

REDD+ Web Platform Newsletter January 2024

A. COP 28 and REDD+

COP28 was held from 30 November to 13 December 2023 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. Significant progresses were achieved during the conference regarding forests and REDD+.

1. Global Stocktake

As a result of extended negotiations, the Parties finally agreed on the first [Global Stocktake](#). This covers the full scope of climate issues, including fossil fuels, transportation and nature. [Paragraphs 33 and 34](#) under the mitigation section emphasize the importance of REDD+ and halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

Paragraph 33: *Further emphasizes the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, [...].*

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

Furthermore, [paragraph 55](#) under the adaptation section, forests are also highlighted as one of the **integrated, multi-sectoral solutions** which may offer economic, social and environmental benefits such as improved resilience and well-being.

This document provides the Parties with direction for the next round of nationally determined contributions, which will be submitted in the first quarter of 2025 (9-12 months ahead of COP 30).

2. REDD+ side event

The REDD+ team organized a side event, *The 10-year anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+*, on 9 December. The event highlighted progress and challenges during the first decade of REDD+ implementation. Nine speakers from REDD+ countries, donor governments and international organizations shared their rich perspectives (Gabon, Indonesia, Norway, Suriname, Peru, Togo, United Kingdom, FAO and FCPF).

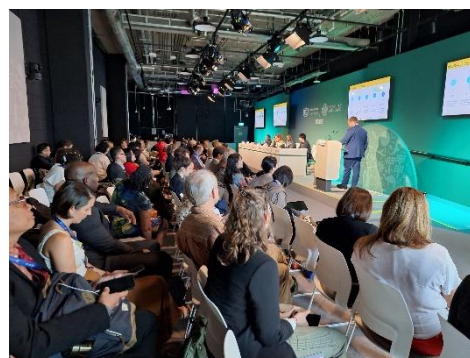


Figure 1 Nearly 100 audiences visited the event



Figure 2 Panelists from Gabon, Indonesia, Suriname, Peru and Togo



Figure 3 Panelists from the UK, Norway, FCPF and FAO

If you missed the event, you can watch the recording on the [UNFCCC website](#) and [YouTube](#). UN Climate Change also published a news article on “[A Decade of REDD+: Notable Achievements by Forest Nations](#)”.

In addition, ahead of the COP, UNFCCC published several articles in collaboration with REDD+ countries to share the more in-depth experiences from the first decade of REDD+ implementation. The articles with key points for the successful implementation of REDD+, including key stakeholders and challenges, are available online:

- REDD+ story in [Saint Lucia](#)
- REDD+ story in [Belize](#)
- REDD+ story in [Togo](#)
- REDD+ story in [Indonesia](#)
- REDD+ story in [Thailand](#)
- REDD+ story in [Suriname](#)

3. Finance for forests

During COP28, many pledges and announcements related to forest finance were made, recognizing the significant role of forests as well as the need for financial support to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030! Key high-level events with insights on this matter were the “[Leaders’ event: Protecting nature for climate, lives, and livelihood](#)” on 3 December and the “[Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership COP28 Ministerial](#)” on 9 December.

B. REDD+ activities in 2023

9 countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu) underwent technical assessment in March 2023 of their forest reference emission level or forest reference level (FREL/FRL). In total, as of the end of 2023, 60 developing countries have established their FREL/FRL and 21 countries could verify their actual results through the technical analysis outlined in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. We congratulate these countries on taking concrete steps towards ending deforestation and forest degradation!

Newly published FREL/FRL and its assessment report in 2023

- Ghana: [Modified 2021 FRL](#), [Report on the technical assessment](#)
- Indonesia: [Modified 2022 FRL](#), [Report on the technical assessment](#)
- Philippines: [Modified 2023 FRL](#), [Report on the technical assessment](#)

Newly published REDD+ results and its analysis technical report in 2023

- Argentina: [BUR 4 with REDD+ results \(2021\)](#), [REDD+ technical analysis technical report](#)
- Papua New Guinea: [BUR2 with REDD+ results \(2022\)](#), [REDD+ technical analysis technical report](#)
- Mozambique: [BUR1 with REDD+ results \(2022\)](#), [REDD+ technical analysis technical report](#)
- Suriname: BUR1 with two REDD+ results (2022) – [1st REDD+ results](#) and [2nd REDD+ results](#), REDD+ technical analysis technical report – [1st REDD+ results](#) and [2nd REDD+ results](#)

