



# REDD+ Community of Practice meeting for Latin American and Caribbean countries

## *Meeting Report*

March 2026

**Background:** Over a decade has passed since the adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in 2013. Since then, over 65 developing countries have submitted their forest reference levels, and many of these countries also submitted national REDD+ strategies and safeguards summaries, updated their forest reference levels, and submitted REDD+ results. Currently, there is no forum dedicated to sharing and discussing valuable knowledge from a decade of experience with REDD+ implementation among REDD+ countries, donors and stakeholders.

While many events, webinars, and workshops related to REDD+ handle FRELs/FRLs and REDD+ results, there are few opportunities for stakeholders to engage in active discussion of these elements, and of the national REDD+ strategies and safeguards information systems. All of these are requirements to seek and obtain REDD+ results-based finance, including from the Green Climate Fund or through the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement (PA) crediting mechanism.

Furthermore, the landscape of REDD+ finance and governance is exceedingly complex. Multiple financial institutions, mechanisms, organizations and actors are engaged in supporting REDD+ activities. The introduction of Article 6 of the PA adds another layer of complexity, making it challenging for REDD+ countries to consider the full scope and interconnectedness of REDD+ when planning and implementing REDD+ activities. To elevate the ambition of REDD+ in halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, it is essential to enhance efforts in facilitating exchanges between REDD+ stakeholders. This should include a specific outreach focus on REDD+ MRV, national strategies, safeguard information systems and linkages with other mechanisms including Article 6 of PA.

**Objectives:** This meeting provided an opportunity to:

- **Exchange on effective ways to increase ambition** towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- Foster networking among experts from REDD+ countries, **exchanging experiences and discussing successful approaches** to dealing with the complex field of REDD+ implementation and REDD+ support;
- **Take stock of 10 years REDD+ implementation**, including the effectiveness of REDD+ implementation, experience and lessons learned, challenges and opportunities;
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of the latest international climate policy development that impact REDD+ implementation.

### Meeting Overview



9-12 December 2025



Representatives from 18 REDD+ countries in LAC region



Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (São Paulo, Brazil)



Chatham House rule to encourage open and frank exchange (in-person only)

# Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements

# 02

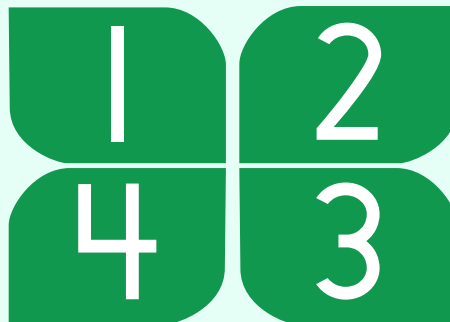
Discussions on the core elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ highlighted both the significant progress achieved over the past decade and the ongoing challenges of sustaining implementation under evolving national and international contexts. Participants emphasized that REDD+ implementation is highly country-specific and must be adapted to diverse national circumstances, including forest characteristics, drivers of deforestation, data availability and institutional capacity.

**National strategies and action plans were recognized as essential coordination and governance tools**, but participants noted a growing gap between strategic ambition and operational feasibility. While strategies often remain relevant over time, action plans frequently require adaptation as political priorities, donor landscapes and market conditions change. Updating strategies and action plans was widely seen as necessary but difficult, given limited time, capacity and resources. **Embedding REDD+ strategies within broader policy and planning frameworks was considered critical for ensuring continuity beyond project cycles and changes in government.** Participants noted that activities undertaken for REDD+ implementation do not always follow national priorities, but are at times influenced by political dynamics and the availability of donor funding, which can affect the overall coherence of implementation efforts.

FRELS/FRLs were discussed as foundational elements for REDD+ implementation, transparency and access to results-based finance. Participants emphasized that FRELS/FRLs should be treated as evolving tools, with improvements introduced incrementally through technical assessments and improved data availability. **Achieving consistency between FRELS/FRLs, national GHG inventories and BTRs remains a common challenge**, particularly where these elements were developed at different times. Participants also highlighted methodological uncertainties related to forest degradation, post-deforestation land-use dynamics and the treatment of uncertainties. In this context, capacity and resource limitations were repeatedly highlighted, as access to high-resolution imagery, advanced technologies and specialized technical expertise remains uneven across countries.

National REDD+ strategies / action plans

National forest monitoring systems



Forest reference emission levels / forest reference levels

Safeguards information systems

Participants noted challenges related to measurement approaches within NFMS. Different methods favoured by donors over time, such as pixel-based mapping and sampling-based area estimation, can produce divergent results and raise questions about consistency and reliability. Participants emphasized the need to balance rapidly evolving remote sensing technologies with continued ground-based data collection, including through community participation in forest inventories, monitoring brigades and agroforestry-based systems. Such engagement was seen as strengthening local ownership, data collection capacity and livelihoods, while also requiring clear protocols and adequate capacity-building. Participants cautioned against an excessive focus on uncertainty analyses and stressed that, while **technical rigor remains important, monitoring requirements must remain practical and feasible to ensure the long-term sustainability of systems and access to results-based finance.**

SIS were highlighted as central to transparency, trust and stakeholder engagement, extending beyond reporting to issues of governance, land tenure, benefit-sharing and grievance redress. Aligning safeguards requirements across multiple standards and financing mechanisms was described as increasingly complex and resource-intensive. **Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) emerged as a particularly sensitive issue**, with participants cautioning against applying FPIC requirements in ways that are not aligned with national legal frameworks or that risk diverting resources away from REDD+ implementation.



