



Proposal Submission in response to Call for Proposals (CFP) issued by LEAF Coalition on April 22, 2021

Dated: August 2, 2201

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By accessing this Submission, to protect and further the interests of the LEAF Coalition, if you intend to negotiate an ER transaction contemplated by this Submission within the next twelve months, you agree to work in good faith to reach mutually agreeable terms to transact under the LEAF Coalition, and agree to be transparent about and seek to resolve any complicating issues with the LEAF Coalition. If complications cannot be resolved after good faith efforts, you agree for the next six months to provide prior written notice to Emergent and members of the LEAF Core Advisory Group before you initiate discussions directly or indirectly with the Host Jurisdiction responsible for this Submission with respect to a potential emission reduction transaction contemplated by this Submission outside of the LEAF Coalition.

If you are unwilling or unable to comply with this obligation, please destroy this document immediately and notify Emergent accordingly.



NIGERIA REDD+ PROGRAMME

The LEAF Call for Proposals (CFP)

Submitted to:

The LEAF Coalition

Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance

By

Federal Government of Nigeria (Ministry of Environment)

JULY 2021

Institution name:	Nigeria REDD+ Programme
Country:	Nigeria
Focal point's name, title:	
Mailing Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone:	
Brief description of legal authority to represent country or jurisdiction:	Nigeria REDD+ Programme operates within the Forestry Department of the Federal Ministry of Environment.

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)				
	 → 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) $^{\rm 1}$				
	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 non-forest) 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.				
Expres	sion 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.					
	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.				

¹ Under the proposed draft of TREES 2.0," Participants shall be national governments (i.e., the highest level of government that exists in the country), subnational governments no more than one level down from national level, or recognized indigenous communities provided the requirements in section 3.1.1 are met." The ultimate eligibility of Indigenous communities' jurisdictions will depend on the definition of jurisdiction under the finalized ART TREES 2.0.

1. Forest Emission Reduction Targets:

Nigeria's NDC

Nigeria's 2015 submission of its first NDC², and the 27 May 2021 submission of its Interim Report on its NDC Update³ specifies the target of reducing its emissions by 20% below Business-as-Usual scenario by 2030 unconditionally (with national resources), and by 45% conditional with international support (i.e., external financial assistance). Of the sectors covered by the NDC, Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use contribute to 33% of total GHG emissions in 2030.

Nigeria will promote sustainable management of existing forests and regeneration of degraded forest areas, and enhancement of agroforestry practices, presenting the potential to make a significant contribution to national emissions reduction goals. The country's aim to reduce emissions by 5,770,750 tCO2eq from its estimated total annual emissions of 32,397,230 tCO2eq per year (representing 17.8% reduction per year) from forest regeneration gives an indication of intended contribution from the country's forestry and land use sector.

REDD+ in Nigeria

Recognizing the significance of the forest and land sector as a source of Nigeria's GHG emissions, and the need for international support to help develop and implement solutions, Nigeria established a National REDD+ Programme under the Federal Ministry of Environment. Nigeria's approach to REDD+ has been to establish the necessary systems and develop strategies at the national level, while fostering implementation of REDD+ activities on a state-by-state basis. Cross River State is a pilot state for REDD+ in Nigeria, with efforts beginning in 2012.

With the objective of ensuring that climate actions are consistent with UNFCCC rules and guidance, Nigeria launched its National REDD+ Strategy in July 2021 that addresses, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations, and safeguards. Several iterations with stakeholders at the national, state, and community levels as well as broad and in-depth analytic studies led to the development of this strategy.

Nigeria's vision for implementing REDD+ is to establish a climate resilient economy through sustainable management of forests to enhance carbon sinks and reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% by year 2050. The country seeks to achieve this by a three-fold mission of 1) strengthening the functioning of forest and land management institutions and systems; 2) improving relevant laws and regulations and strengthening law enforcement across the land management and fiscal governance sectors; and 3) improving the capacity of relevant

²https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nigeria%20First/Approved%20Nigeria%27s%20INDC_271_115.pdf

³https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nigeria%20First/NDC%20INTERIM%20REPORT%20SUBMI_ SSION%20-%20NIGERIA.pdf

Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government to manage land, forest and ecosystem resources.

