supplier's progress towards preparing/submitting a concept note, and/or registration document for ART, including expected timelines for submission (e.g. estimated date by which a registration document might be submitted). Please include links to any relevant documentation that has already been submitted to the ART secretariat, if applicable.*

*Please provide an overview of the steps taken to align with non-safeguards requirements of ART/TREES, and Supplier's ability to meet such requirements. If this proposal is selected by the Coalition participants, this information will be accepted as indication of commitment towards meeting ART/TREES requirements.*

Ghana is submitting the TREES concept note in 2021.

Ghana will need to register under TREES. As pointed out under section 3, below, Ghana has conducted a detailed gap analysis against the ART/TREES requirements in order to understand what further work needs to be undertaken and what technical assistance is needed. The timeline below takes the required additional capacity development into account.



Ghana will aim to register under ART/TREES and generate ART credits to comply with LEAF but also more generally in order to participate in carbon markets. This means that Ghana will work towards participation with the LEAF-preferred vintages 2022-2026. In addition, Ghana will also work to issue and monetize TREES credits for earlier vintages 2017-2021.

Ghana proposes the following timeline for accession to TREES and participation under LEAF:

- Mid-2021: submission of TREES concept note and LEAF proposal
- End of 2021: signature of ERPA and concomitant agreement of a technical assistance work package
- From early 2022: work to address capacity gaps and meet TREES requirements, develop TREES registration document with the first reference period 2012-2016 and first monitoring report (vintages 2017-2021), already including a reference level for a second reference period 2017-2021.
- Late 2022: submit for completeness check the TREES registration document and TREES monitoring report (vintages 2017-2021), begin validation and verification
- Mid-2023: conclude validation of both reference levels (based on 2012-2016 and 2017-2021) and verification for vintages 2017-2021, issuance of ART credits for vintage 2017-2021
- From mid-2023: collect necessary data and prepare monitoring report (vintage 2022)<sup>3</sup>, undergo verification, issuance of ART credits and delivery to LEAF buyer
- From mid-2025: collect necessary data and prepare monitoring report (vintage 2023-2024), undergo verification, issuance of ART credits and delivery to LEAF buyer
- From mid-2027: collect necessary data and prepare monitoring report (vintage 2025-2026), undergo verification, issuance of ART credits and delivery to LEAF buyer

3. Capacity building/technical assistance needs (500 words excluding links and appendices)  
*If applicable, please summarize the capacity gaps and needs for support identified as necessary to meet ART/TREES requirements, and plans to address these gaps before submitting validation/verification documents to ART. This information will be critical for planning purposes.*

Ghana has undertaken a detailed gap analysis against ART/TREES requirements, with support from the UN-REDD programme. Ghana is planning to request technical assistance under the UN-REDD Programme for the years 2022-2025 to support the work to address the identified technical gaps, covering the first two deliveries of ART credits to LEAF buyers. The following points describe the areas where technical assistance and capacity development will be required.

Safeguards:

- Ghana's approach to safeguards and the Safeguard Information System was developed before ART/TREES safeguards guidance was available. Most of the ART/TREES

<sup>3</sup> This assumes that the Carbon Fund Emission Reductions would have been delivered as agreed under the ERPA with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development



safeguards indicators can be mapped to existing information streams set out in the safeguard's approach (principles, criteria and indicators) and in the SIS. Technical assistance will be needed in the short term to implement gap filling actions in order to conform with the TREES safeguards structure and process indicators before the country is registered as Participant under TREES. Supplementary information may also be required in the medium term to report on the outcome indicators.

- Ghana's first Summary of Information on safeguards, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019, may not (fully) cover the first TREES crediting period 2017-2021 and the second TREES crediting period 2022-2026. Therefore, subsequent summaries may be required or complementary sources of information on safeguards.
- Further areas to address include enhanced capacity to monitor and report on how safeguards are being addressed at the national, regional and district level; and ability to deliver information requests related to third-party validation and verification of safeguards information as required by TREES.

#### Legal and benefit sharing:

- The GCFRP as noted in Section 1 and associated [ERPA](#), even though the carbon accounting is done at the landscape level, is implemented through Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs). Stakeholders through collective groups and local actors have been engaged in a participatory manner to sign framework agreements in the HIAs. (HIA Management Boards, Sub-HIA, Community Resource Management Areas, Climate Smart Cocoa (CSC) Consortium,). These agreements describe responsibilities and benefits while entitling ERs to the Government of Ghana (GoG) through the Forestry Commission (see section 1 and 11 on title transfers) and provide for an important precedent for Ghana in regard to work on legal arrangements and benefit sharing. The existing framework agreements to be implemented in 6 HIAs in the context of the Carbon Fund, can be reviewed and adapted for ART/TREES and with a view on LEAF.
- The ART/TREES programme area will be larger than the GCFRP, and stakeholder engagement for the additional areas will need to be undertaken. This activity can replicate the tested approach in HIAs and lead up to the signature of agreements to implement activities.
- Discussion with stakeholders in existing and additional HIAs will need to include a review of the benefit-sharing plan in relation to its applicability for LEAF. In this manner, Ghana can build on substantive past efforts to comply with the requirements of the Carbon Fund to develop the benefit-sharing plan under LEAF.