Finally, participants underscored that REDD+ implementation cannot be addressed in isolation, as it is closely linked to broader policy and governance considerations, including climate adaptation and resilience, biodiversity conservation, land tenure, restoration efforts, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Progress in these areas was seen as critical for the effectiveness and credibility of REDD+ implementation, highlighting the importance of integrated and coherent approaches across sectors.

## REDD+ results-based payments and linkages with Article 6

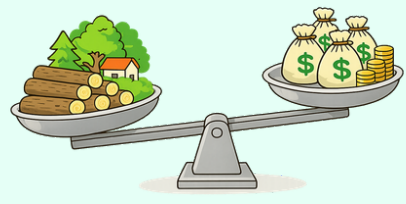
Discussions on results-based payments (RBP) highlighted a growing gap between expectations and practical realities. Participants emphasized that results-based finance has supported not only emission reductions, but also institutional strengthening, data systems and coordination across stakeholders. At the same time, access to RBP was widely described as complex, costly and time-consuming. Overlapping legal, institutional and technical requirements across funds, standards and buyers were seen as placing a heavy burden on national institutions with limited capacity.

Participants stressed that **the true costs of reducing deforestation are often underestimated**, particularly where REDD+ must compete with economically attractive land-use alternatives. Price uncertainty, high transaction costs and the declining value of older emission reductions were identified as major disincentives. Several participants noted that payments received frequently do not reflect the effort required to generate and sustain results, raising concerns about the long-term viability of REDD+ as a primary financing model.



**Partnerships and financing options were highlighted as critical enablers of REDD+ implementation.**

Participants referred to a range of mechanisms and initiatives, including Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, bilateral partnerships, ART-TREES, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Green Climate Fund, ICAO-CORSIA and the LEAF Coalition. Effective engagement with these partners was seen as dependent on strong national coordination and inclusive institutional arrangements, including stakeholder engagement through national strategies, safeguards, benefit-sharing and grievance redress systems.



Coordination between national and subnational approaches was identified as a persistent challenge. While jurisdictional and project-level initiatives can support local action and capacity-building, participants emphasized **the importance of national accounting frameworks to avoid fragmentation, manage leakage risks and maintain coherence with NDCs and the Paris Agreement.** Power asymmetries in negotiations with buyers and donors were also noted, particularly for smaller countries and subnational actors.



Participants also discussed emerging approaches to forest finance, including the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, as a proposed mechanism intended to complement existing REDD+ and results-based approaches. While such proposals were viewed with interest due to their potential to provide more predictable finance, participants noted significant uncertainties, including governance arrangements, treatment of natural disturbances and realistic timelines for implementation. Several participants cautioned that expectations around new mechanisms should be managed carefully, given the risk that they may not become operational in the near term.

The interaction between REDD+ and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement was discussed as both an opportunity and a source of uncertainty. Participants highlighted ongoing challenges related to methodologies, authorization procedures, reporting requirements and the implications of corresponding adjustments for achieving NDCs. A particularly challenging dilemma discussed was the authorization of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes for subnational or project-level activities. In cases where forest carbon rights are vested in landowners, authorizing corresponding adjustments could jeopardize achievement of national NDC targets, while refusing authorization may limit incentives for local actors. Participants noted that once international transfers are allowed for some actors, managing the ripple effects across the sector becomes increasingly difficult.

Overall, participants emphasized that while REDD+ finance opportunities are expanding, navigating the evolving landscape requires clarity, coordination and sustained capacity-building. Continued peer exchange and early engagement in emerging mechanisms were seen as essential to support informed decision-making aligned with national priorities and long-term REDD+ implementation.

## Reflections and way forward



Participants reflected positively on the overall value of the meeting and expressed a strong and unanimous intention to apply the knowledge gained to further their national REDD+ work. Participants highlighted that the exchange provided timely and practical insights directly relevant to ongoing and upcoming tasks, including the updating of national strategies or action plans, the development or refinement of FRELs/FRLs and national forest monitoring systems, safeguards reporting, and preparation related to engagement with results-based payments and Article 6. Many participants indicated that, as a next step, they would disseminate the knowledge acquired within their institutions through internal briefings, reports to senior management, and coordination with national and subnational teams, thereby translating the discussion into concrete operational follow-up.

Participants also emphasized that the open and well-structured format of the meeting was one of its greatest strengths. The quality of the dialogue, the opportunity for candid discussion of real challenges, and the exchange of experiences among countries at different stages of REDD+ implementation were widely appreciated. Breakout group discussions and informal exchanges were seen as particularly valuable for identifying common challenges, exploring practical solutions, and strengthening professional networks across the region. The bilingual format (English and Spanish) of the meeting further enabled broader and more inclusive participation across the LAC region.



The meeting also enhanced clarity on the enabling requirements for accessing REDD+ finance and reinforced the importance of continued South-South exchange. Looking ahead, participants encouraged maintaining this momentum through ongoing communication, peer learning and future exchanges, to support sustained progress and informed decision-making in national REDD+ implementation.