After the completion of the technical analysis session of the REDD+ results, Suriname was entitled to seek results-based payments. In addition, **Belize** and **Honduras** submitted their National REDD+ strategies and Safeguard Information Summary. With these submissions, they also fulfilled all requirements to receive results-based payment and entered the [Lima REDD+ Information Hub](#). In total, **17** countries on the Info Hub have successfully reduced GHG emissions by approximately **11.61 billion tons of CO2** through REDD+ activities.

C. REDD+ under the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework

On 26 October 2023, the secretariat received the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) from Andorra. Though this BTR did not include REDD+ results, it is important to look at the reporting arrangements for REDD+ results under the Paris Agreement. In principle, countries don't face any new requirements, but in the future will submit the technical annex with REDD+ results together with their BTR.

Under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, REDD+ reporting continues with the following arrangements:

- The technical assessment of forest reference levels continues to be organized as a **centralized activity once per year (currently usually in March)**;
- The technical analysis of results submitted in a technical annex to the BTR takes place **concurrently with the technical expert review of the BTR**.

We are welcoming more experts that will be available to undertake the technical analysis of REDD+ results. If you have already been nominated as a LULUCF expert to the UNFCCC [Roster of Experts](#), we would like to encourage you to take the relevant training courses under the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

At first, we recommend taking [course A](#) of the Training programme for experts for review under the Paris Agreement that is mandatory for all experts undertaking reviews of information reported in a BTR, including the technical analysis of a REDD+ technical annex.

While there are no specific course requirements for the technical analysis of REDD+ technical annex other than course A above, the secretariat may give priority to experts that have demonstrated a high level of expertise in LULUCF matters by completing further coursework on LULUCF. In particular [course B-1](#) on "General guidance and cross-cutting issues" and B-5 on "LULUCF" are highly recommended for experts interested in REDD+.

D. New submissions to the REDD+ Web Platform

Last year, the REDD+ team received a number of submissions related to REDD+! From countries, the secretariat received submissions from [Sudan](#), [Chile](#), [Paraguay](#) and [Belize](#). Sudan provided REDD+ Readiness Phase Updated Summary Report in 2023 under FCPF. For relevant organizations, 2 submissions from [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#), 1 technical report from the [Convention on Biological Biodiversity](#), 11 submissions including E-learning series on national forest inventory from [FAO](#), REDD+ guidebook in 3 languages from [Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute](#), 14 submissions from [The Monitoring Matters Network](#) and 1 report on carbon markets from [The Nature Conservancy](#) were posted to the Platform. We appreciate for their active cooperation!

We welcome the inputs of your experience in REDD+ anytime. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

E. Prospects in 2024

The secretariat received **9** new proposed FREL/FRL from Belize, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Eswatini, Samoa, Suriname and Zimbabwe for the technical assessment session in 2024. They will undergo the technical assessment process which will be held 18-22 March. Eswatini, Samoa and Zimbabwe submitted their first reference level, while the other countries have improved their methodologies and data over time and updated their reference levels.

Also, it can be expected that many countries will submit their REDD+ results this year, as in 2023. Check out our [REDD+ Web Platform](#) regularly to stay up-to-date on global REDD+ progress in 2024!

Tentative schedule related to REDD+ in 2024

Date	Event	Country	Link
March	Technical assessment week for FREL/FRL	Belize Colombia Congo Côte d'Ivoire Dominica Eswatini Samoa Suriname Zimbabwe	Belize's RL Colombia's RL Congo's RL Côte d'Ivoire's RL Dominica's RL Eswatini's RL Samoa's RL Suriname's RL Zimbabwe's RL

F. Contact

Check out the [REDD+ web platform](#) for further details on REDD+ activities. For any further questions related to the platform, please don't hesitate to contact the secretariat via redwebplatform@unfccc.int.

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