#### Forest monitoring:

- The NFMS uses a sample-based approach to measure areas of forest change in a systematic grid. The approach also includes detailed quality management efforts. Multiple interpretations have currently been undertaken for a subset of samples only but not for the full samples. However, such multiple interpretations will likely be needed to fulfil the requirements under ART/TREES v2.
- There are some detailed technical gaps to be filled to meet TREES requirements, including but not limited to updating existing standard operating procedures, recalculating EF outside the cocoa-forest landscape using field observations where



possible; propagating uncertainties as required, and rationale for the selecting the location for the initial sample unit.

- Ghana's NDC identifies International Carbon Markets as one of the key sources of finance. Ghana is currently developing a detailed approach for NDC accounting, and it will be important to ensure that the approach also enables Ghana's transaction(s) using ART/TREES under LEAF and otherwise. Should corresponding adjustments be relevant under Ghana's LEAF engagement, then this would be even more relevant.
- Data collection on deforestation and forest degradation areas, as well as ongoing calculation of emission estimates. This will be necessary both for reference level setting and for progress monitoring. At least the period 2012-2020 should be covered initially, with biennial monitoring thereafter. Moreover, an emission reduction calculation tool needs to be built that meets TREES requirements also regarding handling of uncertainties, leakage and permanence.
- Although not strictly required by ART/TREES, Ghana could submit information on its reference level and REDD+ results also to the UNFCCC.
- Ghana currently treated all newly established forest areas as commercial forest but will need to review the detailed categories of the plantation area statistics to determine what share concerns natural forest restoration.

TREES process:

- Preparation of TREES registration document and ongoing TREES monitoring reports. Validation and verification audits.

4. High Forest Low/Deforestation (HFLD) (if applicable, 500 words excluding links and appendices)

*Please indicate whether the Supplier expects to qualify as HFLD according to the criteria in the draft TREES 2.0 and whether the Supplier proposes to make available emission reductions under LEAF according to a future, approved HFLD -methodology in TREES. Please note that expressing expectation to do so is not binding.*

Not applicable.



#### 5. Estimate of ART/TREES crediting level (non-binding)

*Please provide an estimate of the ART/TREES crediting level, including annual estimates used to develop the crediting level, and links to further methodological descriptions of these estimates. We understand that these estimates are based on assumptions and will not be final.*

*Please indicate a tentative selection of baseline years, consistent with the ART-TREES standard.*

*Please indicate the assumptions made in the emission reduction volume calculations.*

*Please provide a link to relevant public documentation or reporting (e.g., National Communications, REDD+ strategy/action plan).*

Ghana intends to submit a TREES concept this year (2021). With a vision toward a national-scale submission by 2030, Ghana intends to initially submit a subnational accounting area comprising 10 Southwestern regions: Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta, Western, Western North. These regions combined contain a forest area of 2.56 million ha in 2020, which is 63% of the total forest area and it contains the highest carbon forests remaining in the country.

Ghana intends to submit ERs from 2017 onwards to ART/TREES. Ghana's first crediting period is expected to comprise the 5-year period 2017-2021 and the first reference period will be 2012-2016. The crediting level for this first crediting period (historical emissions over 2012-2016) is approximately 9 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year for deforestation and degradation. Of these average historical emissions, 80% stems from deforestation and 20% from forest degradation. Ghana has assessed emissions for 2017-2019, and achieved 15 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq emission reductions for this 3-year period, about a 50% reduction below the crediting level. Should emission reductions be equally high during the years 2020-2021, then Ghana could expect emission reductions of 23 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq for the full crediting period 2017-2021.

The first Monitoring Report submitted under the ERPA which describes fully the sampling-based approach used can be found in the link below.

<https://reddsis.fcghana.org/documents.php>

The Standard Operating Procedures for generating the data is also found in the link below:

<http://www.ghanaredddatahub.org/>

Ghana is putting many efforts in afforestation/reforestation and would like to also include removals from its tree planting programmes in the LEAF proposal. The afforestation/reforestation programmes are a mixture of establishment of commercial forest and natural forest restoration. Ghana still needs to distinguish the natural forest restoration component from the plantation establishment data. For the calculations included in this proposal, Ghana assumes all established forest to be commercial but intends to make the distinction by the time of submitting a TREES Concept.

TREES applies a Reference Removal Area (RRAn,x) over the reference period. Ghana closely monitors the established plantations over time and applies a survival rate as established



through measurements. Only the successfully established plantation areas (over the reference and crediting period) are included in the final area estimates. Reforestation and afforestation data is obtained from the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy. The  $RRA_{2012-2016}$  is 4,643 ha/year.

For the second crediting period 2022-2026, the crediting level will correspond to average emissions over the second reference period 2017-2021. This data is not yet available (2020 and 2021 have not yet been assessed for the accounting area). Using the years 2017-2019 as a basis, the crediting level for 2022-2026 is expected to amount to around 4.5 mln tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year.

Data from Ghana's Forest Plantation Strategy is available up to the year 2019. The areas for 2020 and 2021 are approximated using the average established plantation area over 2017-2019. As such,  $RRA_{2017-2021}$  is 9,964 ha/year.

#### 6. Annual target ERS<sup>3</sup> (non-binding)

*Please provide an estimate of the ART /TREES expected volumes of ERs that may be delivered annually in the 2022-2026 period. We understand that these estimates are based on assumptions, and will not be final.*

As explained in section 5, over the recent past during 2017-2019, Ghana has managed to reduce emissions by 50% below the crediting level, i.e., compared to the average emissions during the preceding 5-year period 2012-2016. Considering the increasing pressures on the forest, Ghana considers that maintaining the emission levels as low as they were during 2017-2019 period would already reflect good performance. However, Ghana will seek to reduce emissions even further. Ghana will target a further reduction of emissions of 10 – 50% for the period 2022-2026 below the crediting level, i.e., below 2017-2021 historical average emissions. This corresponds to a range of annual emission reductions of 0.5 – 2 mln tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year, or a total of 2.5 – 10 mln tCO<sub>2</sub>eq for the crediting period 2022-2026.