The specific objectives of the National REDD+ Programme are to:

- Implement sustainable forest management programmes, focusing on reduction of major drivers of deforestation and degradation across the ecological regions of Nigeria.
- ii. Build capacity of local communities in improving forest management by introducing sustainable livelihood programs.
- iii. Promote good governance at all levels for the sustainable management of the country's forestry resources.
- iv. Ensure equitable access and distribution of REDD+ co-benefits to all affected parties, including women, youths and other vulnerable groups.
- v. Facilitate access to global and national resources and partnership for the sustainable management of the country's forest resources.

2. Progress towards, or readiness to meet (non-safeguards elements of) ART/TREES requirements:

Nigeria has made significant strides towards REDD+ readiness. With support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Government of Nigeria has developed a National REDD+ Strategy⁴, undertaken a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)⁵ and developed Environmental and Social Management⁶ instruments to guide the implementation of the Strategy. Nigeria developed a proposal for a Benefit Sharing Mechanism⁷ and submitted a national FREL to the UNFCCC for technical review posted on the UNFCCC website. In the recently finalized National REDD+ Strategy, emphasis has been put to address the current rapid rates of deforestation and forest degradation, along with a detailed action and financing plan, with supportive engagement at the political level.⁸ The Strategy supports ongoing work to improve forest carbon inventories and develop the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) by the end of 2022.

Nigeria's REDD+ readiness plans were not designed in consideration of ART/TREES but, since both share a common foundation of the UNFCCC decisions and best practices developed

⁴ http://www.nigeriaredd.org.ng/Portals/0/Executive%20summary%20Strategy.pdf?ver=2021-05-27-121005-383

⁵ http://www.nigeriaredd.org.ng/Portals/0/SESA%20FINAL%20REPORT%201.pdf?ver=2021-07-30-082846-163

⁶ http://www.nigeriaredd.org.ng/Portals/0/ESMF%20FINAL%20REPORT.pdf?ver=2021-07-30-105527-287

⁷http://www.nigeriaredd.org.ng/Portals/0/BENEFIT%20SHARING%20MECHANISM%20Framework.pdf?ver=2021-07-30-13445-893

⁸ News coverage of launch event: https://www.environewsnigeria.com/nigeria-seeks-uk-others-support-to-tackle-environmental-challenges/ and https://youtu.be/FQFTuOfwuXMNDC

through the FCPF, the Government of Nigeria believes that it would be in a position to submit a complete concept note and/or registration document to ART/TREES in 2022.

Nigeria's National REDD+ Strategy proposes the adoption of an integrated approach to establish the required national and sub-national Monitoring, Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems. While the MRV system will be developed at the national level for consistency; management and interpretation shall also be carried out at the state level and fed into a national, aggregated database.

The consultancy to develop and operationalize the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021⁹. Nigeria is also participating in a multi-country programme proposal lead by IUCN with Moja Global that will enable Nigeria to generate emissions reductions through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) projects that contribute to national climate and low-carbon development goals under its NDC. Once funded, the Programme will also support the improvement of MRV systems so that the reported emissions reductions and removals resulting from FLR and other forest and land sector interventions can meet the transparency rules agreed under the Paris Agreement and standards for voluntary and regulatory carbon markets in the AFOLU sector.

At the state level, Cross River State is a member of the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCFTF) and received funding for 2019 and 2020 to increase its capacity to act on REDD+ and develop a REDD+ investment plan for the State.

3. Capacity building/technical assistance needs:

Capacity Gaps	Plans to Address	Expected Completion Date
Capacity to operate the National Forest Monitoring System and MRV system to meet ART/TREES requirements: including SOPs for data collection, stratification map, description, rules and procedures for updating, Tier 2 methods, uncertainty calculations, and description of the monitoring plan.	Technical assistance contract in progress to design the NFMS and associated Standard Operating Procedures for consistent operation.	Due to be completed by end of 2021
ART/TREES crediting level: specifically annual land use change and forest cover mapping, and minimum IPCC Tier 2 methods /	Current plan: Acquisition and processing of annual data sets (land use/land cover maps) from 2017 onward and full application of Tier 2 methods.	Subject to new funding. By end of 2022.