Ghana estimated removal results for 2022-2026 assuming a target area of 16,500 ha is being planted per year over this 5-year period. Using the assumption that all planted areas concern commercial forest, this is expected to produce annual results from 344 thousand tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2022 to 358 thousand tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2026, or a 5-year total of 1.75 million tCO<sub>2</sub>.

The above estimate of emission reductions is preliminary. Most importantly it is unknown how well Ghana's emission reductions efforts will perform during the years 2022-2026. Moreover, the calculation of net emission reduction amounts will need to consider a range of discounts for non-permanence, leakage and uncertainties.

As explained in section 10, Ghana will also need to meet significant delivery commitments of emission reductions with the Carbon Fund. For the years 2019-2024, these amount to at least 10

million tCO<sub>2</sub>e. During 2019, emission reductions amounted to 2.75 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (currently under verification). Should performance be equally successful during the following years, Ghana may expect to fulfil most of this commitment to the Carbon Fund before the LEAF crediting period begins.

For the below schedule of delivery, it is assumed that verifications could be undertaken during 2023, 2025, and 2027 for emission reductions achieved in 2022, in 2023-2024 and in 2025-2026, respectively.

Delivery by the end of (year)	Quantity (range, in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	Crediting year <i>(please specify in brackets if emissions from forests are accounted for according to timelines that deviate from calendar years (e.g. Aug 1<sup>st</sup>–July 31<sup>st</sup>)</i>
2023	0.84 – 2.34 mln	2022
2025	0.84 – 2.34 mln	2023
2025	0.84 – 2.34 mln	2024
2027	0.84 – 2.34 mln	2025
2027	0.84 – 2.34 mln	2026

#### 7. Policies and Measures *(500 words excluding links and appendices)*

*Please provide a summary of existing policy measures, regulations, enforcement and public finance instruments (taxes, transfers, subsidies) the Supplier determines are adequate to achieve the ERs, and a reference to where this information is publicly provided. If applicable, please describe other interventions (beyond policies and measures) Supplier has taken, or will take, to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance sequestration in order to provide ERs under LEAF (e.g. forest fire prevention). If the interventions are not yet operational, please provide a timeline with milestones.*

Forest management in Ghana occurs within forest reserves and outside reserves. Forest reserves have the purpose of protection (e.g., watershed protection), conservation (e.g., biodiversity and wildlife) and production (e.g. timber). The off-reserve areas are a mosaic of forests, agriculture land-use (dominated by perennial crops like cocoa and oil palm) and other land use.



As noted above, Ghana has submitted an NDC<sup>4</sup>. and developed a REDD+ Strategy<sup>5</sup> Together, these make up the policy framework to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in both forest reserve and off-reserve areas.

The key initiative for Ghana's TREES programme is the GCFRP - Cocoa production is a major driver of deforestation in Ghana's forests. To decouple deforestation from cocoa supply chains and under the auspices of the Cocoa & Forests initiative, the government of Ghana through the World Cocoa Foundation signed an agreement with 27 global cocoa companies and chocolate producers in 2017<sup>6</sup>. They jointly agreed to transform the Cocoa sector from a major driver of deforestation to one that is enhancing the protection and reforestation of the High Forest Zone as well as the sustainable production of cocoa at the landscape level. Subsequently, in developing the implementation plan for the CFI, the HIAs have been adopted by companies as the implementation areas. This has therefore enhanced the level of engagements and companies see the GCFRP as the main program to achieve their commitments.

Other relevant policies include:

- National Forest Plantation Development Programme to restore deforested and degraded areas was implemented from 2002-2015. By 2016, a total of 138,879 ha has been established. The current Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy, 2016-2040 aims to establish and manage 625,000 ha plantations, undertake enrichment planting of 100,000 ha, and plant trees in 3.75 million ha of agricultural landscapes.
- The Forest and Wildlife Policy, 2012. The policy aims at the conservation and sustainable development of forest and wildlife resources for the maintenance of environmental stability and continuous flow of optimum benefits from the socio-cultural and economic goods and services that the forest environment provides to the present and future generations, whilst fulfilling Ghana's commitments to international agreements and conventions. It provides for the management of community forest management areas (CREMA). CREMA provides a key avenue to give farmers rights to trees and resources with the boundaries of the CREMA / HIA. Another major legislative advancement for REDD+ will be the passage of the Wildlife Resources Management Bill (2014), which will consolidate and revise the laws relating to wildlife and protected areas and serve as the final step in the formalization of CREMA. To date, CREMAs and HIAs are supported (directly and indirectly) by the Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012) and receive certificates of devolution from the sector minister that authorize community-based management of the natural resources. Already, these certificates have been used to underpin legal agreements between CREMAs and private sector companies.
- The Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (VPA FLEGT). The FLEGT VPA is a bilateral agreement between the European Union (EU) and wood exporting countries, which aims to improve forest governance and ensure that the wood imported into the EU has complied with the legal requirements of the partner country. The objective of Ghana-EU VPA is to provide a legal framework and compliance

<sup>4</sup> [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Ghana%20First/GH\\_INDC\\_2392015.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Ghana%20First/GH_INDC_2392015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Ghana%20Redd+%20Strategy-SOI-Ghana%20REDD+%20Strategy.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Ghana-Framework-Final-1.pdf>



monitoring system aimed at ensuring that all timber imports into the EU from Ghana have been legally acquired, harvested, transported and exported. Ghana developed all the monitoring and compliance system, and ready to issue FLEGT license.

- National Climate Change Policy/Action Plan (2013). It provides the strategic direction for achieving a climate-resilient and climate-compatible economy through equitable, low-carbon economic growth. It highlights 10 programme areas to address climate change in Ghana and underlines nature-based solutions to achieve these.
- Forestry Development Master Plan, 2016-2036. The FDMP seeks to operationalize the goals, objectives and strategies of the 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy. A key area is to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices whilst contributing to sustainable supply of timber and wood fuels, poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.
- COCOBOD in collaboration with Forestry Commission and other private sector participants have developed Climate Smart Cocoa (CSC) Standard, which is undergoing series of stakeholder engagements and reviews and will be finalized in 2021. The document is aimed at serving as a working document to be used in all cocoa growing regions to ensure sustainability in the face of climate change. The CSC manual would be used by Community Extension Agents (CEAs) to promote on-farm best agricultural practices.

#### 8. Use of Proceeds (1000 words excluding links and appendices)

*Please acknowledge the eligible uses of proceeds as established in the CFP, and provide initial thinking on the focus of a high-level investment framework describing the plans or arrangements in place for investing the proceeds of a transaction with LEAF Coalition contributors. This plan should be consistent with achieving the Supplier Country's NDC and sustainable economic development with a priority for forest protection and forest restoration, including its REDD+ strategy/action plan . The plan must also explain how benefits from such a transaction will be distributed to stakeholders . This plan should demonstrate equity , inclusivity , and transparency , and it should reach local communities and support wider climate goals. Suppliers may indicate whether future payments will be used to leverage up-front investments, if applicable. In other words, proceeds may be used to repay bonds or loans that were used specifically to finance activities that are consistent with the guidance on use of proceeds.*

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP), which has begun in earnest, was developed through a participatory approach in order to foster the massive transformational changes in farming practices and land use decision making required to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and to drive the growth of forests and trees in the GCFRP landscape. The goal of the GCFRP is to significantly reduce deforestation and forest degradation by promoting climate-smart cocoa production, landscape level land-use planning, strategic policy reforms, restore degraded forest landscapes, integrated coordination and monitoring, law enforcement as well as risk reduction efforts within priority Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA) landscapes. Already, activities have been undertaken under the Forest Investment Programme, in the forest reserves and off-reserve areas in the Western, Western North, Ahafo Regions and parts of the Bono Region, which falls within the GCFRP accounting area. In addition, the FC will continue to implement and



reinforce its existing policies, actions and measures. Taken all together, the initial HIAs, FIP areas, and ongoing FC activities are designed to provide the needed scale to achieve results under this program.

Again, the investments from the private sector especially the Cocoa and Chocolate Companies are expected to increase in the coming years with the commitment towards ensuring deforestation free supply chains. This is affirmed by the CFI as mentioned in section 7 above.

In addition, the Forest Plantation Strategy provides a number of benefits and incentives to the private sector for establishing forest plantations (page 35 of the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy)<sup>7</sup>

For the ART/TREES programme, Ghana will propose a larger area comprising 10 Southwestern regions: Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta, Western, Western North, as noted in Section 5.

GCFRP is coordinated by the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) of the Forestry Commission (FC), and Ghana's Cocoa Board (Cocobod). The FC is responsible for the regulation of the utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources, and the coordination of policies related to them, while the Cocobod's mission is to regulate the production, processing and marketing of good quality cocoa.

Ghana has finalized the [Benefit Sharing Plan](#) (BSP) in 2020 for the GCFRP in the context of the revenues expected from carbon sales to the FCPF Carbon Fund. It demonstrates equity, inclusiveness and transparency, including how local communities are involved. This plan is consistent with the NDC (See Section 1. Bullet 2). The existing benefit-sharing plan will be a key reference for discussions with stakeholders in the context of the ART/TREES programme. The BSP was designed based on extensive field study (focus group discussions and key informant interviews), broad stakeholder consultations at the local and national levels and multiple expert reviews involving individuals (men and women), key informant, local communities, private sector players, civil society organizations, government, and expert groups.

The BSP elaborates a benefit sharing mechanism that is intended to effectively distribute carbon and non-carbon benefits as result of implementing the program. It describes the various beneficiaries, their eligibility, roles and responsibilities while specifying the scale and modalities for distribution. Additionally, the BSP describes the type of benefits to be transferred to the beneficiaries, the timing of the distribution, and the conditions (roles and responsibilities) to be satisfied for the payment of the benefits, and the appropriate indicators for monitoring, measuring and verifying compliance with modalities for distributing benefits. There is evidence

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[https://www.oldwebsite.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/Plantation%20Annual%20Report/Ghana%20Forest%20Plantation%20Strategy\\_24\\_01\\_16%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.oldwebsite.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/Plantation%20Annual%20Report/Ghana%20Forest%20Plantation%20Strategy_24_01_16%20(2).pdf)

that stakeholders have accepted these conditions, as a first implementation agreement has already been signed. The country will continue applying a participatory approach to engaging stakeholders in defining benefit-sharing and implementation arrangements. Ghana continues to engage both national and sub national stakeholders on the fund flow mechanism for the Benefit Sharing Plan.

The Non-Carbon/Non-Carbon Fund Benefits, Incentives and Indicators are copied below from the GCFPR BSP. (Source pg. 24)

Non-Carbon Beneficiary	Benefit /Incentive Type	Description of benefit	Source of benefits	Monitoring Indicators
<b>HIA Landscape Beneficiaries</b>				
<b>Registered Farmer Groups</b>	Non-monetary	Farmers receive input packages, trainings, and planting materials to improve capacity in CSC production	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No. farmers registered per Sub-HIA/HIA</li> <li>-No. farmers practicing CSC in Sub-HIAs /HIAs</li> <li>-No. farmers who receive CSC package per Sub-HIA/HIA</li> <li>-All indicators disaggregated by gender</li> </ul>



	Monetary	Access to financial credit and risk reduction instruments	Private sector	-Credit agreements for HIA farmer groups signed with HIAs and Consortiums
	Monetary	Increased yields and incomes through adoption of CSC practices	Private sector COCOBOD	-Average yield increase per HIA -Average income increase per HIA
	Monetary	Increased incomes from - farm diversification - CSC premiums/price -increased cocoa production	Private sector COCOBOD NGOs	-Average income from diversification, cocoa production or CSC premiums
	Non-monetary	Mapping of farm to improve land tenure and farm management	-Private Sector -COCOBOD -NGOs	-No. of farms mapped -No. of local land agreements signed
	Non-monetary	Improved tree and land tenure security	-Government -Traditional Authorities	-Documents citing tenure reform -Passage of Wildlife Bill -Tree registration
<b>Traditional Authorities</b>	Non-Monetary	-Improved landscape governance and management	-Government -Traditional Councils	-No. of HIAs / Sub-HIAs established -Women and minority groups have representation
<b>HIA / Sub-HIA Communities</b>	Non-Monetary	- Improved landscape governance and management	-Government -NGO	-No. of HIAs / Sub-HIAs established -Women and minority groups have representation

Following on to the arrangements under the GCFRP, Ghana's REDD+ Strategy, further stakeholder consultation and other studies that are ongoing, the LEAF proceeds will be used for

- Forest Reserve Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Institutional Coordination and MRV
- Landscape Planning in HIA areas
- Community Programmes, farm inputs and implementing climate smart agriculture to increase yields
- Risk management and finance
- Implementation of Policies and measures and especially implementation of legislative and policy reforms



9. NDC Alignment (500 words excluding links and appendices)

*Please explain how payments received under LEAF would contribute to achieving the targets established in the Supplier Country's NDC. Please also indicate how it is envisioned that the payments will contribute to raising the level of NDC ambition over time. Please note that it is not expected that potential Supplier Countries will be able to commit to increasing ambitions by the July 30th deadline. Rather, a simple narrative about how this is envisioned is welcomed.*

Ghana has a coherent policy framework for REDD+; reflected in the NDC of 2015, which describes both conditional and unconditional targets within the AFOLU Sector, aligned with the National REDD+ Strategy of 2016. This LEAF proposal lays out a programme that will help meet these targets. As noted above, the GCFRP is one of the key pathways to achieve the forest sector mitigation targets in the NDC.

The payments to be received under LEAF will enable Ghana to raise the ambition level. Firstly, meeting current targets is the step to be undertaken before raising ambition. Secondly, a raised ambition level is already built into the design of the programme, where emission levels are already falling. Consistent with the key feature of TREES that requires higher ambition over time through crediting baselines that initially reflect historical emission levels for deforestation and thereafter decline periodically, the programme's crediting level for LEAF will be calculated from the period 2017-2021, which will have recorded a reduced emission due to the ERs realised under the Carbon Fund through the GCFRP. Thirdly, upscaling the GCFRP area to four other south-western regions also contributes to raising the level of the NDC ambition.

Moreover, through participation in TREES, Ghana demonstrates the willingness to improve the technical aspects of programme design and results monitoring, which would facilitate higher ambition in future NDCs. The commitment to pursuing the technical rigor require for the application of TREES, including the technical specificities for the activity data collection as well as treatment of uncertainties, for example, signals already high ambition.

10. Nesting (500 words excluding links and appendices)

*If applicable, please describe Supplier's initial approach for how double counting from relevant activities with overlapping geographical scope will be avoided. This should include Supplier's approach to accounting for incorporation of activities either crediting, or seeking results-based payments for emission reductions from forests in the same geographical area (e.g. emission reduction or sequestration projects).*

Ghana is committed to avoiding double counting. The double counting risk is especially relevant in the following contexts:

- Projects working under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) of Verra, a US-based NGO, notably REDD and ARR projects. Some of these projects have issued carbon credits or plan to issue carbon credits for years that overlap with the crediting period for ART/TREES and LEAF.
- Carbon sales to the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. Ghana has entered into an Emission Reduction Payment Agreements (ERPAs) for the years 2019-2024, which overlap with the periods relevant for ART/TREES and LEAF. The geographic area for the Carbon Fund programme is also fully included in the prospective area for Ghana's ART/TREES



programme. The Carbon Fund programme covers the same emissions scope as the ART/TREES programme.

Ghana proposes a simple yet effective approach to avoiding double counting. Double counting will be avoided by deducting the emission reductions volumes issued or sold to others from the TREES-compliant emission reduction volume before issuing ART credits. This deduction needs to be carried out for activities with overlapping geographic scope, that cover the same REDD+ activities and for carbon credits with the same vintages. For example, the 10 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e to be sold to the Carbon Fund will be removed from Ghana's measured TREES emission reductions. Such a deduction will need to be carried out for the Carbon Fund programme and for VCS projects.

Details on the Carbon Fund ERPAs.

	Fixed delivery commitment	Call option with fixed price	Additional volumes
Cumulative amount between mid-2019 and end of 2024	10,000,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1,000,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Price and volume to be negotiated

Considering the existing commitment to the Carbon Fund, Ghana can offer the following volumes to LEAF:

- Emission reductions for the years 2022-2024 that are not bought by the Carbon Fund because the Cocoa Forest Programme exceeds the targets. These volumes could be significant. For 2019 alone, emission reductions of the Cocoa Forest Programme amount to 2.75 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (according to preliminary estimates submitted for verification to the Carbon Fund). Should the following years be equally successful, then emission reduction amounts will exceed the commitments.
- Emission reductions for the years 2022-2024 that are not bought by the Carbon Fund because they were generated from lands outside the Cocoa Forest Programme. Ghana's ART/TREES programme will be larger than the Cocoa Forest Programme. It is therefore also expected that Ghana's ART/TREES programme will generate larger amounts of emission reductions, which can be offered to LEAF.
- Emission reductions for the years 2025-2026. These are not yet committed.

Details on VCS projects in the land-use sector in Ghana. In June 2021, the VCS registry lists the following forestry / land use projects:

- Reforestation of degraded forest reserve areas in Ghana, West Africa: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/2410>. The project is in the Ashanti Region. It expects annual emission reductions of 46,229 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The project has not yet obtained registration and no issuances have occurred.
- The Reforestation of Degraded Forest Reserves in Ghana: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/987>. The project is in the Kumasi, Ashanti Region. It expects annual emission reductions of 8,815 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The first monitoring period started already in 2008.



Both VCS projects overlap with Ghana's ART/TREES programme in terms of their scope (removals from tree planting) as well as their location. Although they both fall outside the Cocoa and Forests Programme, the ART/TREES programme will be larger in area and cover all of the Ashanti Region. Should these projects generate carbon credits during years that fall into the crediting period of the ART/TREES programme, then these project issuances would need to be deducted from the amounts creditable under ART/TREES.

As part of the preparatory work for participation in TREES, the Forestry Commission will enter into a discussion with VCS projects on potential nesting arrangements. Should these projects refrain from issuing carbon credits under the VCS, then they could instead share in benefits from Ghana's ART/TREES programme. It remains to be seen how viable this option is.

In sum, double counting will be avoided by deducting the emission reduction volumes issued or sold by others from the TREES-compliant emission reductions before issuing ART credits:

[ART issuance request] = [emission reductions verified under ART/TREES] – [amounts transferred to the Carbon Fund] – [amounts issued by projects]

#### 11. Transfer of Title (500 words excluding links and appendices)

*Some buyers will seek transfer of title of ERs on the ART registry, while others will allow the Supplier to retire ERs on the ART registry. Please indicate the Supplier's preference and expectations regarding transfer of title. Please refer to CFP document term "nature of transactions" for a detailed explanation of options under CFP related to transfer of title. Note that jurisdictions may choose to pursue multiple options.*

Ghana has designed an approach for the Cocoa Forest Programme for securing emission reduction titles. This approach was first set up for Ghana's work under the Carbon Fund, and it will now be replicated and upscaled also for the ART/TREES programme.

The approach for securing emission reduction titles relies on implementation agreements drawn up with stakeholders in hot-spot intervention areas, along with details on benefit-sharing arrangements. These implementation agreements mandate the Cocoa Forest Programme to procure international support primarily from the FCPF Carbon Fund. The vast majority (95%) of Ghana's sales commitments to the Carbon Fund concern carbon credits without title transfer under tranche B of the Carbon Fund, while only a small amount (5%) concern carbon credits with title transfer under tranche A.



Ghana is aware of four options laid out by LEAF for the nature of transactions that also address the need for title transfers.

	Buyer	Title transfer	ART credit	Buyer's claim	Corresponding adjustment
#1	Sovereign	No title transfer	Retired in Ghana's account	Contribute to NDC achievement	No
#2	Private sector	No title transfer	Retired in Ghana's account	Contribute to NDC achievement	No
#3	Private sector	Title transfer	Transferred to buyer	Voluntary offsetting – contributing to NDC achievement	No
#4	Private sector	Title transfer	Transferred to buyer	Compliance offsetting	Yes

Ghana can already indicate that the pathways #1 and #2 without title transfer are feasible and would be of interest to Ghana. Ghana would gratefully accept international support to achieving its NDC targets using these modalities.

Regarding the pathways #3 and #4, Ghana would gladly enter a discussion with Emergent and the LEAF Coalition partners to better understand implications, especially regarding the need for corresponding adjustments (see section 12, below). Ghana will also need to put these options to stakeholders for consideration as implementation agreements are, so far, focused on results-based payments without eventual title transfer. An initial discussion with the LEAF coalition partners will indicate to what extent this is needed.

## 12. Corresponding Adjustments (500 words excluding links and appendices)

*Please indicate Supplier's willingness to consider ERs with corresponding adjustments, per pathway #4 outlined in the terms of the CFP. If applicable, please indicate the portion of total ERs (if any) for which the Supplier proposes to make a corresponding adjustment to the national account. Please refer to CFP document term "nature of transactions" for detailed explanation of options under CFP related to corresponding adjustments.*

Ghana has taken on an ambitious mitigation target in the 2015 NDC. Across the economy, emissions in 2030 are planned to be 15% lower than business-as-usual. A further 30% reduction could be achieved with adequate international support. These targets also include

the land-use sector. (See section 1, above.)

Notably, the NDC targets a 45% emission reduction through the REDD+ programme in the Cocoa Landscape. This is a target that is conditional on the provision of international support. Further, the NDC explains that Ghana expects to rely on the use of international market-based mechanisms to acquire such international support, including for REDD+. Some of this support is already secured through the FCPF Carbon Fund.

The ART/TREES programme to be proposed by Ghana will aim to access additional international support to the activities in the Cocoa Landscape – while also upscaling these activities from the Cocoa Landscapes to new areas. The emission reductions offered to LEAF fall into this envelope: Ghana’s contributions to the Paris Agreement that require international support from market-based mechanisms.

Moreover, the NDC lays out targets for the afforestation / reforestation of degraded lands. Unconditionally, Ghana has committed to areas of 10,000 ha annually, with further 10,000 ha annually in case there was financial support available. The ART/TREES programme will also include some removals including from afforestation / reforestation of degraded lands. In sum, part of Ghana’s reforestation / afforestation targets are unconditional, other conditional parts could be funded by LEAF.

The emission reduction vintages offered to LEAF refer to the years 2022-2026 – before the 2030 target year of Ghana’s greenhouse-gas mitigation efforts in the forest sector. Detailed accounting rules for Ghana’s NDC accounting in the national registry are currently under development under leadership of Ghana’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These detailed accounting rules may also provide more clarity on the implications of a corresponding adjustment for Ghana’s NDC target.

Ghana is aware of four options laid out by LEAF for the nature of transactions that also relate to the need for corresponding adjustments (see above under section 11). Ghana will discuss with Emergent and the LEAF coalition partners about these four options and how they best fit Ghana’s context (support contributions to the Paris Agreement that require international support from market-based mechanisms – towards 2030 targets).



appendices)

*Please provide a brief description of the steps taken to assess safeguards requirements of ART/ TREES and Supplier 's ability to meet such requirements. The Supplier should outline how all the TREES safeguards (Section 12 of the standard) will be addressed and respected, and how a national system for providing information on safeguards, or subnational equivalent , will inform TREES safeguards conformity.*

*Your response should include an outline of key current gaps in TREES safeguards conformance and plans for gap-filling actions. Subnational Suppliers should outline how safeguards tracking and/or monitoring tools are consistent with national tracking or tools, in particular with the national system for providing information on safeguards.*

*Please provide links to relevant publicly available information (e.g. summaries of information on safeguards as submitted to the UNFCCC and/or provide a link to, or describe, the either digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards).*

Ghana has defined its approach to safeguards, the objective of this approach is to comply with UNFCCC, FCPF and other donor safeguard requirements as deemed appropriate. Given that the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) of ART is based on the seven UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards and that Ghana's approach is structured around these as well, the country is in a good position to meet ART/TREES requirements.

#### Ghana's country approach to safeguards

A key element for the application of safeguards is the indicative clarification of the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards defined in accordance with Ghana's national context (laid down in the [first summary of information](#)). The clarification contextualizes the general principles outlined in the Cancun safeguards into specific principles and objectives that are to be followed and promoted in the context of the implementation of REDD+ activities in Ghana, and which are anchored in the country's policies, laws and regulations. The clarification of the Cancun Safeguards within the Ghanaian context, which followed the legal analysis, was completed in March 2017 and has undergone stakeholder review. This clarification is viewed as a more precise and substantive 'standard' against which Ghana will report on the extent to which it is ensuring consistency with the Cancun Safeguards during implementation of REDD+.

Ghana's also determined an [initial framework of Principles, Criteria and Indicators](#) within the country's context, which was built from the review and identification of key elements from existing mandatory and voluntary safeguards standards/frameworks that relate to the rights of local communities; inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders; equitable sharing of benefits and risks; gender mainstreaming; Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); enhancement of biological diversity and ecosystem services, and other key issues that affect social and environmental performance of REDD+ programmes and/or projects. Specific focus was on the UNFCCC (Cancun) safeguards and World Bank Safeguards Operational Policies (OPs).

During the process of developing the country's approach to safeguards, an [assessment of](#)

[the relevant legal framework](#) was conducted. The assessment indicated that Ghana's legal framework is largely supportive of REDD+ actions and safeguards; however, some legislative and policy gaps were identified, these will inform reforms required, which will be addressed based on the country's capacities and priorities. The full legal analysis outlines how the legal framework addresses each safeguard component on paper and in practice, the gaps identified, and recommendations on how to address those gaps.

Moreover, some key documents guide the way in which the country addresses and respects REDD+ safeguards. Ghana conducted a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA; completed in 2014 and updated in 2016) for the GCFRP using a consultative process that considered national and institutional sustainability policies, plans and strategies and also addressed World Bank Safeguards Operational Policies. Also, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement and Policy Framework (RPF) were developed for the GCFRP as well as an ESMF for the GSLERP, to ensure that safeguards-related issues are integrated into REDD+ processes.

In addition, a REDD+ Communication Strategy had been developed previously in October 2013 and formed an integral part of the SESA communication process, and finally updated in 2016. Also, the country has a Gender and REDD+ Action Plan which supports the recognition that gender considerations are essential to REDD+.

#### Ghana's Safeguards Information System and Summary of Information

Ghana has also designed a [Safeguards Information System \(SIS\)](#), which functions as a transparent and accountable domestic repository of safeguards information, providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected. The SIS is a web-based platform. Core functions of the SIS are collection of information, compilation and aggregation of information, analysis of information, and dissemination of information; the country has documentation that described how the flow of information will take place and roles were defined for the effective monitoring and reporting of safeguards compliance. The SIS also includes guidance and channels for accessing the [Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism](#).

In addition, Ghana submitted its [first summary of information](#) to the UNFCCC in 2019. This report provides information on the measures in place in Ghana, brief descriptions of initial pilots, an explanation of how Ghana addresses and respects the Cancun Safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+, and initial information on how safeguards were addressed and respected. Outcomes of implementation and thus safeguards outcomes were not reported. As this was a first summary of information, it is anticipated that subsequent summaries will provide more details on how REDD+ measures have been implemented, and how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected.

Since Ghana REDD+ Strategy envisages sub national programmes, the architecture for Safeguards Reporting starts at the community level through Forest District Focal points and



Safeguards teams to the Regional Focal points, and finally to the National Safeguards Point. The information submitted is then approved by the National Focal Point for REDD+ and posted onto the SIS for public information and feedback as appropriate.

#### The LEAF and ART/TREES safeguard requirements

Within this context, Ghana will respond to LEAF's safeguards requirements following the guidance and elements developed as part of the country approach to safeguards. In addition, a safeguards initial assessment of TREES requirements was conducted, which considered the SIS and summary of information requirements, but mainly focused on the review of evidence of conformance with the 44 safeguards indicators of TREES. TREES safeguards conformity will be informed by the documents and information shared in Ghana's SIS, but also by content of the first and subsequent summaries of information of the country. When needed, the TREES Monitoring Report Template will be used to share complementary evidence of conformance.

At this stage of the assessment of TREES safeguards requirements, only preliminary gaps have been identified and these need to be discussed and validated, efforts to gather further information have been planned to complete the assessment in close collaboration with different country institutions and with the engagement of other key stakeholders. Existing information will mostly refer to TREES structural and process indicators, while additional information will be required for outcome indicators. Some preliminary gaps identified relate to the need to strengthen the processes to: promote anti-corruption measures; transparency in the distribution of REDD+ benefits; clearer definition in legislation of land tenure rights and continuation of the work initiated to solve issues related to tree tenure; identification of key stakeholders from local communities (informed by the scope defined for application of TREES standard); determination of guidance and measures/procedures to fully engage local stakeholders considering their specific circumstances; and strengthen the determination and implementation of procedures for prohibiting the conversion of natural forests. Once feedback is received and the safeguards assessment of TREES requirements is completed, actions will be identified to address the gaps, prioritizing the gaps identified in the conformance of structure and process indicators. If needed, a plan for conformance for the TREES safeguards outcome indicators will be developed.

Following the approach of the REDD+ readiness phase in Ghana, which considered key to promote consultative processes, the engagement of relevant country institutions and stakeholders will take place in the discussions and next steps related to LEAF Call for Proposals, as well as the actions required to register under TREES.

There are already planned engagements with the National REDD+ Working Group (a multisectoral platform, which serves as the advisory group for REDD+ implementation in Ghana), key national institutions, landscape actors in the third quarter of 2021

#### 14. Financial Intermediary (FI)

*Before an ERPA can be finalized, an accredited FI must be identified as a channel for disbursement of funds. FIs will ensure that robust monitoring and reporting procedures on the use of proceeds are in place. If available, please provide the name of the proposed institution(s). Please note there may be multiple candidate institutions.*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been identified as Financial Intermediary (FI) for the disbursement of funds and to ensure robust monitoring and reporting procedures. UNDP is accredited by both the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). UNDP has confirmed its willingness to act as FI and has engaged in discussions with Emergent to assess the feasibility of playing this role.

#### 15. Contacts and Implementation Arrangements

*Please describe the key jurisdictional contacts and government entities managing the jurisdictional program and indicate preferences for how subsequent correspondence with your jurisdictions should be handled.*

The Climate Change Directorate/National REDD+ Secretariat of the Forestry Commission, coordinates programmes in Ghana's REDD+ Strategy and would therefore manage this jurisdictional program.

The Forestry Commission of Ghana, is a government organization under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of the Republic of Ghana, whose principal address is at P.O. Box MB 434 Accra-Ghana. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the regulation of utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the coordination of policies related to them. The Forestry Commission is a creation of an Act of Parliament; Forestry Commission Act-1999 (Act 571).

The Forestry Commission has Regional and District Offices across the 10 selected regions for this proposal and hence has adequate human capital to execute the proposed actions towards lowering emissions. Also, the collaborations with national and subnational stakeholders, which has been built for the implementation of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (REDD+ Program for the High Forest Zone) would be upscaled to cover the additional regions under this Jurisdictional Program.



Overall, since its implementation in 2008, Ghana's REDD+ process has developed the requisite structures for implementing REDD+ in Ghana.

The National REDD+ Focal Point is [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Mobile No: [REDACTED]