 $^{{\}it http://www.nigeriaredd.org.ng/Portals/0/Inception\%20Report\%20 for\%20 Developing\%20 and\%20 Operationalizing\%20 NFMS\%20 in \%20 Nigeria\%20 C. pdf?ver=2021-07-30-095446-570$

factors for all relevant activities.	Faster Option: Contract 3 rd party to acquire the necessary remote sensing data, establish Tier 2 emissions factors, calculate the crediting level and update imagery and analysis annually to MRV progress.	Subject to new funding. Estimated 3-4 months.
Capacity to clarify and institutionalize carbon rights in relation to land tenure / ownership rights to ERs	Internal process currently in progress.	By end of 2022.
Capacity to establish clear and practical protocols for social safeguards and develop a Safeguard Information System	Ongoing work to complete the development of the national SIS.	By the end of 2022.
Capacity to inform stakeholders on benefits, risks and opportunity costs of REDD+ (TREES Section 12.5.2)	The National REDD+ Strategy identifies the need for the development and implementation of a communications plan.	By end of 2022.
Transparent governance, benefit sharing: Capacity to track, record and report use and/or distribution of REDD+ payments (TREES Section 12.5.2)	An assessment of benefit sharing in CRS has been conducted and will inform the design and operation of systems for the rest of the country.	Ongoing.

4. High Forest Low/Deforestation (HFLD):

Nigeria does not qualify as a High Forest / Low Deforestation country

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

Nigeria submitted a National Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC on 4 January 2019¹⁰, in accordance with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (decision 13/CP.19)¹¹. This National FREL was an improvement from the Subnational FREL submitted for CRS in 2018¹² and whose review is available in the UNFCCC website¹³.

https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nigeria sub national frel modified edition. final submitted.pdf

¹⁰ Nigeria submission of FREL to UNFCCC, January 2019: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/2019 submission frel nigeria.pdf

¹¹ UNFCCC Technical assessment report on the FREL: https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=nga

¹² Submission of FREL for Cross River State, 2018:

¹³ Technical Assessment of FREL for Cross River State, 2018:

The National FREL covers the activity "reducing emissions from deforestation" for the reference period 2006-2016 and shows total National emissions of **32.4 MtCO2eq/year**. This national FREL does not meet the precise requirements of ART/TREES crediting level but provides a basis for calculating such a crediting level and estimating the potential emissions reductions during the crediting period. It also provides a basis for assessing the data gaps and any technical assistance necessary, as described in Sections 2 and 3, above. Some of the data gaps (or "avenues for further improvement") were identified in the 2019 submission of the national FREL.

As noted in Section 2 above, Nigeria is currently in the process of operationalizing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and associated MRV system. With the acquisition of the necessary mapping products for the reference period (2017-2021), and updating to Tier 2 emissions factors (as described in the IUCN/Moja Global proposal in section 2), that system will enable calculation of the sub-national crediting level and ongoing monitoring for the 4 states covered by this proposal: Cross River, Ondo, Ogun, and Edo.

It was not possible to obtain and process the data necessary to calculate an ART/TREES crediting level in time for this submission. Therefore, for the purposes of this initial proposal and consistent with the approach used for the 2019 national FREL, the crediting level presented in the table below, has been estimated on the basis of estimates for Cross River State, which has the largest forest cover and the highest quality of data among the 4 states. As indicated above, CRS has also developed a subnational FREL that provides a reasonable proxy for estimating emissions from the 4 states for the purpose of this submission. Data and estimate from CRS have therefore been used for estimates of Crediting levels in this submission.

As indicated in the subnational FREL, CRS lost an average of 9,176 hectares of forest per annum between 2004-2014 equating to emissions of 89 MtCO2eq over this period, which translate to an annual estimate of 8.9 MtCO2eq. Noting that the other States do not have statistics for emissions, we have estimated an equivalent emission rate based on total forest area as shown in the table below. The Annual Emissions rate per state (CO2eq) were calculated from a factor of 7.23 tCO2eq /ha per year estimated using the annual emission of 8.9 MtCO2eq from an area of 1,230,891 for CRS. The specific annual emissions for each state and the total emissions from these 4 States are shown in the table below. The resulting estimate and proxy for an ART/TREES crediting level is 20,230,920 tCO2eq.

State	CRS	Ondo	Ogun	Edo	Total
Forest area (ha) in 2016	1,230,891	607,239	506,899	452,955	2,797,984
Annual Emissions rate per state (CO2eq)	8,900,000	4,390,663	3,665,151	3,275,107	20,230,920
ART/TREES Crediting Level (CO2eq)	20,230,920				

6. Annual target ERs (non-binding):

The values presented in the table below are initial estimates of the net emissions reductions and removals from avoided deforestation and reforestation in the four states included in the proposal. They are based on assumptions and should not be considered final.

The NDC for Nigeria commits to reduce emissions from the forest sector by 20% by 2030. Based on historical emissions described in the Section 5 (table above), an estimate of avoided emissions due to REDD+ implementation has been calculated as 4,046,184 tCO2 eq per year for the period 2022-2026 as shown in the table below.

Delivery by the end of (year)	Quantity (range, in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent)	Crediting year
2023	4,046,184	2022
2024	4,046,184	2023
2025	4,046,184	2024
2026	4,046,184	2025

7. Policies and Measures:

Relevantimportant policy and governance documents on REDD+ in Nigeria are:

- 1) Nigeria's REDD+ Readiness Programme: Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD + (2011/2012);
- 2) Cross River State REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan; and
- 3) National Strategy for Nigeria's REDD+ Programme (2021).

These and other policy development and design documents were prepared specifically to address the problems of rapid deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria, with the aim of meeting national commitments to mitigating and adapting to climate change and to related forest and biodiversity goals. Nigeria has also developed a number of policy instruments (though currently not adequately funded and domesticated) to ensure sustainable protection and management of forestlands with concomitant reduction of greenhouse gases, enhanced carbon stock, provision of alternative sources of livelihood and benefit to forest communities.

Legal Provisions for REDD+ in Nigeria

These documents are supported and framed by a number of key national policies and development strategies. These include:

- Revised Nigeria's Climate Change Policy 2021¹⁴
- Final Report: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
- Assessment of Policy, Legal and Regulatory Instruments of REDD + in Cross River State of Nigeria 2016
- Strategic Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for CRS

 $^{^{14} \}bullet https://climatechange.gov.ng/2021/06/02/president-buhari-approves-the-revised-national-climate-change-policy-for-nigeria/$

- Resettlement and Policy Framework (RPF)
- Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2012 2023¹⁵
- Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2020 2023
- Transformation Agenda (2011 2020)
- Vision 2020
- National Renewable Energy and Efficiency Policy (NREEEP)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)¹⁶
- National Forestry and Action Plan (NFAP)
- National Forestry Policy (NFP) 2010
- National Environment Policy 1999¹⁷
- Nigeria's Agricultural Policy
- Agricultural Promotion Policy 2016 2020
- National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy 2012
- National Policy on Drought and Desertification 2007
- Great Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel Initiative

8. Use of Proceeds:

The LEAF funds will be used to further reduce deforestation and carbon losses from forestry and agriculture, increase forest landscape restoration, as well as other activities aimed at achieving the estimated ERs as follows. These actions have been identified through an extensive multistakeholder consultation processese and include:

- a) Promoting broad support among stakeholders for the sustainable management of all types of forests;
- b) Contributing to the achievement of the Country's NDC and sustainable economic development with a priority for forest protection and forest restoration;
- c) Implementing the National REDD+ Strategy;
- d) Supporting capacity building for gender mainstreaming, MRV operations, and effective communication in the implementation of the four strategic priorities of the REDD+ Strategy.

The economies and livelihoods currently dependent on degraded, less resilient forest ecosystems have been further weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic which has further compromised their capacity to cope with the expected impacts of climate change. To restore and enhance resilience and adaptation capacity of the ecosystems and the people that rely on them, the LEAF funds will also be used to increase the country's network of forest reserves and conservation areas by:

- i. Promoting private forestry;
- ii. Promoting natural forest management;
- iii. Expanding forest restoration;
- iv. Improving forest protection;
- v. Reducing fuelwood harvest;
- vi. Protecting and restoring of mangrove forest ecosystems; and

¹⁵ • https://persecondnews.com/2020/08/16/2021-2023-medium-term-expenditure-framework-fg-introduces-fiscal-measures-interventions/

¹⁶ • https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ng/ng-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

 $^{^{17} \}bullet \underline{\text{https://books.google.com.ng/books?id=FPu2AAAAIAAJ\&dq=editions:txu10MdU30gC\&redir_esc=y}}$

vii. Improving the value chains of forest products.

Together with the use of alternative and more efficient clean sources of energy, these activities will reduce deforestation and reverse forest degradation and protect carbon stocks.

The LEAF funds will help protect forest tenure and resource rights as well as ensure equitable, inclusive and transparent benefit sharing through:

- a) Adherence to social and environmental safeguards, standards and principles when implementing REDD+ activities in/with forest communities;
- b) Implementing programs that target protection of the rights of women, youths and other vulnerable groups in the implementation of the REDD+ programme; and
- c) Promoting an effective grievance redress mechanism.

The LEAF funds will also enhance investment in a sustainable forestry sector through the following:

- (i) Implementing Forest Restoration Plans (FRP) for deforested and degraded natural areas across the country;
- (ii) Strengthening cocoa rebirth programme in the forest environment; and
- (iii) Improving the value chains of wood and non-wood forest products.

9. NDC Alignment:

The payments received under LEAF would contribute to achieving the targets established in Nigeria's NDC by:

- i. Reducing emissions from the forest sector which together with the agriculture sector contributes 33% of the national emissions;
- ii. Providing certainty of future, results-based revenue that can be used to finance upfront investment in the implementation of the REDD+ activities, the impacts of which will be counted towards Nigeria's NDC;
- iii. Contributing to raising the level of NDC ambition over time by establishing a track record of successful investment and impact; and
- iv. Increasing the level of participation from State and non-state actors, and diversification of livelihoods.

10. Nesting:

- a) Currently, there are no project-scale REDD+ activities operating in the selected states that are seeking carbon credits or results-based payments for emission reductions or sequestration from forests. However, the impact of the new projects, such as the IUCN Moja Global Project will need to be ascertained. At present, the risk of double counting is low.
- b) Looking forward, the risk of double counting from relevant activities with overlapping geographical scope will be avoided by promoting incorporation – nesting - of projectscale activities into the state (and future national) ART/TREES registered project monitoring, accounting and reporting system. If Nigeria were willing to authorize the international transfer of emissions reductions/removals, any credits issued to projects

within the geographical scope of this project and transferred internationally would be accounted for in accordance with the rules and guidance for transparency and reporting under the Paris Agreement.

- c) The government of Nigeria recognizes that project-scale activities in the forest and land sector are essential to meeting Nigeria's NDC. Often, project- and state-scale initiatives are able to contribute higher quality data and more frequent monitoring that contributes to increasing scope and confidence in estimates at the national level. As demonstrated by the leadership of Cross River State, nesting of projects and state-wide programs with the national REDD+ programme enables systematic improvements to monitoring and MRV systems, contributing to continuous improvement of national estimates.
- d) Nigeria is also participating in a multi-country programme proposal lead by IUCN with Moja Global that will enable Nigeria to generate emissions reductions through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) projects that contribute to national climate and low-carbon development goals under its NDC.

11. Transfer of Title:

Nigeria is aware of four options laid out by LEAF for the nature of transactions that also relate to the need for corresponding adjustments. Nigeria is open to discussing with Emergent and the LEAF coalition partners about the first three options and how they best fit Nigeria's context (support contributions to the Paris Agreement that require international support from market-based mechanisms – towards 2030 targets). At this time, in order to de-risk carbon credit shortage and redeem pledges for Nigeria's NDCs, Nigeria opts for 1 & 2 transaction pathways (no transfer of title).

12. Corresponding Adjustments:

Not applicable because Nigeria is not considering pathway #4 at this time.

13. Environmental, Social and Governance Safeguards: Nigeria's REDD+ Safeguards:

Nigeria follows the guidance and requirements for the REDD+ safeguards as per the UNFCCC decisions, which can be summarized as:

- 1) Promoting and supporting the UNFCCC REDD+ (or 'Cancun') safeguards throughout the planning and implementation of REDD+ policies and measures, regardless of the source and type of funding;
- Developing a national-level system for providing information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected (i.e. a 'safeguards information system' - SIS); and
- 3) Providing summaries of information on how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.

A National Safeguards Working Group (NSWG) was constituted in late 2013 and includes membership from Federal and State government agencies, academia, civil society, communities, the media and the private sector.

In same way as the national MRV system, a safeguards information system will be integrated into the monitoring system to ensure that REDD+ implementation enhances social and environmental benefits and does no harm.

Therefore, the following describes Nigeria's progress or readiness to meet ART/TREES requirements based on activities carried out under Nigeria's participation in the FCPF. Nigeria REDD+ Programme has developed an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Resettlement and Policy Framework (RPF) to ensure that REDD+ process/implementation integrates issues related to safeguards. Work is underway to complete the development of the national SIS by the end of 2022.

The implementation of actions to achieve Nigeria's NDC can provide a key entry point for gender considerations which need to be integrated in accordance with the National REDD+ Strategy. The 2015 NDC has an overall vision to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of all economic sectors and of all people – particularly women, children, and resource-poor men – to the adverse impacts of climate change.

14. Financial Intermediary (FI):

The World Bank would be the most appropriate Financial Intermediary for as it is an accredited institution by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and has many years of experience in working with Nigeria's National REDD+ Secretariat.

15. Contacts and Implementation Arrangements:

