



**Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program  
The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES)**

**Validation Report – Final v1**

<b>ART Program Name:</b>	Guyana
<b>ART Program ID:</b>	ART102
<b>Standard/Version No.</b>	The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), version 2.0, August 2021
<b>Crediting Period:</b>	01 January 2016 to 31 December 2020
<b>Aster Global Project Number:</b>	22005.00
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## 1 Executive Summary

Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc., (Aster Global) prepared this validation report in accordance with the outlined requirements of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART), specifically for The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), version 2.0, August 2021. Aster Global presents validation findings for the ART/TREES Programme of the Guyana Forestry Commission (hereafter, referred to as “Program” or “program”) TREES Registration Document prepared by Guyana Forestry Commission (hereafter referred to as “Participant”). The Program validation was conducted as part of ART’s requirements for the systematic, independent, and documented evaluation of a TREES Registration Document against applicable requirements of TREES.

By ART definition, the Program is considered a REDD+ activity at the national scale, and the Participant is a national government, with Guyana considered a High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) country. The accounting area is identified as 100 percent of the national forest within Guyana, with the national forest identified as comprising 18,001,790 hectares. Guyana’s National REDD+ Implementation Plan is described as a part of Guyana’s broader national Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The Program describes REDD+ as focused on the area of forests, natural resources and community development. REDD+ activities such as EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) processes, sustainable forest management (SFM) and reduced impact logging (RIL) are identified. Within the context of REDD+ performance indicators, the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) and reporting on deforestation and forest degradation are identified as the main area of work.

The TREES Registration Document validation included carbon sequestered through emission reductions on the entirety of the National Forest (18,001,790 hectares). The Program asserts the deterministic HFLD crediting level for crediting period 2016-2020 is 22,567,317 t CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr.

The validation objective was to ensure the Program complied with ART TREES and the ART TREES Validation and Verification Standard, v2.0, December 2021 and would result in appropriate environmental, social, and governance safeguards. Aster Global assessed the GHG emission reductions (ERs) of the REDD+ Program and the environmental, social, and governance safeguards. The VVB confirmed the Program did not include GHG emission removals, such that removals were not further considered by the Validation.

Aster Global confirms all validation activities, including objectives; scope and criteria; level of assurance; and the Registration Document’s adherence to TREES, as documented in this report, are complete. Aster Global applied a positive opinion without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the Program meets the requirements of ART.

## 2 Introduction

This validation report is prepared in accordance with the outlined requirements of ART’s The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), version 2.0, August 2021. The validation process closely followed the guidance provided by TREES; the TREES Validation and Verification Standard v2.0, December 2021; ISO14064-3; ISO 14065; and the Aster Global Management System and Management System Manual. Aster Global presents validation findings for the Program’s TREES Registration Document prepared by the Participant. The Program validation was conducted as part of ART’s requirements for GHG offset Programs (REDD+). Please note a list of acronyms and abbreviations used in this report is provided in Appendix A.

Aster Global is accredited by the American National Standards Institute under ISO 14065:2013 for greenhouse gas verification bodies, including ISO 14064-3:2006, ISO 14065:2013, and validation of assertions at the project level for Land Use and Forestry (Group 3). Aster Global is approved to validate for ART based on American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation received following witness completion and approval.

The TREES Registration Document validation included carbon sequestered through emission reductions on the entirety of the National Forest (18,001,790 hectares). The Program asserts the deterministic HFLD crediting level for crediting period 2016-2020 is 22,567,317 t CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr.

### 2.1 Validation Team – Roles and Competencies

Name	Years’ Experience	Area of Expertise Relevant to the Assignment	Designation for this Assignment	Assigned Tasks or Deliverables
<b>Shawn McMahon</b> Fulltime	20+	Professional/ Certified Forester; risk assessments; stakeholder assessments; Lead auditor for AFOLU projects for 15+ years; and AFOLU Expert for REDD, IFM, ALM and WRC.	Lead Validator/ Verifier	Lead Validator/ Verifier; AFOLU specialist; desktop review; site visit; client communications; reports

Name	Years' Experience	Area of Expertise Relevant to the Assignment	Designation for this Assignment	Assigned Tasks or Deliverables
<b>Kevin Markham</b> Fulltime	30+	Community and biodiversity assessments; natural and cultural resource regulatory compliance; wetland specialist	Team Member	Desktop review for safeguards; site visit and interviews; reports
<b>Barbara Toole O'Neil</b> Part Time	40+	Management systems audits; regulatory compliance, 10+ years of auditing experience	Team Member	Technical review, management systems audit
<b>Mansfield Fisher</b> Fulltime	7	Lead auditor for AFOLU projects; Senior Advisor for Forestry; AFOLU specialist	Team Member	Technical review
<b>Sandesh Shrestha</b> Fulltime	4	Remote sensing and GIS specialist	Team Member	GIS and remote sensing review and assessment
<b>Taek Joo Kim</b> Fulltime	5	Senior Forester; PhD Forest Biometrician; AFOLU assessment	Team Member	Desktop review of all relevant biometric factors, methodologies, calculations, models etc. as applicable for this ER Program
<b>Matthew Perkowski</b> Fulltime	10+	Certified Forester / Degreed Biometrician (MS); baseline, leakage, and credit generation calculations and modelling; Lead Auditor for AFOLU projects; Senior Advisor for Biometrics	Team Member	Technical reviewer; assessment of calculations and reductions

Name	Years' Experience	Area of Expertise Relevant to the Assignment	Designation for this Assignment	Assigned Tasks or Deliverables
<b>Matthew Campbell</b> Fulltime	4	Environmental Scientist/ Forester	Team Member	Assist with quantification review
<b>Richard Scharf</b> Fulltime	30+	Soil Scientist; community and biodiversity specialist	Team Member	Technical review
<b>Caris Lyons</b> Fulltime	2	Environmental Scientist/GIS Specialist	Team Member (Trainee)	Assist with remote sensing
<b>Janice McMahon</b> Fulltime	20+	Wildlife biology, forestry, wetlands specialist; GHG inventories; project management; business management; QA/QC of forest carbon projects for 10+ years; ISO trained; and manager of Aster Global's accreditation	QA/QC	Overall project manager and contact to ART, project coordination, logistics and QA/QC of Deliverables
<b>Caitlin Sellers</b> Part Time	15+	Senior Forester; Lead Auditor for AFOLU projects; stakeholder assessments; community and biodiversity specialist	Independent Internal Reviewer	Independent review of validation and verification conducted by Aster Global

## 2.2 Program Description

By ART definition, the Program is considered a REDD+ activity at the national scale, with Guyana considered a High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) country. The accounting area is identified as 100 percent of the national forest within Guyana, with the national forest identified comprising 18,001,790 hectares. Guyana's National REDD+ Implementation Plan is described as a part of Guyana's broader national strategy for Low Carbon Development (LCDS). The Program describes REDD+ as focused on the area of forests, natural resources, and community development. REDD+ activities such as EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

(FLEGT) processes, sustainable forest management (SFM), and reduced impact logging (RIL) are identified. Within the context of REDD+ performance indicators, the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) and reporting on deforestation and forest degradation are identified as the main area of work.

### 2.3 Objective

The validation objective is the evaluation of the TREES Registration Document against applicable requirements of TREES using a systematic, independent, and documented process. This included an assessment of the likelihood that implementation of the planned TREES Program (as described in the TREES Registration Document) will result in the GHG emission reductions (ERs) from the forest and land use sector as stated by the Participant (ISO 14064-3:2006) and will result in appropriate environmental, social, and governance safeguards.

### 2.4 Criteria

The criteria followed by Aster Global included ISO 14064-3, ISO 14065, and the documents provided by ART located at <https://www.artredd.org/verification>. These documents included:

- *The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0, August 2021*
- *TREES Validation and Verification Standard v2.0, December 2021*
- *TREES Environmental, Social and Governance Safeguards Guidance Document v2.0, August 2021*

### 2.5 Validation Scope

The scope of the validation is the applicable requirements and eligibility of the Program, as described in the Registration Document with reference to the requirements of the TREES. The scope of the Program was outlined by the Participant within the TREES Registration Document:

Crediting Level Approach	Guyana’s crediting level is based on both deforestation and degradation emissions from a reference period of 2011 to 2015, calculated using annual activity data and country-wide emission factors. Guyana used the High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) Crediting Approach.
Reductions (Y/N)	Y
Activities/ Technologies/ Processes	Guyana has committed to unconditionally continue to pursue sustainable forest management (SFM), in compliance with applicable Forest Codes of Practice governing timber operations, including continuous efforts on forest monitoring to ensure high levels of timber legality. Similarly, Guyana is preparing and will begin implementing the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under EU-Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT), aiming to provide independent accreditation of forest legality and management practices in the timber industry.
Sources/Sinks/ Reservoirs	Aboveground Live Tree Biomass Belowground Live Tree Biomass Saplings Standing Dead Wood Lying Dead Wood Litter

	Soil
GHG Type	CO <sub>2</sub> across all activities, CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O included for emissions from fire
Program Boundary	100% of National Forest
Time Period	TREES Concept and Application: 21 December 2020 01/01/2011 to 12/31/2015 (reference period) 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2020 (crediting period)

The validation scope included evaluation of reference period and crediting period, accounting area, eligibility requirements, ownership rights to TREES credits, participation in other programs, procedure to avoid double counting, crediting level, monitoring plan, reversals, leakage, variances, emission reductions, stakeholder comments, and environmental, social and governance safeguards.

## 2.6 Level of Assurance

The level of assurance was used to determine the depth of detail that the validator (Aster Global) placed in the Validation/Verification Plan and Sampling Plan to determine if there were any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations (ISO 14064-3:2006). Aster Global selected samples of data and information to be validated to provide *reasonable* assurance and to meet the materiality requirements of the Program (TREES Validation and Verification Standard v2.0, December 2021). ART considers validation to be a risk-based process, where the validator examines a sufficient amount of data and uses the validator’s professional judgment to provide a *reasonable* assurance. Aster Global assessed the TREES Registration Document (general principles, proposed data, sampling descriptions, documentation, calculations, safeguards, etc.) and the implementation plan to ensure we had *reasonable* assurance the Participant meets the requirements of TREES.

## 2.7 Materiality

Materiality is a concept that the individual or aggregation of errors and omissions could affect the GHG assertion and the decisions of the intended users. Materiality was also used as part of the Validation and Verification Sampling Plan design to determine the type of validation processes used by Aster Global to minimize the risk of not detecting a material misstatement. ART/TREES’s materiality threshold is +/-1% of the GHG Program’s emission reductions or removal enhancements. In other words, ART/TREES requires that any differences between emission reductions claimed by the Participant and estimated by the validator be immaterial (less than +/- 1%). Individual or aggregation of errors or omissions greater than the ART/TREES materiality threshold of +/- 1% require re-stating before validation statements can be accepted by ART/TREES.

## 3 Validation Process and Findings

### 3.1 Validation Process

The validation process closely followed the requirements provided by TREES, the TREES Validation and Verification Standard (v2.0, December 2021), ISO14064-3, ISO 14065, and the Aster Global Management System and Management System Manual. As defined by ISO 14064-3:2006 (E), validation is “the systematic, independent and documented process for the evaluation of a greenhouse gas assertion in a GHG project plan against agreed validation criteria.” Specifically, the Program validation included the review of the requirements outlined in TREES. The assessment included the following items: accounting area, eligibility criteria, ownership, additionality, crediting level, emissions, leakage, selected methodology, data and parameters, monitoring plan design, the process of uncertainty determination, and environmental, social and governance safeguards. The validation and verification were undertaken concurrently by the VVB, but as required by TREES, they are covered in separate reports issued by the VVB.

The validation process relied on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as defined by IAF MD 4:2018. Meetings and Program walkthroughs were held virtually through use of Microsoft Teams, which enabled the use of screen sharing to facilitate presentation of information and to facilitate interaction among participants. In addition to use of office-based software and hardware, additional use of ICT included smartphones and handheld devices and laptop computers, which allowed connectivity and communication among VVB team members and between the VVB and Participant team members. The ICT used was effective in helping the VVB achieve validation goals.

#### 3.1.1 Kickoff Meeting

The VVB held a kickoff meeting with the Participant on 16 February 2022. The kickoff meeting included a review of the scope of the audit, the audit team, the audit process, materiality, types of nonconformances and their impact on the audit and outcomes. The kickoff meeting was also used to confirm the validation plan (scope, objective, criteria, materiality, and level of assurance); describe how the validation process would work, including the outlined schedule for activities; confirm roles and responsibilities for VVB and Participant; confirm communications channels; and provide the Participant with an opportunity to ask questions. A list of meetings, participants, and topics covered is presented in Appendix B.

#### 3.1.2 Validation/Verification Plan

The VVB developed a Validation/Verification Plan and Sampling Plan including sampling requirements in line with the VVB’s internal risk assessment and sampling plan development processes and considered the relative contribution of each source, internal or external audits of the data, and other factors affecting risk. Development of the Validation/Verification Plan and Sampling Plan was an iterative process involving input from the Participant regarding logistics and in-country coordination for accomplishing the objectives identified by the VVB for data

review, site visits, and stakeholder interviews. The Validation/Verification Plan and Sampling Plan was updated throughout the validation/verification process to reflect changes determined to be necessary or appropriate by the VVB lead.

### 3.1.3 Audit

The VVB implemented the Validation/Verification Plan and Sampling Plan following appropriate audit trails. The audit consisted of both desktop review and on-site components.

The desktop review included meetings with the Participant and Participant's consultants to review model inputs/outputs and calculations, as well as safeguards. These meetings included a full walk-through of Program calculations to provide clarification to the VVB as needed to understand the process followed and where to find key information in the documents provided. A complete list of documents and files provided to the VVB for review as part of the validation desktop assessment is presented in Appendix D.

The on-site component was conducted from 25 April through 30 April 2022. The on-site kickoff meeting was conducted on 25 April 2022, which included a review of the proposed schedule and an overview of the anticipated audit activities.

For the field validation of GHG assertions, all elements stated in the TREES Registration Document were considered. Biomass, regrowth, and logging plots were planned to be sampled in the field. At a minimum for each plot assessed in the field by the VVB, the Participant was requested to reproduce data collection using inventory SOPs so that the VVB could ensure SOPs were appropriately implemented and in agreement with commonly accepted professional methods. A process-based assessment of new plot sampling was undertaken in the broad range of landcover classifications to ensure that the SOPs were understood and accurately implemented. Plot data was reviewed to ensure it fell within the range of Program-reported values. Additionally, spot-checking of change mapping and landcover classification was conducted throughout the site visit.

Additionally, an extensive assessment of safeguards was conducted during the field visit. A wide range of public and private stakeholders were requested to meet with the VVB during the site visit.

Particular focus was placed on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities to ensure they have been consulted in the program development process and that their concerns have been considered. Guyana's LCDS 2030 indicates Guyana has 218 Amerindian and other hinterland villages or communities away from the country's main urban areas. The VVB selected six Amerindian villages and one Amerindian community for the Participant to arrange meetings for the VVB's site visit. These included Aishalton, Parabara, Shulinab, Moco, Yupukari, Massara, and Fairview. The goal of these meetings was to solicit input on their experiences regarding interactions on REDD+ program activities, including how various safeguards were demonstrated. Consideration for selecting the villages and communities for requested meetings with the VVB included logistics of in-country travel, time considerations, and the intent to meet with groups

representing a range of various activities or conditions where the Safeguards were potentially applicable. Villages and communities were selected as representing various stages of land titling or land extension titling processes, including titling completed prior to the crediting period, titling activities undertaken during the crediting period, and titling activities still identified as pending at the end of the crediting period. Additional factors considered by the VVB included villages or communities reported as having participated, or representatives of these communities reported as having participated, in various REDD+ workshops or consultations during the crediting period; and at least one or more village or community reported as having resolved or in the process of resolving competing boundary claims. In addition to these representatives of Amerindian villages and communities, the VVB also met with representatives of three non-Amerindian Community Forest Organisations, which represent local communities engaged in logging activities in areas of State Forests under State Forest Authorizations issued by the GFC. A list of meetings, participants, and topics covered is presented in Appendix B.

The VVB also met with government agency stakeholders, including representatives from the Guyana Forest Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Ministry of Finance, GRIF Project Management Office, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Protected Areas Commission, Private Sector Commission, and Bureau of Gender Affairs. The VVB also met with NGOs representing stakeholders for national REDD strategy activities, including the National Steering Committee of Community Forest Organisations, Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP), The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), and Amerindian People’s Association (APA). A list of meetings, participants, and topics covered is presented in Appendix B.

An on-site audit closing meeting was conducted on 29 April 2022 at the conclusion of on-site audit activities. One additional on-site activity was undertaken by the audit team on 30 April 2022 after the on-site audit closing meeting, which was a review of representative mangrove habitats.

A summary of project validation milestones is provided in the table below. Please note that validation and verification activities were undertaken concurrently.

Project/Validation Activity	Date
Aster Global Internal Conflict of Interest (COI) process completed and approved (no issues).	19 January 2022
ART approval of ART-Specific COI Form	06 February 2022
Submission of Verification and Sampling Plan to Participant for approval	16 February 2022

Project/Validation Activity	Date
Opening meeting with Participant	16 February 2022
Submission and Receipt of signed Verification and Sampling Plan to and from Participant for approval	23 February 2022
Onsite visit completed	30 April 2022
First round of nonconformance findings and clarification requests submitted	17 June 2022
Second round of nonconformance findings and clarification requests submitted	02 September 2022
Aster Global completes review	September/October 2022
Aster Global holds closing meeting and finalizes report and submits to ART and Participant	October 2022

### 3.1.4 Findings

Based on review of the TREES Registration Document, supporting documentation provided by the Participant, and site visit observations and interviews, the VVB evaluated conformance with specific criteria required by TREES v2.0. Findings were categorized in accordance with TREES Validation and Verification Standard v2.0, December 2021, Section 3.6.3.4. Findings were issued in checklist format (see Appendix C) and issued to the Participant following each round of VVB review.

### 3.1.5 Resolutions

The VVB reviewed and either approved or rejected resolutions to audit findings proposed or implemented by the ART Participant based on the type of finding. This was an iterative process whereby the VVB reviewed resolutions proposed by the Participant following issuance of each round of findings by the VVB. The VVB reviewed the resolutions provided by the Participant following the second round of findings and clarification request for two additional items and determined the additional evidence, clarification provided, and submission of revised documentation were sufficient to resolve all outstanding findings. Formal responses from the Participant were documented in the VVB's findings checklist (see Appendix C).

### **3.1.6 Internal Review of Validation Documents**

Prior to the final issuance of the validation report and opinion, the draft documents and Checklist of Findings were reviewed by an independent internal reviewer. The purpose of the internal review was to ensure that the validation activities were completed in accordance with TREES and that all findings identified during the course of the validation were resolved. The VVB's independent internal review was completed on 30 September 2022.

### **3.1.7 Report and Opinion**

Following the VVB's independent internal review, a draft of this report was submitted to the Participant for their review. Following the Participant's review, the VVB will finalize and submit this TREES Validation Report, including the validation opinion, to the Secretariat. The VVB utilized the latest TREES Validation Report template available on the ART website, with modifications as allowed by the template instructions. In conformance with the TREES Validation Report template, the VVB ensured the presented reporting included all the information required by the TREES Validation Report template. Additional information was included, as allowed, to improve transparency and completeness and to meet internal reporting requirements. The VVB applied a positive opinion based on the results of the validation.

### **3.1.8 Closing Meeting**

The VVB will conduct a closing meeting with the Participant to conclude the concurrent validation and verification processes undertaken for this initial crediting period. This meeting is planned to be scheduled upon submittal of the completed TREES Validation Report and TREES Verification Report. The closing meeting is planned to include a general review of the validation process conducted; review of nonconformances and the outcomes; review of the draft report; opportunity for Participant to ask questions; communication on how the validation process was completed, including timeframes for report submittal; and opportunity for Participant to offer feedback on the process.

## **3.2 TREES Registration Document**

The Program's TREES Registration Document was found to comply with TREES, as part of the current validation review conducted in 2022.

### **3.2.1 TREES Requirements/Eligibility**

The Program was found to comply with ART's eligibility requirements set forth in TREES. Specifically, the TREES Registration Document outlined and described the following aspects of the Program:

- The Participant is identified as a national government.
- The Participant included forests in their NDCs.
- The Participant has demonstrated conformance with Cancún Safeguards related requirements, including having addressed and respected the safeguards, having submitted

the most recent Summary of Information to the UNFCCC for the years where results-based payments under TREES are sought for this crediting period, and having either a digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards.

- The Participant submitted a REDD+ implementation plan as part of the TREES Registration Document.
- The Participant used the HFLD crediting approach and provided demonstration that it meets the HFLD Score threshold, which results in TREES Credits being deemed automatically additional.
- The forest definition listed in the TREES Registration Document is consistent with the most recent definition used by the national government in reporting to the UNFCCC.
- No *ex ante* crediting is being sought.
- The Participant is claiming TREES credits for emissions reductions that occurred up to four years prior to the year of submittal of the TREES Concept. The TREES Concept was submitted in 2020, and the crediting period is identified as 2016- 2020.

### 3.2.2 Approved Methodology

The Program utilized the following methodology and tools: TREES Crediting Level for HFLD Participants and a Monte Carlo Simulation approach for calculating uncertainties at the 90% confidence level.

Aster Global confirms that the TREES Registration Document meets the applicability requirements for TREES:

1. Reference Period and Crediting Period – The VVB determined the reference period and crediting period are correctly defined and in line with the requirements of TREES.
2. Accounting Area – The VVB determined the accounting area is in line with the requirements for national accounting areas.
3. Eligibility Requirements – The VVB determined the Participant is in conformance with each of the eligibility criteria.
4. Ownership Rights to TREES Credits – The VVB determined the Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights. The VVB determined description met the requirement for completeness. In accordance with the TREES Validation and Verification Standard v2.0, December 2021, the VVB did not validate the legality of the claims to the credits. Additional detail on the VVB validation results for this requirement is provided in Section 3.3.1.
5. Participation in other Programs – The VVB determined the Participant identified no existing REDD+ programs or projects under which some or all of accounting area may generate emission reductions credits during the crediting period.
6. Procedure to Avoid Double Counting – The VVB determined the Participant provided a plan and procedures that would ensure avoidance of double issuance, double use, and double claiming of TREES credits in line with TREES requirements. Additional detail on the VVB validation results for this requirement is provided in Section 3.3.2.
7. Crediting Level – The VVB determined the Participant demonstrated eligibility to use the selected crediting approach for High Forest Cover/Low Deforestation (HFLD) Crediting. The Participant demonstrated the data and parameters used to construct the initial TREES HFLD crediting level meet all the accounting requirements of TREES and demonstrated

the initial crediting level itself has been estimated correctly. The Participant demonstrated the uncertainty calculation was performed correctly.

8. Monitoring Plan – The VVB determined the description of the monitoring plan included in the TREES Registration Document complies with the requirements of TREES. Processes and methods used are sufficiently described and documented and the processes and methods would allow for transparent and consistent monitoring of emissions over time and comparison with the Crediting Level. The processes and monitoring arrangements described in the monitoring plan were determined to be feasible and that the means of implementation, including the data management and quality assurance and quality control procedures are sufficient.
9. Reversals – The VVB determined the buffer contribution assessment tool has been correctly applied, the information regarding mitigation factors is correct and complete, and the result is correct.
10. Leakage – The VVB determined the leakage assessment tool has been correctly applied and the result is correct.
11. Variances – The VVB determined no variances from TREES have been requested by ART Participant.
12. Emission Reductions and Removals – The VVB determined the ART Participant’s approach and workbook for calculating emission reductions is correct, including the application of the reversal deductions, and that leakage deductions were not needed based on inclusion of 100% of the national forest area. As the ART Participant was not employing stratification, stratification rules did not apply. If at a future verification stratification is employed, the stratification process will be reviewed at that time. No removals were accounted for.
13. Stakeholder Comments – The VVB confirmed with the ART Secretariat that no comments had been received within the 30-day comment period. At the recommendation of the ART Secretariat, comments received through the end of May 2022 were also considered, effectively extending the comment period to include within 30 days of the end of the VVB on-site visit. The VVB determined that the ART Participant reviewed and provided a response to stakeholder comments received within 30 days of the VVB on-site visit. Additional detail on the VVB validation results for this requirement is presented in Section 3.3.3.
14. Environmental, Social and Governance Safeguards – The VVB determined conformance with the following indicators for each safeguard had met as follows:
  - Structure indicators – The VVB determined the TREES Registration Document describes relevant governance arrangements (e.g., policies, laws, and institutional arrangements) that are in place for each safeguard that can ensure that the implementation of REDD+ actions will be in conformance with the indicator.
  - Process indicators – The VVB determined the TREES Registration Document describes relevant institutional mandates, processes, procedures, and/or mechanisms that are in place and enforced for each safeguard that can ensure that the implementation of REDD+ actions will be in conformance with the indicator.
  - Outcome indicators – The VVB confirmed this validation is for a crediting period occurring within the first five years after the participant joined ART. The VVB determined that within the TREES Registration Document for each indicator the ART Participant defines the desired context-specific outcome(s) and presents an initial plan

for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.

### 3.3 Validation Results, Findings and Conclusion

Aster Global confirmed all validation activities, including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance and the TREES Registration Document's adherence to TREES, as documented in the Validation Report, are complete. Methodological equations and computational approach for uncertainty were examined and confirmed to be consistent with the detailed requirements of the methodology for assessing uncertainty on both the activity data and emission factors based on use of the Monte Carlo simulation.

#### 3.3.1 Ownership Rights to TREES Credits

To assess conformance against TREES requirements, the VVB considered the following:

1) TREES Validation and Verification Standard, v2.0 (December 2021) [TREES V&V Standard] Section 3.3 requires validation of "Ownership Rights to TREES Credits", specifically through the requirement: "The VVB evaluates whether the ART Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights. The VVB validates the completeness of the description but does not validate the legality of the claims to the credits."

The VVB reviewed TRD Section 6 and determined the Participant has provided a description of its rights to TREES credits. The VVB determined the TRD provides a brief summary of the regulatory framework, based on Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) [Policy Statement], that identifies (on page 14) the Participant's rights to manage and administer forest carbon services at the national level, covering all forest areas, and to engage to secure payment for forest carbon services. Based on review of the Policy Statement, the VVB determined that this Policy Statement (on page 8) provided evidence, supported by other documents provided, that the Participant has clear ownership rights to TREES Credits on State Lands. The VVB determined the Policy Statement (on page 8) states that Guyana's National Forest Policy does not directly apply to the administration and management of forest areas on Amerindian Titled Lands and private property, including forest goods and services including forest carbon services, but the Policy Statement further identifies the opportunity for participation of Amerindian Titled Lands.

The VVB reviewed the description provided for the plan to obtain rights to TREES credits for Amerindian Titled Lands for the crediting period, specifically through the participation identified as an opportunity for Amerindian Titled Lands under the Policy Statement (page 8). Evidence reviewed included: 1) the Resolution of the National Toshias Council Conference: Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, dated July 15, 2022; 2) LCDS sections specifically referencing the ART program, and involvement of indigenous villages and forest-based communities. The VVB determined the TRD identifies Chapter 2 (pages 35 to 46) of the new LCDS 2030 as providing the approach to ART-TREES and the benefit-sharing mechanism, inclusive of the period 2016-2020. The VVB determined the national approach to the mechanism for the sale of forest climate services provided in the LCDS 2030 is consistent with Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018), specifically regarding the policies that "Forest Carbon Services shall be managed and administered at the national level and shall cover all forest areas" and "[t]he Guyana Forestry Commission will be responsible for the coordination and

management of this initiative and will liaise closely with relevant Government and Non-Governmental stakeholders in doing so." The VVB noted the National Toshias Council referenced previous endorsement of the LCDS 2009, including forest carbon credit framework and the resulting revenues financing programs benefiting Amerindian peoples, and the Endorsement specifically welcomes the proposal to move to a second phase for accessing forest carbon financing to continue the approach outlined in LCDS 2009. The VVB determined that the endorsement of the National Toshias Council for the LCDS 2030 contains specific provisions consistent with the description provided by the Participant in Section 6 of the TRD that identifies the endorsement as evidence for support for LCDS 2030 by the NTC on behalf of Indigenous Communities and Titled Amerindian Villages.

The VVB noted the cited LCDS 2030 and National Toshias Council Endorsement identify specific plans available for participation by Amerindian and other communities, and identify the benefit allocation arrangement consisting of the percentage of revenue from the sale of ART-TREES credits that would be allocated to the resource right holders under these plans in addition to funds from the national share of revenue. The VVB noted the TRD does not provide these specific details on these plans or allocation arrangement, but the TRD cites the LCDS 2030 and National Toshias Council endorsement and provides an embedded link to these and related documents.

Review of the TRD, TMR, and associated MRVS determined that state lands and Amerindian Titled Lands, but no private property was included in the forest cover inventory or accounting area for ART TREES, and therefore no credit rights or plan to obtain such rights for private property is required for this crediting period.

2) Based on review of TREES Standard Section 2.5, the VVB understands decisions regarding issuance of TREES credits is based on the recommendation of the Secretariat to the ART Board, and approval by the ART Board.

In summary, the VVB determined the Participant provided a complete description of its rights to TREES credits, including the legal basis for establishing these credits. The VVB determined issuing an "Observation" is appropriate for this item. The Observation is detailed in Section 3.3.5 of this Validation Report.

### **3.3.2 Procedure to Avoid Double Counting**

The VVB evaluated the plan outlined by the Participant in the TRD against the TREES requirements for avoiding double issuance, double use, and double claiming of TREES credits. The VVB reviewed the plan outlined in the TREES Registration Document and determined the Participant has outlined a plan in conformance with TREES requirements.

To evaluate the plan for avoiding double issuance the VVB reviewed TRD statements, reviewed supporting documents, reviewed the MRVS, and reviewed clarification provided by the Participant. The VVB determined the TRD provides a brief summary of the regulatory framework, based on Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) [Policy Statement], that identifies (on page 14) the Participant's rights to manage and administer forest carbon services at the national level, covering all forest areas, and to engage to secure payment for forest carbon services. Based on this national oversight, the VVB determined the Participant's plan to use only

the ART Registry for issuance of credits and all emission credits that are attributed to every accounting period would be reasonable in avoiding double issuance.

To evaluate the plan for avoiding double use the VVB reviewed TRD statements, reviewed supporting documents, reviewed the MRVS, and reviewed clarification provided by the Participant. The VVB determined the Participant provided a plan to utilize the ART Registry to avoid double use would be reasonable for avoiding double use. The VVB determined the Participant has demonstrated proof of ownership (see Section 3.3.1 of this Validation Report) upon issuance and identifies a system for tracking of ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account.

To evaluate the plan for avoiding double claiming the VVB reviewed TRD statements, reviewed supporting documents, reviewed the MRVS, and reviewed clarification provided by the Participant. The VVB determined that the Participant's plans to utilize ART Registry for the issuance of credits assigned to each accounting period and plan for using MRVS and national registry for tracking would be reasonable for avoiding double claiming.

### 3.3.3 Public Comments

As part of the validation process, the VVB is required to evaluate the Participant's response to any stakeholder comments submitted regarding the TREES Registration Document. The 30-day comment period for this Program TREES Registration Document began 21 October 2021, with the uploading of the Participant's TREES Registration Document to the ART registry. The VVB confirmed with the ART Secretariat that no comments had been received within the 30-day comment period. At the recommendation of the ART Secretariat, comments received through the end of May 2022 were also considered, effectively extending the comment period to include within 30 days of the end of the VVB on-site visit. The VVB was provided with two sets of stakeholder comments from this comment period extension by the ART Secretariat via email:

- a. Email from Graham Atkinson (APA) dated 12 May 2022, which included three attachments;
- b. Email from Peter Persaud (TAAMOG) dated 30 May 2022, with a single attachment

The VVB met with Peter Persaud from TAAMOG and Shawn Mendonca from APA during the VVB site visit in April 2022. Information provided by the TAAMOG and APA representatives, as well as GOIP, another Amerindian NGO, was considered by the VVB as part of the validation and verification of the Participant's conformance with TREES safeguard requirements for REDD+ activities during the crediting period.

The VVB reviewed and evaluated the three attachments included with the email from APA dated 12 May 2022. One attachment consisted of an undated set of comments regarding the Draft LCDS signed by a number of individuals from various villages or organizations representing many regions across Guyana. None of the comments reference ART or the TREES Registration Document or TREES Monitoring Report, but the VVB determined several comments were relevant for consideration by raising concerns for whether the Government had adhered to safeguards during consultations for the Draft LCDS 2030, a document outlining a national strategy which included REDD+ initiatives and references to ART-TREES. The VVB determined focal areas related to REDD+ activities or TREES safeguards identified in this set of comments were

topics the VVB had identified as part of its initial desktop review used to identify stakeholders and to inform interviews for the VVB's onsite visit. The VVB determined the Government of Guyana's response, dated 22 April 2022, was included as one of the attachments to the email from APA. The VVB reviewed the Government's responses and determined the responses identified the processes that were being followed by the Participant that were identified and evaluated by the VVB as part of the validation and verification of conformance with TREES requirements for safeguards, particularly related to consultations and FPIC for REDD+ activities.

The VVB reviewed and evaluated the third attachment included with the email from APA dated 12 May 2022. This attachment consisted of an undated letter addressed to entities identified as international donors, with members of the ART Board and others copied. The VVB noted the comments within this letter appear to be based around disagreement that the Government's response letter to the earlier set of comments on the Draft LCDS had addressed the concerns raised. The VVB noted no new focal areas related to the REDD+ activities or TREES safeguards were raised in this letter that were not included in the considerations by the VVB to identify stakeholders and to inform interview topics for the VVB's onsite visit. The Participant provided a response to the VVB that acknowledged comments received by the ART Secretariat after the original 30-day comment period ended. The VVB evaluated the Participant's response and noted the Participant's response was applicable to the comments received during May 2022. The Participant's response noted this feedback had also been provided and taken into consideration as part of the consultations for the LCDS 2030 process, and further that this feedback helped inform Guyana's updated ART TREES approach. The VVB evaluated supporting documentation provided by the Participant, including *Guyana's 2020 Draft for Consultation* and consultation meeting summary reports, endorsement by the National Toshias Council of the *Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030*, and results of stakeholder interviews by the VVB, and determined this documentation supported the Participant's assertions that safeguards had been appropriately considered during development of the REDD+ activities and that feedback received during consultations helped inform Guyana's ART TREES strategy.

The VVB reviewed and evaluated the attachment included with the email from TAAAMOG dated 30 May 2022. The attachment consisted of a letter to the editor of the Stabroek News in response to a letter to the editor from APA. Although the TAAAMOG email and attachment did not reference the TREES Registration Document or TREES Monitoring Report, but the VVB determined the comments related to LCDS were relevant based on the TAAAMOG letter providing a different viewpoint from APA by describing specific evidence for Government adherence to safeguards during consultations for the original LCDS 2009, a document that outlining a national REDD+ strategy, as well as the Draft LCDS 2030, a document outlining a national strategy which included REDD+ initiatives and references to ART-TREES. The VVB determined focal areas related to REDD+ activities or TREES safeguards identified in this set of comments were topics the VVB had identified as part of its initial desktop review used to identify stakeholders and to inform interviews for the VVB's onsite visit.

One additional email received by and forwarded by the Art Secretariat, from Sean Mendonca (APA) dated 22 July 2022, referencing attachments provided with the email as pertaining to the recent National Toshias Conference and illegal mining (seven news articles were attached), was identified as an informational item based on no comments on the TREES Registration Document

or TREES Monitoring Report included with the news articles. However, the relevance of the National Toshihos Council and the relevance of mining activities on REDD+ activities during the crediting period were considered by the VVB as part of the evaluation of safeguards. The VVB determined no response was required from the Participant for these informational items.

One additional set of comments provided to the VVB by the ART Secretariat, consisting of an email from Paul Atkinson (APA) dated 12 September 2022, was determined to have been received too far outside the comment period to reasonably inform validation and verification considerations for this crediting period. The VVB noted from the Participant's response to notification about these comments that additional comments received by the ART Secretariat after the review period can be considered during the next crediting period. The VVB notes this an opportunity for future review in the next crediting period.

In summary, the VVB determined the public comments provided through the ART Secretariat through May 2022 do not specifically reference the TREES Registration Document under validation or the TREES Monitoring Report under verification. The VVB determined however, that comments related to the Participant's national REDD+ strategy and safeguards applicable to REDD+ activities under TREES would be appropriate for evaluation. The VVB determined that the ART Participant reviewed and provided a response addressing stakeholder comments received within 30 days of the VVB on-site visit. The VVB determined through review of supporting documentation and through stakeholder interviews that the Participant had appropriately considered and addressed similar responses as part of the consultations for the LCDS 2030 process, and further that this feedback helped inform Guyana's updated ART TREES approach.

### **3.3.4 Major and Minor Nonconformances**

The Aster Global team identified and issued major nonconformance findings (MNCF) and minor nonconformance findings (mNCF) during the initial review of the TREES Registration Document. All were addressed satisfactorily by the Participant during the Program validation process. The list of MNCFs and mNCFs is provided in the Findings Checklist included as Appendix C, along with the response by the Participant on how each MNCF and mNCF was addressed. The Findings Checklist also includes a summary for how the VVB determined each MNCF or mNCF was satisfactorily addressed by the Participant.

### **3.3.5 Observations**

The VVB issued one Observation as part of the validation. This observation was regarding the description of ownership rights to ERs to be issued by ART.

Per TREES V&V Standard Section 3.6.3.4, an Observation is an issue identified by the audit team that does not have objective evidence to constitute a nonconformance but may lead to one in the future. The VVB noted that because endorsement of the National Toshihos Council for the LCDS 2030 is a key consideration used in substantiating the Participant's rights to manage and administer ERs to be issued by ART that are derived from titled and untitled Amerindian land, any changes to this endorsement by the National Toshihos Council would require reassessment to determine how the changes could affect the Participant's rights. Although no concerns are currently identified by the VVB, the status of National Toshihos Council continued endorsement warrants ongoing consideration due to its importance so it is being made an observation.

### 3.3.6 Validation Conclusion

Aster Global concluded without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the Guyana ART Program Participant meets the requirements of TREES.

#### Submittal Information:

Report Submitted to:	Guyana Forestry Commission – Government of Guyana Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program
Report Submitted by:	Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc. 3800 Clermont St. NW North Lawrence, Ohio 44666
Aster Global Lead Validator/Verifier Name and Signature:	  Shawn McMahon Lead Verifier
Aster Global Internal Reviewer Name and Signature:	  Caitlin Sellers
Aster Global President Name and Signature	  Janice McMahon President
Date:	11 November 2022

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ARTTREES SP: 111/11/2022f

## Appendix A – List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACR	American Carbon Registry
ADF	Amerindian Development Fund
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
ANAB	ANSI National Accreditation Board
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APA	Amerindian People’s Association
ART	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions
CAR	Climate Action Reserve
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
CL	Clarification Request
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
CSO	Community Service Officer
EF	Emission Factor
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ER	Emission Reduction
ERR	Emission Reduction and Removal
EU	European Union
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission

GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GL&SC	Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission
GOIP	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People
GRIF	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HFLD	High Forest Cover / Low Deforestation
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Standards Organization
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
mNCF	Minor Nonconformance Finding
MNCF	Major Nonconformance Finding
MoAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MRVS	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
MSSC	Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee
n/a	Not Applicable
N <sub>2</sub> O	Nitrous Oxide
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFP	National Forest Plan
NFPS	National Forest Policy Statement
NTC	National Toshias Council

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
Obs	Observation
PAC	Protected Areas Commission
QA/QC	Quality Assurance / Quality Control
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REDD+	REDD plus the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RIL	Reduced Impact Logging
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SOI	Summary of Information
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TAAMOG	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
tCO <sub>2e</sub>	Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
TMR	TREES Monitoring Report
TRD	TREES Registration Document
TREES	The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Val/Ver	Validation/Verification
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
VVB	Validation and Verification Body
WCMC	Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
WFM	Warsaw Framework for REDD+

## Appendix B – List of Meetings/Interviews

The validation and verification of this Program were conducted concurrently. During the course of the validation and verification activities, Aster Global and the Participant held multiple meetings. Aster Global also held meetings and interviews with Program Stakeholders during the site visit. Summaries provided in the table below.

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
2022/02/16	<u>Aster Global:</u> Shawn McMahon Kevin Markham Barbara Toole O'Neil Janice McMahon Natalie Hammer <u>ANAB (Witness Assessor):</u> Patricia Garffer <u>ART Secretariat (Observers):</u> Christina Magerkurth Asako Takimoto <u>Guyana (Participant):</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Towana Smartt Nasheta Dewnath Jeremy Singh Edward Goberdhan <u>Winrock International:</u> Katie Goslee <u>Indufor Asia Pacific:</u> Dr. Pete Watt Chaplin Chan <u>Independent Expert:</u> Daniel Donoghue	Opening Meeting; presentation by Participant on Guyana Program, overview by VVB of Sampling Plan
2022/02/24	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Towana Smartt Jeremy Singh Nasheta Dewnath Daniel Donoghue Nikolaos Galiatsatos Pete Watt Chaplin Chan Felipe Casarim Katie Goslee <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahon Barbara Toole O'Neil Matthew Perkowski Sandesh Shrestha Matthew Campbell	Workbook Walkthrough Meeting; presentation by Participant and consultants for the ART Workbook

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
	Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat	
2022/03/04	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Towana Smartt Jeremy Singh Nasheta Dewnath Maria Sookdeo Daniel Donoghue Pete Watt Chaplin Chan Felipe Casarim Katie Goslee <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahon Barbara Toole O'Neil Matthew Perkowski Sandesh Shrestha Matthew Campbell Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat Christina Magerkurth	Second Meeting to Review Inventory SOPs
2022/03/07	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Towana Smartt Jeremy Singh Nasheta Dewnath Maria Sookdeo Daniel Donoghue Pete Watt Chaplin Chan <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahon Barbara Toole O'Neil Matthew Perkowski Sandesh Shrestha Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat	Safeguards and Management Systems Meeting

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
2022/03/10	<p><u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Towana Smartt Nasheta Dewnath Maria Sookdeo Daniel Donoghue Pete Watt Chaplin Chan Katie Goslee Felipe Casarim</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Barbara Toole O'Neil Matthew Perkowski Sandesh Shrestha Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat</p>	Final Workbook Walkthrough and other remaining items, including Forest Management System
2022/04/13	<p><u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Jeremy Singh Nasheta Dewnath Jasmin Totaram Maria Sukhdeo Daniel Donoghue</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Barbara Toole O'Neil Sandesh Shrestha Kevin Markham Taek Joo Kim</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat</p>	Site Visit Planning Call
2022/04/21	<p><u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Daniel Donoghue Pete Watt Katie Goslee Jeremy Singh</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Kevin Markham Taek Joo Kim</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat</p>	Final Pre-Site Visit Meeting

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
2022/04/25	<p><u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Edward Goberdhan Tasreef Khan Nasheta Dewnath Jeremy Singh Chandrouti Sookdeo Winston Kissoon Mahandra Baboolall Katie Goslee</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Kevin Markham</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat</p>	Onsite Field Visit Opening Meeting
2022/04/25	<p><u>Guyana Forestry Commission:</u> Edward Goberdhan, Commissioner (ag) Tasreef Khan, Deputy Commissioner Shuba Soamandaugh, Forest Resources Management Division Sonya Reece, Human Resources Manager Nasheta Dewnath, Programme Officer, REDD Secretariat Fabian Jones, Economist Simone Benn, Community Development</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Kevin Markham</p>	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/25	<p><u>Ministry of Natural Resources:</u> Joslyn McKensie, Permanent Secretary Michelle Ashwood, Environmental Specialist Rehana Thomas, Technical Officer Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer</p>	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/25	<p><u>Ministry of Amerindian Affairs:</u> Ryan Toolsiram, Permanent Secretary Monica Sharma, Project Manager, ALT Orlando Shuman, Field Manager, ALT Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer</p>	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/26	<p><u>Aishalton:</u> Kid James, Project Coordinator, SRDC Catherine Michael, Councillor Danny Peter, Councillor D. Casinero, Villager, CDO Adrian Abbensetts, Villager, CSO Towanna Ignatius, Villager, CSO</p>	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
	Agnes James, Villager, CSO Shivona Singh, CSO Sally Aguilar, Women Rep Timothy Aguilar, Farmer John Domingo, Villager Bonita Dookie, Villager Joshua Fredericks, Shulinab Villager Anthony James, Farmer Clifton Joseph, Villager Maria Marcello, Villager Sharon Winter, Villager (+11 individuals who did not sign roster) Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	
2022/04/26	<u>Parabara:</u> Clarence Rudolph, Tosaos Ivan Charley, Deputy Tosaos Absolom Charlie, Councillor Eunoch Charlie, Councillor Nimrod Charley, Villager Egbun Jerome, Councillor Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process
2022/04/26	<u>Shulinab:</u> Vibert Ignace, Toshao Carl Lewis, Deputy Toshao Bertrane Bernard, Councillor – Meri-wau M. Frederick, Councillor Goretti Leroy, Councillor Mitzie Vincent, Councillor Maurice Edwards, CSO Juan Felix, Villager Tessa Felix, Villager Joshua Fredericks, Villager Abigail Ignace, Villager Dominic Ignace, Villager Edmond Ignace, Villager Ethel Ignace, Villager Sebastian Ignacio, Villager Angela Jose, Villager Elsie Jose, Villager Edwina Marone, Villager K. Newasha, Villager Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
2022/04/27	<u>Moco Moco:</u> Thomas George, Toshao Annalisa Edwards, Admin Assistant, Councillor Lynette Grimmond, Councillor Ann Theresa Mahadeo, Councillor Alicea Salvador, Village Councillor, CSO Rita Torquaito, Village Councillor Renata Cassiano, CSO Graciella Daniels, CSO Aaliyah Farias, CSO Kenand Raymundo, CSO Naomi Scipio, CSO Gracious Simon, CSO Magalean Tancredo, CSO John Campion, Farmer Janice Cassiano, CHW Sandra Ramsarran, CHW William Ramsamar, Farmer Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process
2022/04/27	<u>Yupukari:</u> Cindy Holland, Deputy Toshao Vanisia Ambrose, Treasurer Ovid Brown, Senior Councillor Felisa Holden, Councillor Herron James, Councillor Margeril Lorisindo, Councillor Vlademir Lauriendo, Councillor Rudolph Roberts, Jr., Councillor Merissa Samuel, Councillor Michelle Alfonso, CSO Roselinie Ambrose, CSO Shirin Duncan, CSO Indranie George, CSO Hoseanie Rogers, CSO Leroy Roberts, CSO R. Merriman, Villager Dallas Perreira (+1 individual who did not sign roster) Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process
2022/04/28	<u>Massara:</u> Lenny Moses, Toshao Wayne Francis, Deputy Toshao, Farmer Donetta Edwards, Village Councillor Gilroy Francis, Village Councillor	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
	Penelope Francis, Village Councillor Rena Glasgow, Village Councillor Linzie Moses, Village Councillor (+ 1 individual who did not sign roster) Kevin Markham, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	
2022/04/28	<u>Fairview:</u> Bradford Allicock, Toshao Gilbert Williams, Deputy Toshao Samantha Austin, Village Councillor Nelson Ewell, Councillor Lucy Marslow, Chairperson, Logging Committee Suretia Marslow, MRU Wildlife Coordinator Nyota Peters, Community Health Worker Celina Andries Jenny Andries Maria Andries Shirly Andries Juan Denacio Nate Edwards Vibert Ewell Nixon James Raymond James Agatha Jones Emma Leo Alesia Marslow Roy Marslow Gilbert Williams Kevin Markham, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, consultation process, experience with land titling process
2022/04/29	<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Shawn McMahan, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/29	<u>Guyana Lands &amp; Surveys Commission:</u> Asib Mohamed, Senior Project Officer Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/29	<u>Ministry of Finance:</u> Tarachand Balgobin, Director, Project Management Cycle Nkofi Hodge, Economic and Financial Analyst	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
	Shawn McMahan, Aster Global Kevin Markham, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor	
2022/04/29	<u>Ministry of the Presidency (REDD+ Coordinator):</u> Nikolas Oudkerk, GRIF Project Management Office Tracy Smith, Department of Environment & Climate Change Shawn McMahan, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Witness Assessor	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/29	<u>National Steering Committee of Community Forest Organizations (NSCCFO):</u> Aubrey Francis, Co-Op Chairman Sybil Edmundson, C.F.P.A. Co-Op, Chairperson Kaydar Persaud, C.C.U.D.C, Chairperson Kevin Markham, Aster Global Christina Magerkurth ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, multi-stakeholder steering committee, consultation process
2022/04/29	<u>Private Sector Commission:</u> Ian Cheong, Executive Director Kevin Markham, Aster Global	Safeguards, REDD+ program, multi-stakeholder steering committee, consultation process
2022/04/29	<u>Meeting with Indigenous NGOs:</u> Colin Klautky, Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP) Peter Persaud, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG) Sean Mendonca, Amerindian People's Association (APA) Kevin Markham, Aster Global Patricia Garffer, ANAB Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat, observer	Safeguards, REDD+ program, multi-stakeholder steering committee, consultation process
2022/04/29	<u>Bureau of Gender Affairs:</u> Diego Alphonso, Senior Gender Affairs Officer Kevin Markham, Aster Global	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/29	<u>Protected Areas Commission:</u> Anupana Puran Shawn McMahan, Aster Global	Management systems, safeguards, REDD+ program
2022/04/29	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Edward Goberdhan Jeremy Singh Chandrouti Sookdeo	Onsite Field Visit Closing Meeting

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
	Winston Kissoon Mahandra Baboolall Katie Goslee <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Patricia Garffer, ANAB Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat	
2022/06/29	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Nasheta Dewnath <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Sandesh Shrestha Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat Patricia Garffer, ANAB	Findings Meeting: purpose was to review first round of findings issued by VVB and to allow the Participant to ask questions for clarification
2022/09/07	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Nasheta Dewnath Kevin Hogan <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Sandesh Shrestha Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Franklin Paniagua, ART Secretariat Patricia Garffer, ANAB	Findings Meeting: purpose was to review a portion of the second round of findings issued by VVB and to allow the Participant to ask questions for clarification
2022/09/08	<u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Nasheta Dewnath Maria Sookdeo Kevin Hogan Katie Goslee - Winrock <u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Sandesh Shrestha Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham <u>Observers:</u> Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat Franklin Paniagua, ART Secretariat Patricia Garffer, ANAB	Findings Meeting: purpose was to review remainder of second round of findings issued by VVB and to allow the Participant to ask questions for clarification

Date	Attendees	Topics Discussed
2022/09/23	<p><u>Guyana Team:</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Nasheta Dewnath Kevin Hogan</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team:</u> Shawn McMahan Taek Joo Kim Kevin Markham</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat Patricia Garffer, ANAB</p>	<p>Round 2 Response Review: review status of Round 2 response review and discuss items identified by VVB for clarification</p>
2022/09/30	<p><u>Guyana Team</u> Pradeepa Bholanath Nasheta Dewnath Kevin Hogan</p> <p><u>Aster Global Team</u> Kevin Markham</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Christina Magerkurth, ART Secretariat Asako Takimoto, ART Secretariat Patricia Garffer, ANAB</p>	<p>Status update for review of draft reports and other outstanding items in validation/verification process</p>

## Appendix C – Aster Global Validation Findings

\*Note: Val/Ver below denotes verbiage from Aster Global’s internal checklist deciphering which items relate to validation and which items relate to verification. VV means the item relates to both. VVB is a shorthand term for Validation and Verification Body.

<b>Finding Number</b>	62
<b>Val/Ver</b>	VV
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	TREES Participants shall use the latest version of the template for each of the seven documents listed below when submitting documents to the ART. Revised templates will be published three months prior to the date that they are required for use and version updates will not be required once a document has been submitted to the Secretariat or Validation and Verification Body.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	ART TREES Standard & Templates Webpage: <a href="https://www.artredd.org/trees/standard-and-templates/">https://www.artredd.org/trees/standard-and-templates/</a>  TREES Registration Document Template v2.0; TREES Monitoring Report Template v2.0;  TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	Templates from the ART TREES webpage were used for the submitted TRD and TMR.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	n/a
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	n/a

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB noted differences in the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator description/instructions between the versions of the TMR dated October 2021 and July 2022. In addition, the VVB noted that part of the response by the Participant to address findings for the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator was duplicated in the description/instructions section as well as in the template section used for describing how the indicator is met.</p> <p>Closer evaluation by the VVB noted indicator description/instructions for numerous Safeguard Theme indicators provided in the Participant's submitted TRD or TMR do not match the text provided in the TRD and/or TMR Templates (August 2021) available on the ART website. The VVB notes that other inconsistencies with the TRD and TMR templates present in the October 2021 TRD and TMR versions submitted by the Participant continued into the July 2022 TRD and TMR versions. For example, the TRD template description/instructions for Theme A.1 Process Indicator states: "Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures and re-sources to ensure REDD+ actions are designed and implemented in consistency with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector, and inconsistencies are identified and resolved. Describe how this indicator is met." The TRD July 2022 version submitted by the Participant substitutes "are integrated into" in place of "are designed and implemented in consistency with". The changes introduced into the template safeguard description/instruction text in the Participant's TRD and TMR have not affected the factors considered by the VVB in the validation of the TRD or verification of the TMR.</p> <p>Although the VVB did not previously note or issue a finding regarding the discrepancies between the TRD and TMR template descriptions/instructions for Safeguards Indicators with the text presented for these descriptions/instructions in the October 2021 TRD and TMR versions submitted by the Participant, the VVB is issuing a finding for these discrepancies as part of the present round of findings. Because the Standard (Section 2.4) requires that Participants use the latest version of the template for TRD and TMR, please provide clarification that identifies how the text discrepancies in the submitted TRD and TMR Safeguards indicator descriptions/instructions are acceptable under the Standard, or update the TRD and TMR to the text provided in the TRD and TMR templates for these Safeguards indicator descriptions/instructions.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been updated to utilise the new template.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the revised TRD and TMR provided for review. The VVB reviewed the TRD and TMR versions dated 12 September 2022 and spot-checked instructional text in these documents against the TREES templates for these documents. The VVB has is reasonably assured the Participant has submitted the TRD and TMR using the latest version of these templates, in accordance with TREES (Section 2.4).</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



# ASTER GLOBAL™

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

<b>Finding Number</b>	63
<b>Val/Ver</b>	VV
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Stakeholders can submit comments and feedback to ART on an ongoing basis by contacting the ART Secretariat. In addition, subscribers to the ART listserv shall receive notification of the availability of new and relevant Participant documentation as it becomes publicly available to ensure that stakeholders have ample opportunity to submit comments to ART regarding these submissions. Comments submitted within 30 days of notice will be directed to the Participants to be addressed and will also be provided to the Validation and Verification Body at the beginning of Validation and Verification.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	No public comments provided to VVB at the beginning of the Val/Ver.  Public comments were received from the ART Secretariat following site visit via emails dated 2022-05-12 and 2022-05-30, and others may be received at other points of the Val/Ver.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings (22 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>From email from Aster Global to Participant representatives on 22 September 2022:</p> <p>2) Under the TREES Validation and Verification Standard Sections 3.3 and 3.4, for our Validation report and Verification report we are required to evaluate the Participant’s response to any stakeholder comments submitted regarding the TRD or TMR, respectively. Based on TREES Standard v.2 Section 2.5 (Timeline and Deadlines) and Section 15.2 (Publicly Available Documents): Comments submitted within 30 days of notice will be directed to the Participants to be addressed and will also be provided to the VVB at the beginning of Validation and Verification.</p> <p>We have been provided with four sets of comments by the ART Secretariat via email:</p> <p>a) Email from Graham Atkinson (APA) dated 12 May 2022, which included three attachments (including two letters from APA regarding the LCDS, and a response letter from the Office of the President)</p> <p>b) Email from Peter Persaud (TAAMOG) dated 30 May 2022, consisting of an email to the Stabroek News with a single attachment (Letter to Editor, regarding an article in the Stabroek News)</p> <p>c) Email from Sean Mendonca (APA) dated 22 July 2022, referencing attachments provided with the email as pertaining to the recent National Toshihos Conference and illegal mining (seven news articles attached)</p> <p>d) Email from Paul Atkinson (APA) dated 12 September 2022, referencing a follow-up letter (one attachment consisting of the follow-up letter). We note that the TRD and TMR were uploaded to the Registry on 21 October 2021, which we understand would be the trigger for the notice and start of the 30-day comment period.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: During a call with the Participant representatives on 23 September 2022, this requirement was discussed and the VVB verbally requested clarification from the Participant on how the Participant had chosen to address the referenced comments that had been submitted after the 30-day comment period.</p>

**Round 2 Response from  
Program Participant  
(27 September 2022)**

(from email response dated 2022-09-27)

As set out in the TMR / TMD, Guyana's approach to ART was included within the draft Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS 2030). A national consultation on the LCDS 2030 facilitated more than seven months (November 2021 to June 2022) of national, regional and community level stakeholder engagement all across Guyana with feedback, recommendations, and inputs made on the ART TREES approach, as well as feedback on other aspects of low carbon development. This process involved thousands of citizens, many of whom provided feedback, and the process fed into Guyana's ART TREES application and submissions. In particular, the process saw the updating of the approach to ART TREES as set out in Chapter Two of the finalized LCDS 2030. The comments that have been submitted as part of the verification and validation process for 2016-2020 are inclusive of this important feedback - this feedback and future feedback will continue to be taken into consideration by Guyana, and will continue to inform and guide the implementation of REDD+ implementation and the ART process in Guyana.

Guyana encourages the public to remain engaged in all aspects of Guyana's LCDS including in ART TREES and to this end, the Government welcomes all comments, inputs and feedback on every aspect of low carbon development including its engagement in ART TREES.

For those who did not submit comments as part of the national consultation, it was possible to submit directly to the ART Secretariat, in accordance with the procedures of ART. Comments received are taken on board in the development and revision of the ART submissions. Public engagement and comments will continue to help strengthen the process and will be dealt with in a manner that is respectful and that brings benefit to the Guyana programme. Guyana continues to welcome the interest of all stakeholders in Guyana's engagement in ART TREES. For the period in question, it is our understanding that two submissions were received by the ART Secretariat, and these were taken on board as part of the consultation which led to updating the LCDS outlined above. Any suggestions which are received by the ART Secretariat after the review period can be considered during the next period - we also encourage interested parties to submit directly to the Government so that their feedback can be received and considered as quickly as possible.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB reviewed the response provided by the Participant. The VVB confirmed with the ART Secretariat that no public comments on the TRD or TMR were received during the 30-day comment period. The VVB noted the Participant acknowledged comments received by the ART Secretariat after the comment period end and further noted that the Participant determined the comments consisted of feedback that had also been provided and taken into consideration as part of the consultations for the LCDS 2030 process, and further that this feedback helped inform Guyana's updated ART TREES approach. The VVB reviewed the comments provided through the ART Secretariat and determined the comments pertinent to the ART TREES TRD or TMR, although neither document was referenced directly, were similar to comments and feedback also provided on the LCDS. The comments received in May 2022, although after the site visit, were taken into consideration by the VVB during the validation and verification activities associated with review of conformance with Safeguard indicators. The VVB evaluated the Participant's response to stakeholder comments provided to the ART Secretariat and determined from review of supporting documents and results of interviews that the stakeholder comments were similar to comments and feedback provided on the LCDS. The VVB determined the Participant had considered similar comments in the consultation process for LCDS 2030, which included the strategy for Guyana's approach to ART TREES. The VVB noted in the Participant's response that additional comments received by the ART Secretariat after the review period can be considered during the next crediting period. The VVB notes this an opportunity for future review in the next crediting period. Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	1
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>3. Having either a digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>RD Section 5 Eligibility Criteria item 5; Site visit interview with GFC staff (2022-04-25)</p>
<p><b>Findings – Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TREES Registration Document (TRD) and TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) state that Guyana has a system in place for providing information on safeguards. The Standard requires the Participant demonstrate conformance with Cancún Safeguards related requirements including having either a digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards, and the TRD Template instructions for this criterion are to describe how the REDD+ program meets the criterion. A description of the system for providing information on safeguards is not provided in either TRD or TMR. The VVB understands from site visit interviews with GFC staff that a centralized safeguards information system is still under development. Site visit interviews with GFC and other governmental agency stakeholders indicated that the system for tracking safeguards information appears to rely on individual agency tracking and reporting, but the overall management system in place for tracking safeguards information is not clear.</p>

<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with the findings. Please provide suitable description within the TRD and TMR to demonstrate how Guyana is in conformance with this eligibility criterion, and please provide, or identify the evidence previously provided, to substantiate conformance.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>Additional details on Guyana’s conformance on the requirements for safeguards have been added.</p> <p>Guyana's Summary of Information (SOI) on REDD+ Safeguards (<a href="https://redd.unfccc.int/files/redd_safeguards_-_summary_of_information_report_-_guyana_2021_gog_final.pdf">https://redd.unfccc.int/files/redd_safeguards_-_summary_of_information_report_-_guyana_2021_gog_final.pdf</a>) which was made available during the desk review outlined the approach that Guyana has taken on REDD+ Safeguards Reporting inclusive plans for next steps. Part V of this document provided during the audit process, outlines the current mechanism. This is the basis for Guyana's reporting on this matter in both the RD and TMR and is also Guyana's publicly reported status update on this to the UNFCCC. Below are excerpts taken from Guyana's SOI and provided as updated text in both TRD and TMR for the crediting period.</p> <p>Guyana’s current mechanisms which serve to receive, and address concerns and complaints on REDD+ safeguards is situated at the sector level. It is the aim of the Government of Guyana to strengthen internal GRM systems of REDD+ related agencies while promoting an interagency GRM platform that can capture and report on data relating to investigations, dialogue, and resolutions. A full listing of the existing structure of providing information on safeguards is provided in Section V (Table: Existing Mechanism) of Guyana's Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards available at: <a href="https://redd.unfccc.int/files/redd_safeguards_-_summary_of_information_report_-_guyana_2021_gog_final.pdf">https://redd.unfccc.int/files/redd_safeguards_-_summary_of_information_report_-_guyana_2021_gog_final.pdf</a>.</p> <p>As outlined in Guyana's SOI, these operational mechanisms currently address issues highlighted by stakeholders regarding REDD+ implementation and more specifically the implementation of REDD+ Safeguards.</p> <p>It is the longer term vision for all the avenues through which grievances on REDD+ take, addressed at the legislative/mandated agency level, that these are consolidated, for reporting purposes, within a centralized mechanism. In this, complaints could be made through any of the channels outlined in the Table above and would be collated through this centralized mechanism for reporting purposes.</p> <p>Examples of safeguards report referred to above, as provided by the current mechanism, is provided.</p>

**Aster Global Round 1  
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The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the similar clarifying information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR referencing the REDD+ Safeguards First Summary of Information (SOI) for Guyana (April 2021) submitted by the Government of Guyana to UNFCCC. The VVB also acknowledges the specific references to Section V of the SOI identifying existing mechanisms reported as already in place to receive complaints and issues and intended to address REDD+ GRM requirements. The VVB also acknowledges receipt of the supplemental document "Forest Sector Issues for Redress - 2019-2020.docx" provided as an example of sector-level compilation of forestry-related redress requests that were tracked during the crediting period under validation/verification. The VVB acknowledges GRM concerns are one of the safeguards understood as needing to be considered under the requirement for having a system for providing information on safeguards. However, the VVB will not further evaluate GRM requirements as part of this present finding, but the VVB has evaluated conformance with GRM requirements in findings for the Structural, Process, and Outcome Indicators for Safeguards Theme B.4. The VVB's review for the specific TREES eligibility requirement for the present finding is focused on conformance by the Participant in demonstrating having either a digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards.

The TREES Standard requires that the Participant must demonstrate conformance with Cancún Safeguards related requirements, specifically including having either a digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards, and the TRD Template instructions for this criterion are to describe how the REDD+ program meets the criterion. The VVB identified the following items within the TREES Standard as providing additional relevant guidance regarding this information system or regarding the content of the safeguards information required to be provided:

1) Section 12.3 of the TREES Standard states in part that for reporting requirements and alternatives to the use of a TREES Safeguard monitoring report template, "Participants may utilize their Summary of Information reports prepared in the context of UNFCCC reporting or similar reports used on Cancún Safeguards outside the UNFCCC insofar all required information on required indicators is included."

2) Section 12.3 of the TREES Standard further states in part that, regarding reporting requirements and alternatives to the use of a TREES Safeguard monitoring report template, "Participants may use Safeguards Information Systems in place as an important tool to provide data or systems information to demonstrate conformance as well." For context, under the Definitions provided in the TREES Standard, the Safeguard Information System is "generally understood to be a domestic institutional arrangement responsible for providing information as to how the country-specific safeguards are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the proposed REDD+ actions."

3) Section 12.4 of the TREES Standard states under Scope that "Participants will be able to fully draw upon the design and implementation work conducted to date to provide information on how all safeguards have been addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation."

4) The VVB notes that Section 12.5.2 of the TREES Standard further addresses how the Participant is required to respect, protect, and fulfill the right of access to information, with the outcome indicator specifically requiring that the "public has been aware of and exercised the right to seek and receive official information on REDD+ actions, as well as on how safeguards have been addressed and respected." This requirement regarding right to access of information is evaluated by the VVB in separate findings for the Outcome Indicator for Safeguards Theme B.2.

The VVB determined that Section 5.5 in both the TRD and TMR identifies the SOI as the means specifically to address issues highlighted by stakeholders regarding REDD+ implementation and REDD+ Safeguards implementation, but other than for grievances or concerns reported by stakeholders, Section 5.5 of neither the TRD nor TMR identifies a system for providing information on how all the safeguards are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the proposed REDD+ actions. Part II of Guyana's SOI (April 2021) provided to the VVB as a support document provides a section "Overview on a Safeguard's Information System for Guyana", which identifies core functions considered for Guyana's SIS as well as identifies how the Government of Guyana intends to implement a SIS for monitoring and reporting responsibilities under the implementation of REDD+ activities. The VVB understands from site visit interviews with GFC staff that a centralized SIS is still under development. Site visit interviews with GFC and other governmental agency stakeholders substantiate the Participant's response that the system for tracking safeguards information appears to rely on individual agency, or sector, tracking and reporting.

To evaluate the degree of conformance with this information systems eligibility requirement for the crediting period under validation/verification, the VVB considered the specific eligibility requirement for the Participant to "demonstrate conformance with Cancún Safeguards related requirements" regarding an information system. As part of this consideration, the VVB reviewed guidance within the following UN-REDD Programme document: *REDD+ Safeguards Information Systems: Practical Design Considerations* (December 2015). The SIS Objectives section of this UN-REDD Programme guidance document states: "The default objective stated under the UNFCCC is to demonstrate that the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation. A further objective could relate to using information from the SIS to prepare a UNFCCC-required summary of safeguards information. Countries may, at least in the initial instance, limit their SIS objectives to meeting these UNFCCC requirements. Over time, or from the outset, countries may wish to consider additional objectives for their SIS, beyond what is prescribed under the UNFCCC. For example, to ensure that REDD+, through the safeguards, contributes to broader sustainable development goals or other national policy objectives."

The VVB has determined through review of the SOI, review of various other support documents provided by the Participant, and site visit interviews with GFC and other Government of Guyana agency personnel that the Participant meets the requirement for having a system for providing information on safeguards related to REDD+ actions and that this system was applicable to the crediting period under validation/verification. The successful completion of the REDD+ Safeguards First Summary of Information (SOI) for Guyana (April 2021) submitted by the Government of Guyana to UNFCCC covering efforts between 2009 and 2020 demonstrates that a system was in place for providing information on safeguards. However, the system in place for providing information on safeguards during the crediting period under validation/verification is not clearly presented within Section 5.5 of the TRD or TMR. Clarification is required in Section 5.5 of the TRD and TMR for the overall system that was in place and used for providing information on all Cancún safeguards during the crediting period under validation/verification. Please note that specific information requirements or reporting for individual safeguards, as opposed to the overall system, have been assessed by the VVB in separate findings for each specific safeguard as determined appropriate, and the present finding with clarification request is applicable to the overall system.

<b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings.
<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b>	With reference made to the Guyana SOI, the process of collating, analysing and reporting information on safeguards was added, showing the GFC's central role in this process. The operational steps involved in this process was also outlined and added to this section in both the revised TRD and TMR.
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the revised TRD and TMR provided for review. The VVB reviewed the Section 5.5 of the TRD and TMR and determined that clarification was provided in Section 5.5 of the TRD and TMR for the overall system that was in place and used for providing information on all Cancún safeguards during the crediting period under validation/verification. Item closed.

<b>Finding Number</b>	2
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	<p>Each TREES Participant shall submit a REDD+ implementation plan as part of the initial documentation and each subsequent TREES Monitoring Report which outlines the new and ongoing programs or activities including locations planned to achieve the ERRs.</p> <p>It is expected that the implementation plan will be the National REDD+ Strategies/Action Plan developed in accordance with the Warsaw Framework. If a different implementation plan is submitted under TREES, the Participant must explain any differences between the two plans. In the case when a Participant is using a subnational accounting area, the Participant must specify which REDD+ interventions from its National REDD+ Strategies/Action Plan are relevant to the subnational accounting area.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021, TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD template instructions require the Participant provide a description of the country’s REDD+ implementation plan strategy, including a description of how the REDD+ activities contribute to the country’s sustainable development goals. An overview of the REDD+ implementation plan is included in the TRD, including an overview of Guyana’s planned update to its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), which is understood to be in process in 2022. Based on review of information provided in the TRD and TMR along with review of support documents provided by the Participant, the VVB determined Guyana’s REDD+ implementation plan to date has been developed in accordance with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR). The TRD does not clearly identify which of the LCDS items summarized in the TRD are part of the REDD+ implementation plan. The TRD does not clearly identify how each REDD+ activity contributes to Guyana’s sustainable development goals. The TRD does not clearly identify the REDD+ implementation plan strategy that was in place during the crediting period/reporting period covered by the TRD (01/01/2016 to 12/31/2020).</p> <p>The TMR template instructions require the Participant provide a summary of activities implemented during the reporting period in line with the program’s REDD+ implementation plan strategy, including a description of how the REDD+ activities contributed to the sustainable development goals stated in the TRD. The TMR reports on a number of REDD+ activities or strategies that were identified by the Participant as having been undertaken during the crediting period/reporting period covered by the TMR (01/01/2016 to 12/31/2020) as well as other activities implemented and conducted prior to this defined period. Because the TRD does not clearly identify the REDD+ implementation plan strategy that was in place, the VVB is unable to fully assess the REDD+ activity summaries presented in the TMR to determine whether these activities have been implemented in line with the Program’s REDD+ implementation plan strategy.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy is in its second phase of development. The areas of REDD+ implementation commenced in this first phase of the implementation of the national strategy (2010 to 2021). The first Low Carbon Development Strategy, which outlines Guyana’s REDD+ Implementation Plan/Strategy commenced in 2010 and continued to year 2021 - thereby the first LCDS outlines Guyana’s REDD+ Implementation Actions relevant to the period 2016 - 2020. The main activities that have been advanced in Year 2016 to 2020 include EU FLEGT which includes Reduced Impact Logging, and MRV development. These have been added to the TRD. There is now alignment between the TRD and the TMR. All supporting document of progress have been previously shared in the SIS Index folder on these areas. Alignment to the SDGs have also been included.</p>

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The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the revisions provided in the TRD and TMR.

The VVB has determined the TRD now more clearly identifies the REDD+ implementation plan strategy that was in place during the crediting period/reporting period covered by the TRD (01/01/2016 to 12/31/2020), as well as noting that a revised strategy (Low Carbon Development Strategy [LCDS]) is being developed. The REDD+ implementation plan (TRD Section 17) provides a description of the REDD+ implementation plan strategy, consisting of two main REDD+ activities, including how these activities contribute to the country's sustainable development goals. The TRD identifies two main items as constituting the REDD+ Implementation Plan strategy for the period under validation as: 1) EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT); and 2) Monitoring, Report and Verification System (MRVS) for forest carbon emissions resulting from deforestation as well as forest degradation.

The VVB has determined the TMR provides a summary of activities implemented during the reporting period in line with the REDD+ implementation plan strategy identified in TRD Section 17, including a description of how the REDD+ activities contributed to the sustainable development goals stated in the TRD.

1) The VVB confirmed the TMR reports on the status of the EU FLEGT activities achieved from 2016 to 2020, the crediting period under verification, and provides a listing of key achievement milestones. Support documents were provided to the VVB to provide documentation for the EU FLEGT program status and activities, including Seminar Report 2016 for the Georgetown FLECT Seminar held, communications consultant monthly reports (May through December 2020), and Forestry Training Centre Annual Reports (2016-2020) for the crediting period under verification. Review of supporting documentation and interviews with GFC staff and other stakeholders substantiates key EU FLEGT activities have been implemented during the crediting period under verification.

2) The VVB confirmed the TMR describes the status of the MRVS for forest carbon emissions resulting from deforestation as well as forest degradation. The VVB has reviewed the MRVS and concurs that the MRVS has been developed and implemented in accordance with the objectives in the TRD.

However, the VVB notes inconsistencies in the treatment of various REDD+ related activities that are not identified as part of the REDD+ Implementation Plan presented in TRD Section 17 but that are identified in various sections of the TRD and TMR as well as various support documents provided to the VVB. In particular, the VVB notes TRD Section 17 does not identify the full range of items identified in Part I of the SOI (April 2021) as being part of the REDD+ Implementation Plan identified as under development, and notes the TMR does not report on the full range of items identified in Part I of the SOI (April 2021) as having been implemented or for which significant progress was reported in key area of the REDD+ Implementation Plan. Clarification is requested to address the inconsistencies noted and to provide the full REDD+ implementation plan strategy within the TRD. Following resolution of the clarification request to address the inconsistencies in the REDD+ activities to be included in the implementation plan presented in the TRD, additional clarification is requested as appropriate within the TMR to provide a summary of activities implemented during the crediting period in line with the REDD+ implementation plan strategy.

The TREES Standard requires the Participant submit a REDD+ implementation plan as part of the initial documentation and further notes the expectation that the implementation plan will be the National REDD+ Strategies/Action Plan

	<p>developed in accordance with the Warsaw Framework. The TREES Standard requires that if a different implementation plan is submitted under TREES, the Participant must explain any differences between the two plans. The TRD identifies the LCDS as guiding Guyana's national development, and specific REDD+ actions cited as being from the LCDS are identified in the TRD as the main areas for the REDD+ Implementation Plan. The TRD does not identify how the LCDS differs from a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan, which is described in the SOI (April 2021) as in development. The TMR states that Guyana's REDD+ Implementation Plan has been developed. Clarification is requested in the TRD and TMR to address the status of the development of a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan, and clarification is requested for how the LCDS differs from a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD has been updated to reflect a fuller scope of the REDD+ Implementation actions as summarised in the SOI that saw concrete outcomes in the implementation period of 2016-2020. These include, in addition to MRVS and EU FLEGT, areas such as RIL, SFM, Code of Practice Implementation, National Forest Plan updating and implementation, and marketing and product development awareness and stakeholder engagement actions. These have been similarly reflected, in terms of progress, in Safeguard A of the TMR. A few activities such as mining sector action, protected areas as covered in the SOI dated April 2021, will be more definitively covered in the TMR 2021 as these actions saw more concrete results dated in 2021.</p> <p>Further, clarification has been provided in both the TRD (Section 17) and the TMR - Safeguard A, relating to Guyana's REDD+ Implementation Plan being a part of the national LCDS.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the revised TRD and TMR provided for review. The VVB reviewed the information provided in Section 15 the TRD and TMR on the REDD+ Implementation Plan. Through review of the information presented and review of supporting documents, the VVB determined Section 15 of the TRD appropriately identifies the REDD+ implementation plan strategy in place for the crediting period, and determined through review of support documents the TRD and TMR provide more consistency in identification and reporting on new and ongoing programs or activities planned to achieve the ERRs. The VVB determined appropriate clarification has been provided within the TRD and TMR to address the status of the development of a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan, and for how the LCDS differs from a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan. The VVB notes the REDD+ Implementation Plan is now presented in Section 15 of both the TRD and TMR, and previous VVB findings for earlier versions of the TRD refer to the REDD+ Implementation Plan presented in TRD Section 17 and TMR Section 16 of those earlier versions. Item closed.</p>



# ASTER GLOBAL™

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

<b>Finding Number</b>	3
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	The forest definition or definitions listed in the TREES Registration Document must be consistent with the most recent definition used by the national government in reporting to the UNFCCC. The same forest definition must be used for each full TREES Crediting Period.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; SOPs; Marrakech Accords; (Guyana) Forests Act 2009
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The definition of "forest" used in the TRD in Safeguards Theme E.1 references the definition from the Forests Act, which is not consistent with the definition reported as used in reporting to the UNFCCC.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCf/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please clarify in line with the finding.

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The clarification below has been added to both the TRD and the TMR. Guyana's Definition of Forests in the Forest Act is consistent to the Definition of Forests applied in the national REDD+ programme.</p> <p>The definition of forests in the Forest Act 2009 is as follows:  (a) “forest” – means an ecosystem dominated by woody plants, consisting of –  (i) closed forest formations , where trees of various stories and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; or  (ii) open forest with a continuous vegetation cover  (b) includes –  (i) mangrove forests and any wetlands or open lands  (ii) forest produce in the ecosystem; and  (iii) biological, soil, and water resources of the ecosystem;</p> <p>For operational and monitoring purposes, Land classified as Forest follows the definition as outlined in the Marrakech Accords (UNFCCC, 2001).</p> <p>Guyana classifies land as forest if it meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: Over a minimum area of 1 ha</li> <li>• Canopy Cover: Tree cover of minimum 30%</li> <li>• Height of Stand: At a minimum height of 5 m at maturity.</li> </ul> <p>Land area that satisfies the area, height and crown cover criteria for forest but are not classified as forest include lands that are predominantly under agriculture, infrastructural development and settlements.</p> <p>The two aspects of definitions complement each other and are consistent. The definition in the Forest Act speaks to ecosystems and forest type; whilst the definition applied to the REDD+ programme specific monitoring characteristics such as minimum mapping unit, forest monitoring canopy threshold, and forest mapping height characteristics.</p>
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<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the similar revisions provided in the TRD and TMR regarding forest definition consistency.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the response and revisions to the TRD and TMR omit the crown cover percentage portion of the forest definition provided in the Forest Act of 2009, specifically regarding (a)(ii) which is "open forest with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent;"</p> <p>The VVB notes that although this fuller definition is not the definition provided in the TRD and TMR, the VVB has reviewed and concurs that the operational forest definition listed in the TREES Registration Document is consistent with the most recent definition used by the national government in reporting to the UNFCCC. Specifically, the VVB confirmed documentation provided in the UNFCCC's "Report on the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level of Guyana submitted in 2014", which was provided as a hyperlink in Guyana's TREES RD (10/22/2021 version) Annex 3, Section 3.3. Within this UNFCCC technical assessment (TA), Sect. II (3) provides the following definition of forest: "33. Guyana provided in its submission the definition of forest used in the construction of the FREL, which is a minimum area of 1.0 ha, a minimum height of 5 m and a minimum tree canopy cover of 30 per cent." The VVB confirmed this definition is consistent with the forest definition provided for "operational and monitoring purposes" in the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB has determined that clarification is required in the TRD and TMR to provide the full definition of "forest" from the Forest Act of 2009 to provide appropriate accuracy and context within the TRD and TMR. The VVB has determined this clarification would allow the closing of this finding based on review of documents that substantiate the operational forest definition listed in the TREES Registration Document is consistent with the most recent definition used by the national government in reporting to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>The full definition of 'forests' under the Forest Act 2009 has been included in Safeguard E1 in both the TMR and the TRD.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the revised TRD and TMR provided for review. The VVB determined the Structural Indicator for Theme E.1 in the TRD and TMR provide the full definition of "forest" from the Forest Act of 2009 to provide appropriate accuracy and context within the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>64</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>val</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>In each TREES Monitoring Report, Participants must attest that REDD+ activities conducted as part of the Participant's REDD+ implementation plan to achieve ERRs are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any known instances of non-compliance or violations with laws, regulations, or other legally binding mandates directly related to REDD+ activities must be disclosed in the TREES Monitoring Report along with corrective or preventive plans or actions.</p>

<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	n/a
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	n/a
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	n/a
<b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 22 September 2022</b>	<p>From email from Aster Global to Participant representatives on 22 September 2022:</p> <p>1) We identified a requirement for the TREEES Monitoring Report as an item to be resolved/addressed. TREEES Standard v.2 Section 3.6 (Regulatory Compliance) states: In each TREEES Monitoring Report, Participants must attest that REDD+ activities conducted as part of the Participant’s REDD+ implementation plan to achieve ERRs are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any known instances of non-compliance or violations with laws, regulations, or other legally binding mandates directly related to REDD+ activities must be disclosed in the TREEES Monitoring Report along with corrective or preventive plans or actions.</p> <p>We have not identified a reference within the Standard or TMR template instructions for the specific location where this information must be included within the TMR, but the Standard is clear this attestation must be included. This may be an item where some guidance from the ART Secretariat would be beneficial on where this attestation should be included.</p>
<b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL
<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (24 September 2022)</b>	<p>(from email response dated 2022-09-24)</p> <p>Thank you for this information. Please see attached, the revised TMR for crediting period 2016-2020 that includes our attestation in Section 15,...</p>
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	The VVB confirmed the attestation was added to Section 15 of the TMR. Item closed.

<b>Finding Number</b>	6
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREEES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Activity data may be derived from remote sensing data or from verifiable ground-derived data. Activity data must be reported in each TREEES Monitoring Report at the intervals specified in Section 2.5

<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021, TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>Activity data for deforestation is derived from remote sensing data. Following sources are used to derive activity data for degradation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logging (both legal and illegal): Based on reports.</li> <li>- Degradation surrounding mining and infrastructure: Based on forest edge degradation method (Goslee et al 2021), with a buffer applied around deforestation from mining and infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Activity data is reported in TREES document as required by the TREES document template. Note the requirement here says "must be reported in each TREES MR".</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please provide an updated monitoring report which includes the activity data.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	Monitoring report has been updated to include emission factors, activity data, and revised emissions
<b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b>	<p>The audit team reviewed and confirmed that the findings are addressed in the revised Monitoring Report.</p> <p><b><u>Findings closed.</u></b></p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	7
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Deforestation in natural forest and planted forest should be assessed and reported on separately as planted forests may not have reached its mature carbon stocks by the time of the clearing.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	SOPs, MRVS reports, Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022.xlsx

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>1. Only deforestation in natural forest is assessed and reported. Conversion of natural forest to tree plantation is counted as deforestation. There has been no conversion to plantation forests in Guyana.</p> <p>2. In reviewing ART workbook, the audit team noted that deforestation from “Infrastructure” extracted from “Year2_Change_2011” layer does not match with the value reported in cell D7 of “Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022/ Activity Data”.</p> <p>3. In reviewing ART workbook, the audit team noted that deforestation from “Mining (medium and large scale)” extracted from “Year2_Change_2014”, “Y2_to_Y5_Transition_2014”, “Y3_to_Y5_Transition_2014”, and “Y4_to_Y5_Transition_2014” layer does not match with the value reported in cell G5 of “Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022/ Activity Data”.</p> <p>4. In reviewing ART workbook, the audit team noted that total deforestation area for 2017 in cell J51 of “Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022/ Activity Data” does not match with deforestation area reported in “Summary of Accuracy Assessments_Final_DD” workbook (cell H9).</p> <p>5. Incorrect value of standard error of total deforestation is reported in cell M64 of “Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022. The sum of Standard error of deforestation is incorrectly calculated in the report (Guyana MRVS Assessment Year 2020 Report - Final - June 2021/Table 7.1). Additionally, the VVB noticed Standard error for “Infrastructure” is missing in “Guyana ART Workbook MC - 13Sept2021 TREES 2.0 - updateApril2022/Activity Data”.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCf/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>2, 3, 4. MNCf: Please address in line with the findings and make necessary corrections in the ART workbook.</p> <p>5. MNCf: Please address in line with the findings and make necessary calculation corrections in the tables to follow afterwards.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>(2) Figure was incorrect and has been updated (3) Figure was incorrect and has been updated (4) Figure was incorrect and has been updated (5) Accuracy Assessment Standard Error for total deforestation is correctly stated in MRVS report: 1,597. Note that this is not the sum of standard error for individual activities, rather a separate estimate of SE for all deforestation. Standard error for infrastructure for 2020 has been added.</p> <p>Note that Monte Carlo analysis was re-run to account for this changes</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>2. The audit team reviewed the revised figure and noticed that the "Infrastructure" value is still incorrect. The audit team noted that the numbers in the workbook are annualized figures, as mentioned in the "Explanatory notes" document. The audit team, however, found that the calculation has not been done appropriately in line with the "Explanatory note".</p> <p>3. The audit team reviewed the revised workbook and confirmed that the value has been correctly updated. <b><u>Item closed.</u></b></p> <p>4. The audit team noted that still incorrect value of the total Deforestation area for 2017 is reported in the ART workbook.</p> <p>5. After reviewing the PP's response and the report, the audit team is reasonably assured that the correct value is reported in the workbook. The audit team also confirmed that Standard error for "Infrastructure" has been added in the updated workbook. <b><u>Item closed.</u></b></p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>2. MNCF: Please address in accordance with the findings and make the required modifications in subsequent computations to account for this change.</p> <p>4. MNCF: Please report the correct value from "Summary of Accuracy Assessments_Final_DD".</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>2. Activity data for deforestation from infrastructure in 2011 was updated to 118.4, which represents the annualized area deforested based on the 2011 change layer that covers 15 months and shows 148 ha.</p> <p>4. Area of total deforestation derived from accuracy assessment was updated to 8,851 (from incorrect number of 7,733).</p> <p>Following these updates, Monte Carlo analysis was re-run and total emissions reductions were therefore re-assessed.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and corrections made in the ART workbook. The VVB assessed the amended ART workbook and confirmed that deforestation from infrastructure in 2011 is accurately updated. Following the revision, the VVB confirmed a re-run of the Monte Carlo simulation and a re-assessment of overall emission reductions.</p> <p><b><u>Items closed.</u></b></p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>12</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Domestic legal framework or policy (or national REDD+ strategy or action plan) for REDD+ actions is clearly defined and designed in consistency with national and if applicable, subnational, forest policies/programs.</p>

<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TREES Registration Document (TRD) and TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) identify domestic legal framework and policy applicable to REDD+ actions. Review of supporting documents and interviews with GFC personnel and other governmental stakeholders substantiate legal framework and policies are in place and further substantiate REDD+ actions should be consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement 2018 (NFPS) and National Forest Plan 2018 (NFP). The TRD and TMR Theme A.1 Structural Indicator identifies the general goal of ensuring continued low deforestation and forest degradation rates. Specific REDD+ actions are not clearly described for Theme A.1 Structural Indicator in either the TRD or TMR. The VVB noted generalized REDD+ actions embedded within the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) themes presented as the REDD+ Implementation Plan in Section 15 of the TRD; the VVB noted more specific REDD+ activities are presented within Section 15 of the TMR. Relevant requirements and objectives of the referenced NFPS and NFP, or of the LCDS, applicable to REDD+ actions for the crediting period under validation/verification are not identified or described for the TRD or TMR Theme A.1 Structural Indicator.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.1 Structural Indicator, identifying and describing the relevant requirements and objectives of the NFPS, NPS, and LCDS applicable to the REDD+ actions.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	<p>REDD+ Actions have been specifically highlighted for both the TRD and the TMR. The main REDD+ activities are the EU FLEGT Programme, implementing Sustainable Forest Management which includes Reduced Impact Logging, and implementing the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System.</p> <p>Supporting documents for each of these areas were provided during the desk review.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the national policy has been clarified in both documents, specifically by information added about the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) that was in effect during the crediting period under validation/verification and the VVB notes TRD Section 17 and TMR Section 16 clearly identify the LCDS (March 2013) as the basis for the REDD+ Implementation Plan covering the national-scale policy. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify two applicable national forest policies/programs, the National Forest Policy Statement 2018 (NFPS) and National Forest Plan 2018 (NFP). The VVB notes that although information on previous applicable national forest policies/programs is provided within the 2018 NFPS and 2018 NFP, the national forest policies in place from 2016 until implementation of the 2018 forest policies/programs is not presented clearly in the TRD or TMR. The VVB is required to evaluate the description provided in the TRD and TMR of the relevant governance arrangements (e.g., policies, laws, and institutional arrangements) that were in place and evaluates whether these can ensure (for the TRD) and have ensured (for the TMR) that the implementation of REDD+ actions will be (for the TRD) and have been (for the TMR) in conformance with these policies/programs. Clarification is required within the TRD and TMR to demonstrate the REDD+ actions were designed in consistency with the versions of the national forest policy/plan in effect during the full 2016-2020 crediting period.</p> <p>Clarification is also required for the information supporting the item footnoted as "9" in the Theme A.1 Structural Indicator section of the TRD; there is no attached link or citation for this item, and it is not clear whether this "9" used in Theme A.1 is intended to be the same as footnote "9" used in Theme B.2 Structural Indicator section that has a link to the State Lands Act.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The prevailing policy (National Forest Policy 2011 and National Forest Plan 2011) for the period up to the beginning of the new National Forest Policy and Plan of 2018 have been outlined and are attached as evidence. The citation under the structural indicator under A1 numbered at '9' is in error and has been removed.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB reviewed the clarification provided in the TRD and TMR, and through review of the supporting documentation (National Forest Policy 2011 and National Forest Plan 2011) determined the TRD and TMR demonstrate the REDD+ actions were designed in consistency with the versions of the national forest policy/plan in effect during the full 2016-2020 crediting period.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



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<b>Finding Number</b>	13
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures and resources to ensure REDD+ actions are designed and implemented in consistency with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector, and inconsistencies are identified and resolved.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR use similar descriptions for mandates, procedures, and resources identified as used or in place regarding REDD+ policy formulation and implementation. In addition, the TRD and TMR identify and generally describe three mandates, procedures, or resources. The descriptions provided in the TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how public institutions make use of mandates, processes, procedures, and/or mechanisms or how they are enforced. The descriptions in the TRD and TMR do not identify how any inconsistencies with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector are identified and resolved.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.1 Process Indicator, identifying and describing how relevant public institutions use mandates, processes, procedures, and/or mechanisms to design and implement REDD+ actions in consistency with the broader forest sector legal and policy framework, and how the mandates, processes, procedures, and/or mechanisms are enforced. Please address how any inconsistencies with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector are identified and resolved.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	Description has been added outlining how the GFC's leading role has been undertaken regarding the implementation of its mandate, process and procedures and how these are enforced. Reference is made to the GFC's structure and technical capabilities and units. This section also aligns the processes that have been employed to address inconsistencies where these may occur. Reference is made to the already provided GFC Annual Report with Year 2020 report added, all EU FLEGT Programme Reports and Stakeholder and Communication reports.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR now more clearly identify the GFC as the public institution mandated to ensure REDD+ actions are designed and implemented in consistency with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify procedures and resources identified as used by the GFC to ensure REDD+ actions are designed and implemented in consistency with the broader legal or policy framework of the forest sector, and identifies support provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Support documents and site visit interviews with representatives of the GFC and MNR substantiate this mandate, and the use of the identified procedures and resources.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>14</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: Design and implementation of REDD+ actions have been consistent with or complemented the objectives of the national and if applicable, subnational, forest policies/programs.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR use similar descriptions to generally define a number of desired context-specific outcomes. Specific outcomes for other REDD+ activities do not appear to be presented. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.1 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>TRD and TMR have been updated to include specific outcomes. An Initial Plan for Monitoring of Indicators has been presented. Information demonstrating outcomes that have been achieved and backed up by new and named means of verification previous submitted are outlined.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The TRD now defines the desired context-specific outcomes for three REDD+ activities and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The TMR reports on the monitored results, with results supported by reports and data provided for VVB review, and substantiated by site visit interviews.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	15
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework or policy (or national REDD+ strategy or action plan) for REDD+ actions recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements in the context of design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR use similar descriptions to identify 33 international agreements identified as relevant and applicable to the REDD+ Strategy, and to summarize the process by which the Government of Guyana respects and upholds these agreements. The requirements or objectives for each of these international agreements that are relevant to the REDD+ actions are not identified or described for the TRD or TMR Theme A.2 Structural Indicator. The descriptions provided, for the TRD or TMR respectively, do not provide information on how relevant Guyana governance arrangements are in place or were in place to ensure that implementation of REDD+ actions will be, or were, in conformance with the identified 33 international agreements.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR provide summaries for Guyana's REDD+ agreement with Norway, development and planned update of Guyana's LCDS, and submission of Guyana's NDC to the UNFCCC. The TRD and TMR provide general statements regarding Guyana's commitment to sustainable forest management and identify Guyana's planned implementation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under EU - Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The descriptions provided in the TRD and TMR generally identify international agreements and Guyana's governance arrangements. The descriptions do not clearly identify how Guyana's domestic governance arrangements for REDD+ actions recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements in the context of design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>

<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.2 Structural Indicator, identifying and describing the requirements and objectives of any international conventions or agreements Guyana has ratified or otherwise agreed to which are relevant to the REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Please identify how Guyana's governance arrangements for REDD+ actions recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements in the context of design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The section in both the TRD and TMR have been updated to reflect requirements and objectives of international conventions or agreements that Guyana has ratified which are relevant to the REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The relevant sections in both the TRD and TMR have been updated showing Guyana's governance arrangements for REDD+ actions that recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements in the context of design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, the VVB has determined that the TRD identifies the relevant domestic legal framework in place for REDD+ actions that if enforced would recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements, as identified in the TRD and TMR. A review of supplemental documents and interviews with GFC staff and other stakeholders substantiates this legal framework was in place during the crediting period and that this framework recognized and promoted the application of relevant international conventions and agreements.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>16</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to design and implement REDD+ actions that recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide a general description of the LCDS, and further development of the LCDS, as the approach being undertaken to design and implement REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR provide descriptions of several strategic options identified by the Participant as guiding REDD+ implementation. The TRD and TMR identify forest monitoring as a means identified and implemented for ensuring compliance with EUFLEGT and the LCDS. The descriptions provided for these strategic options do not clearly identify in each case how procedures, processes, communications, trainings, or other means are used or enforced to ensure relevant organizations and individuals understand the requirements and objectives identified under the structural indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.2 Process Indicator, identifying in each case how procedures, processes, communications, trainings, or other means are in place to ensure relevant organizations and individuals understand the requirements and objectives identified under the structural indicator, and how these means are enforced.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>This section has been updated to reflect three processes that have been employed to bring effective implementation to the structures that are in place. These include mutli stakeholder engagement processes as implemented under the MRVS and EU FLEGT processes (for EU FLEGT reports have been provided during the desk review and the MRVS, reports on consultations are provided with this submission); Governannce sturctures, and collaboration/communication at Ministerial level. These are detailed in both the TRD and TMR.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, the VVB has determined that the TRD identifies the relevant policies and strategies as in place for REDD+ actions that if enforced would recognize and promote the application of ratified relevant international conventions and agreements, as identified in the TRD and TMR. A review of supplemental documents and interviews with GFC staff and other stakeholders substantiates these policies and strategies were in place during the crediting period and that these policies and strategies recognized and promoted the application of relevant international conventions and agreements.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>17</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: Design and implementation of REDD+ actions have been consistent with or has complemented the objectives of identified, ratified and relevant international conventions and agreements.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme A.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR use similar descriptions to generally describe several desired context-specific outcomes reported to be key areas of the REDD+ Implementation Plan as outlined in the LCDS. Many, but not all, of the described desired outcomes include information to demonstrate how the desired outcomes have been consistent with or have complemented the objectives of identified, ratified and relevant international conventions and agreements. The TRD and TMR provide a description of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) that has been developed and implemented to monitor forest change. Specific descriptions do not appear to be presented for how all REDD+ activities are monitored for consistency with international conventions and agreements. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme A.2 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to show how outcomes are consistent with the objectives of identified, ratified and relevant international conventions and agreements. Details have been added on specific descriptions showing how all REDD+ activities are monitored for consistency with international conventions and agreements. The TRD and TMR have been updated to show an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes. The TMR has been updated with an initial plan for monitoring the specific outcomes outlined in the TRD. Reports provided in the desk review on EU FLEGT and MRVS processes continue to apply. Additional reports are provided on MRVS consultations.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes that the Outcome Indicator for the TRD does not contain REDD+ actions that align with the REDD+ actions identified as monitored in the TMR, or align with the REDD+ actions identified in the Implementation Plan or other support documents provided. As noted in a separate finding (Finding #2), clarification is required regarding REDD+ actions to be included in the Implementation Plan. Resolution of Finding #2 is required before the present finding can be fully addressed. Based on the information provided, the VVB has determined the TRD does not present an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that would demonstrate that design and implementation of the full range of REDD+ actions implemented during the crediting period have been consistent with or have complemented the objectives of identified, ratified and relevant international conventions and agreements.</p>

<b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings
<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b>	A fuller outline of outcome indicators has been provided to align with the complete coverage of the REDD+ Implementation Activities that has been revised as per Findings 2.
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB reviewed the clarification provided in the TRD and TMR for the REDD+ Implementation Plan as part of Finding #2 and determined REDD+ actions for the crediting period are included in the Implementation Plan. The VVB determined based on the clarification provided for the REDD+ Implementation Plan in TRD and TMR Section 15, the Outcome Indicator sections for Theme A.2 in the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcomes for the REDD+ actions for the crediting period and the monitoring plans for verifying how implementation of REDD+ actions have been consistent with or has complemented the objectives of identified, ratified and relevant international conventions and agreements.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	18
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Participants have in place a legal framework, policies and/or programs for accessing information related to REDD+ actions in accordance with international human rights standards, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding the Access to Information Act for the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator and clearly identifies the qualified right of access to information for every Guyanese citizen or person domiciled in Guyana. The TRD and TMR footnote this description to cite the provision within the Constitution of Guyana referencing the requirement for courts to pay due regard to international law, international conventions, and charters bearing on human rights. The TRD and TMR footnote is less clear on the definition of "information" and how the definition provided in the footnote supports public access to information on REDD+ actions, particularly government-generated information.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.1 Structural Indicator to demonstrate how the Access to Information Act provides the framework for Guyanese citizens and persons domiciled in Guyana to access information related to REDD+ actions.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR footnote has been clarified to define "information", showing how the definition provided in the footnote supports public access to information on REDD+ actions, particularly government-generated information.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The text in the TRD and TMR now identify the legal framework for accessing information related to REDD+ actions, and further identifies the constitutional mandate regarding international conventions and charters relating to human rights. Support documents substantiate the framework that is reported as in place.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the footnote provided by the Participant in support of the indicator conformance was not changed in the new versions of the TRD or TMR. The VVB notes the footnote text does not fully support the statement for which it is intended to support. The second sentence in the footnote provides a portion of the definition of "information" from the Access to Information Act, with the portion provided being related to information on private bodies that can be accessed by a public authority, but the relevant statement in the TRD and TMR refers to citizens and people living in Guyana having a "qualified" right of access to information. Clarification is required to reconcile the supporting information in the footnote with the statement intended to be supported in the text.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>The footnote was further clarified to include Part IV, Section 12 (1) which speaks to access by all citizens of public information. Additionally, the objectives of the Act and the rights of access to information outlined in Section 12 (2) have also been added as relevant to REDD+ information and requirements of this safeguard.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR describe the legal framework by which citizens have rights for accessing information related to REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>19</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources for accessing information related to REDD+ actions in line with relevant ratified international conventions and agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework, policies, and programs for accessing information.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding requirements by the Protected Areas Act 2011 (PAA), NFP, NFPS, and Guyana Forestry Commission Act for dissemination of information. The TRD and TMR are not clear on programs, processes, or other means by which the stakeholders identified in Theme B.1 Structural Indicator may access information related to REDD+ actions in line with the legal framework identified by the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.1 Process Indicator on programs, processes, or other means by which the stakeholders identified in Theme B.1 Structural Indicator may access information related to REDD+ actions in line with the legal framework identified by the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>This section has been updated to reflect three processes that have been employed to bring effective implementation to the structures that are in place. These include mutli stakeholder engagement processes as implemented under the MRVS and EU FLEGT processes (for EU FLEGT reports have been provided during the desk review and the MRVS, reports on consultations are provided with this submission); Governance structures, and collaboration/communication at Ministerial level. These are detailed in both the TRD and TMR.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The text in the TRD and TMR now identify procedures, and resources in place, and used, in addition to the mandates for public access to information related to REDD+ actions, as disseminated by government institutions. Support documents and interviews with government, indigenous, and NGO stakeholders substantiate the reported procedures and resources were in place regarding accessibility to information on REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p> <p>For reference, additional support documents reviewed by the VVB included:        8-Page-FLEGT Newsletter 2021-Issue 1 October 2021-Resized.pdf        Access to Information Act.pdf        Consolidated Report – GFC Consultation and Outreach Workshops 2018.pdf        Consolidated Report – GFC Consultation and Outreach Workshops 2021.pdf        GFC Act.pdf        Joint Concept Note (JCN) 2012.pdf        Joint Concept Note between the Govt of Guyana and the Govt of Norway Original 2009.pdf        LCDS Layout 3 – October 26 FINAL (1).pdf        LCDS Spread Pres Speech..pdf        Protected Areas Act.pdf        REDD+ Outreach 2015 – Final Report.pdf        Guyana MRVS Assessment Year 2020 Report – Final – June 2021.pdf        Guyana-MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-2-V3.pdf        Guyana-MRVS-Year-8-Report-Version-1.pdf        MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-3-V3.pdf        MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-4-V3.pdf        MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-5-V11.pdf        MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-6-Version-3.pdf        MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-7-Version-1.pdf        MRVS-Year-2019-Report-Version-1-Final.pdf        MRVS-Phase-2-Workshop-Report-Final.pdf        Final Evaluation report of Stakeholder engagement plan 20191115.pdf        Signed ADF Phase II Project Document June 2014.pdf</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	20
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: The public has been aware of and exercised the right to seek and receive official information on REDD+ actions, as well as on how safeguards have been addressed and respected.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR use similar descriptions to generally describe dissemination and distribution of information. The TRD and TMR do not define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that relevant stakeholders have been aware of and have exercised their right to access information related to REDD+ actions in line with the requirements identified in the Theme B.1 Structural Indicator. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.1 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and the TMR have been updated to context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters that shows how relevant stakeholders have been aware of and have exercised their right to access information related to REDD+ actions. An initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes has been presented in the TRD and the TMR has been updated to show the outcomes of the monitoring plan.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB has determined that the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcomes and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes the Participant joined ART with submittal and acceptance of the Concept Document in December 2021.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TREES Registration Document has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes that supporting documentation for annual reporting from the GFC and MRVS has been provided, and that some documentation has been provided for meetings held during the crediting period in which the LCDS in place during the crediting period (2016-2020), which includes REDD+ items, was discussed. The information provided in the TMR is not clear on how information was provided regarding safeguards being addressed and respected during implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB is unclear where in the supporting documents referenced in the TMR for the crediting period under verification that safeguards were identified as addressed and respected during implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Clarification was provided regarding the information on MRVS and EU FLEGT, on how these relate to safeguards being addressed and respected during implementation of REDD+ actions. Specific reference are made to the means of verification provided and how these show that this safeguards was addressed and respected during implementation these actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents the plan for how outcomes will be monitored and demonstrated. The VVB determined the TMR reports on monitored results, with results supported by reports and data provided for VVB review. Through review of supporting documentation provided, and substantiated through site visit interviews, the VVB determined the public has been made aware of and exercised the right to seek and receive official information on REDD+ actions, as well as on how safeguards have been addressed and respected.</p> <p>Item closed.</p> <p>For reference, additional support documents reviewed by the VVB included: 8-Page-FLEGT Newsletter 2021-Issue 1 October 2021-Resized.pdf Consolidated Report – GFC Consultation and Outreach Workshops 2018.pdf Consolidated Report – GFC Consultation and Outreach Workshops 2021.pdf</p>

LCDS Layout 3 – October 26 FINAL (1).pdf  
LCDS Spread Pres Speech..pdf  
REDD+ Outreach 2015 – Final Report.pdf  
Guyana MRVS Assessment Year 2020 Report – Final – June 2021.pdf  
Guyana-MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-2-V3.pdf  
Guyana-MRVS-Year-8-Report-Version-1.pdf  
MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-3-V3.pdf  
MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-4-V3.pdf  
MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-5-V11.pdf  
MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-6-Version-3.pdf  
MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-7-Version-1.pdf  
MRVS-Year-2019-Report-Version-1-Final.pdf  
MRVS-Phase-2-Workshop-Report-Final.pdf  
Final Evaluation report of Stakeholder engagement plan 20191115.pdf  
1 FINAL LCDS\_Natural Resources Sector Stakeholder\_14.01.2022.doc  
2 Final LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 17.01.docx  
3 Final LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 18.01.docx  
4 LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 19.01.2022.docx  
5 LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 20.01.2022.docx  
6 LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 24.01.2022.docx  
7 Stakeholder Consultation Report 26 Jan.2022.docx  
8 Stakeholder Consultation Report 27 Jan.2022.docx  
9 LCDS Stakeholder Consultation Report 28.01.2022.docx  
REDD+ Safeguards – Summary of Information Report – Guyana 2021 Final.pdf



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<b>Finding Number</b>	21
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Participants have in place anti-corruption measures and measures to promote transparency reflecting the principles of rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency, and accountability, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.2; interviews with GFC, Ministry of Finance, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme B.2 Structural Indicator by identifying the requirement for independent audits under several resource-related Acts, and identify legislation regulating bribery and corruption by public servants and regarding anti-money laundering. The TRD and TMR do not clearly identify the governance arrangements related to financial management regarding REDD+ action implementation and benefit distribution.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.2 Structural Indicator to identify the governance arrangements related to financial management regarding REDD+ action implementation and benefit distribution.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify the governance arrangements related to financial management regarding REDD+ action implementation and benefit distribution.
<b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b>	The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The text in the TRD and TMR now identify and describe the governance arrangements related to financial management regarding REDD+ action implementation and benefit distribution including integrity, transparency, and accountability, as well as management of public affairs and public property related to REDD+ activities. Support documents and interviews with government stakeholders substantiated key items of the framework that is identified as in place.  Item closed.



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<b>Finding Number</b>	22
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to apply anti-corruption measures and measures to promote transparency in the implementation of REDD+ actions and the distribution of REDD+ benefits, according to relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal frameworks; the measures should reflect principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency, and accountability.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.2; interviews with GFC, Ministry of Finance, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding the Office of the Auditor General being entitled to investigate the financial performance of government organizations. The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding provisions within various Acts mandating independent audits. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how relevant public institutions have made use of these measures to promote transparency in the implementation of REDD+ actions and the distribution of REDD+ benefits.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with Theme B.2 Process Indicator, identifying how procedures, processes, or other means to ensure governance arrangements related to financial management regarding REDD+ action implementation and benefit distribution are implemented and that the relevant requirements identified will be met.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe how relevant public institutions have made use of these measures to promote transparency in the implementation of REDD+ actions and the distribution of REDD+ benefits. In this regard, publicly available portals: <a href="http://www.lcds.gov.gy">www.lcds.gov.gy</a> and <a href="http://www.guyanareddfund.org">www.guyanareddfund.org</a> have been references for complete reporting to the public on technical as well as financial reporting. Further project related concepts notes, contracts, and final evaluation in folder: GRIF Reports.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The text in the TRD and TMR now identify and describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to apply anti-corruption measures and measures to promote transparency in the implementation of REDD+ actions and the distribution of REDD+ benefits during the crediting period. Support documents and interviews with government stakeholders substantiated key items as described were related to the interim REDD program, and that these items were in place during the crediting period.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>23</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: The distribution of REDD+ benefits related to the implementation of the REDD+ results-based actions have been carried out in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner, as per relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.2; interviews with GFC, Ministry of Finance, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries regarding fair distribution of benefits being addressed in the LCDS, NFPS, and NFP. The TRD and TMR present similar summaries regarding provisions for prevention of discrimination. The TRD and TMR do not define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that REDD+ benefits have been distributed in a fair, transparent, gender equitable, and accountable manner and in line with the requirements identified in the Theme B.2 Structural Indicator. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.2 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to include desired context-specific outcomes in the form of monitoring parameters to demonstrate that REDD+ benefits have been distributed in a fair, transparent, gender equitable, and accountable manner. An initial plan for collecting monitoring information has been presented in the TRD. The TMR has also been updated to present an initial plan for monitoring defined context-specific outcomes with means of verification provided that show that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB has determined that the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcomes and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes the Participant joined ART with submittal and acceptance of the Concept Document in December 2021.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TREES Registration Document has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB has determined that the TMR, substantiated by support documents provided, demonstrates monitoring for the desired context-specific outcomes was implemented and in place, specifically associated with the interim REDD program, during the crediting period.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	24
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Participants have in place a legal framework, policies or programs for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and security of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme B.3 Structural Indicator by identifying several Acts that recognize statutory and customary ownership and use rights. The TRD and TMR provide a generalized statement that other sectoral policies recognize statutory and customary ownership and use rights. The TRD and TMR provide generalized information for two of the six Acts. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe procedures for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.3 Structural Indicator to describe procedures for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe in detail the existing procedures for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The TRD and TMR describe the legal framework for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and security of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented. Review of supporting documentation and information obtained through interviews with key government agency personnel and representatives from Amerindian groups substantiates the legal framework, as described, is in place for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and security of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions have been implemented during the crediting period (understood by the VVB to consist of State Forest Areas, State Lands, and state-managed Protected Areas), and where REDD+ actions may be implemented (understood by the VVB to consist of Titled Amerindian lands) with consent of the Amerindian villages holding title to the lands where the REDD+ actions would be implemented. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference applicable Acts that provide the legal framework for recognizing land and forest land tenure rights for private entities granted concessions for timber or mining activities on State Lands.</p> <p>Item closed.</p> <p>For reference, additional support documents reviewed by the VVB included:  2793-act_20_of_2007 - GFC Act.pdf  2939-act_6_of_2009 – Forest Act.pdf  3636-act_no_14 - Protected Areas Act.pdf  4680-act_no_6_of_2006 (1) – Amerindian Act.pdf  6470-act_no.15_of_1999_guyana_lands_and_surveys_commission_act_1999.pdf  8163-act_no_3_of_1987_guyana_geology_and_mines_commission_(amendment)_act_1987.pdf  8532-act_20_of_1989_mining.pdf  Cap6201 – State Lands Act.pdf  Guyana-National-Forest-Plan-2018.pdf  Guyana-National-Forest-Policy-Statement-2018.pdf</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>25</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to recognize, inventory, map, and secure statutory and customary rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions in line with relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme B.3 Process Indicator by generally identifying how Amerindian communities can acquire title to land, identifying general principles regarding expropriation, and generally stating other forest sector PLRs offer specific rules on regulating state forest authorizations. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe the processes or other means used by public institutions for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.3 Process Indicator, describing the processes or other means used by public institutions for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe the processes or other means used by public institutions for the recognition, inventorying, mapping, and securing of customary and statutory land and resource tenure rights where REDD+ actions are implemented.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes that additional information has been included to describe mandates, procedures, and resources identified as used by public institutions to recognize, inventory, map, and secure statutory and customary rights by Amerindian villages and communities to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR reference Guyana's Constitution as forbidding expropriation as default for any type of right, but the TRD and TMR are not clear on how for other lands where REDD+ actions are implemented such as timber or mining concessions on state lands, public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to implement the legal framework identified by the Structural Indicator for this safeguard.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the Amerindian Land Titling quarterly and annual reports covering the years 2016 through 2020 identify how public institutions made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to implement the legal framework and goals to recognize, inventory, map, and secure (statutory and customary) rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions. However, the VVB further notes that these documents identified numerous concerns and challenges in completing activities to recognize, inventory, map, and secure (statutory and customary) rights to lands and resources on lands for which Amerindian villages and communities had submitted requests for titling, which has been determined to be relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions for the crediting period. The VVB notes many of these concerns and challenges were identified, along with other concerns and challenges, in the "Mid-term Evaluation of the Amerindian Land Titling Project in Guyana" document (November 2016) that reports on progress from October 2013 through October 2016, which overlaps with the first year of the crediting period. Please provide clarification within the TRD and TMR to identify how public institution made use of mandates, procedures, and resources during the crediting period to address the concerns and challenges identified in the processes to recognize, inventory, map, and secure statutory and customary rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>

<b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings
<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b>	<p>Additional information has been provided on the State Forest Estate specifically regarding the Mining Act and the Forest Act and the role of the GGMC and the GFC in implementing these legal mandates set out in the areas of this safeguard.</p> <p>Further, a fuller outline is presented on the role of the MoAA in addressing issues, challenges and grievances that arise as part of the land titling process. Evidentiary support is provided in via a Summary Report showing the grievances that have been identified and how these have been resolved. It should be noted that administrative matters are addressed internally within the MoAA, such as staff and financial matters.</p>
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined the description provided in the TRD and TMR identify and describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to recognize, inventory, map, and secure statutory and customary rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions in line with relevant legal framework. The VVB acknowledges the additional information provided to clarify MoAA responsibility and procedures for addressing concerns identified during the crediting period regarding recognizing, inventorying, mapping, and securing statutory and customary rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions and the VVB notes that these issues are covered in more detail through separate review and findings for Safeguards C and D. Through review of supporting documents and site visit interviews with representatives of government agencies, community forest associations, and Amerindian villages, the VVB determined public institutions have made use, and are continuing to make use, of mandates, procedures, and resources to recognize, inventory, map, and secure statutory and customary rights to lands and resources relevant to the implementation of REDD+ actions in line with relevant domestic legal framework, and that procedures are in place for resolving disputes over conflicting claims.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	26
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: Stakeholders had access to, use of, and control over land and resources in line with relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework, and no involuntary relocation took place without the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of any indigenous peoples and local communities (or equivalent) concerned.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries regarding the National Toshaos Council (NTC) being the main body through which all coordination with Amerindian communities and villages. The TRD and TMR present similar summaries regarding stakeholder outreach with other key stakeholders. The TRD and TMR summarize several generalized objectives for the described stakeholder outreach undertaken. The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that no involuntary relocation of peoples or rights occurred relative to REDD+ actions, and that any relocation took place with the FPIC of any indigenous peoples and local communities (or equivalent) concerned. The TRD and TMR do not clearly define monitoring parameters to demonstrate that stakeholders had access to, use of, and control over land and resources in accordance with the requirements identified in the Theme B.3 structural and process indicators. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR reference the FCPF REDD+ readiness process within the description for Theme B.3 Outcome Indicator, as well as for the D.1 Process and Outcome Indicators, and D2 Process Indicator. Information on the FCPF REDD+ readiness process does not appear to be among the support documents or evidence provided to the VVB.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.3 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p> <p>Please provide support documents or other evidence for VVB review to substantiate assertions made in the TRD and TMR regarding the FCPF REDD+ readiness process that was reported as undertaken.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to reflect specific outcomes which speak to monitoring parameters to demonstrate that no involuntary relocation of peoples or rights occurred relative to REDD+ actions and FPIC. The monitoring parameters added address stakeholders access to, use of, and control over land and resources and outline REDD+ programmes during the period 2016 to 2020 including MRVS, EU FLEGT, and project financed under the Guyana REDD+ Programme under the bilateral cooperation with the Government of Norway. A monitoring plan is outlined for collecting monitoring information on outcomes and evidence is provided of this plan being implemented with supporting means of verification provided both via web links and files supplied.</p> <p>Information has been added in both the TRD and the TMR on FCPF.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR, and the additional support documents provided, "Final Evaluation Report of Stakeholder engagement (Deliverable i)" for the FCPF Project in Guyana (15 November 2019) and the Signed ADF Phase II Project Document (June 2014).</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB has determined that the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcomes, consisting of capacity building and stakeholder engagement, and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information, through stakeholder engagement to identify any instance of involuntary relocation, that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes the Participant joined ART with submittal and acceptance of the Concept Document in December 2021. The VVB made an observation of a possible typographical error where "reallocation" was used instead of "relocation" within the TRD (and TMR).</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes that the TMR states that the stakeholder engagement activities identified by the TRD were conducted and measured by the mechanisms and tools identified in the TRD. The TMR references the LCDS website and Guyana REDD Fund website as containing documents for verification of this indicator. The TMR does not specify which documents contain the information demonstrating either how conformance with this indicator was achieved during this crediting period, or in the absence of such demonstration, the development of an outcome monitoring plan by the end five years after joining ART. As noted in the finding for Process Indicator for safeguard B.3, there were concerns raised for the crediting period related to Safeguard Theme B.3 regarding how land tenure rights were respected, protected, and fulfilled.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.3 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p> <p>Please identify the specific support documents, and where in these documents, the monitoring results for this indicator may be found.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Correction has been made to relocation. A full listing of document from the LCDS and GRIF websites that relate to this safeguard has been presented. In addition to the reference provided to the ADF, with the land titling project being one of the more relevant and larger programme for this safeguard and directly aligned to rights and tenure, additional reference and page numbers have been provided to show alignment to this indicator. Additionally, with reference to the point made of concerns raised during the land titling programme, a Report on all concerns raised and how these were resolved is also presented.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TMR, and the correction of the typo in the TRD. The VVB reviewed the documents referenced and embedded as attachments in the TMR in support of verification of the desired outcome for identifying any instance of involuntary relocation. Site visit interviews with representatives of government agencies, community forest associations, and Amerindian villages substantiated information provided in the supporting documents that during the crediting period stakeholders had access to, use of, and control over land and resources in line with relevant domestic legal framework, and no involuntary relocation was identified as a result of REDD+ actions. The VVB determined that the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcomes, consisting of capacity building and stakeholder engagement, and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information, through stakeholder engagement to identify any instance of involuntary relocation, that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB determined the TMR and evidence provided by a Participant demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcomes outlined in the TRD has been implemented.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>27</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Participants have in place procedures for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution mechanisms at all relevant levels, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.4; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme B.4 Structural Indicator by identifying and generally describing several mechanisms to which stakeholders have access for dispute resolution regarding REDD+ implementation. The generalized descriptions and statements do not clearly describe the judicial and/or administrative procedures that are in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution at all relevant levels.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.4 Structural Indicator to describe the judicial and/or administrative procedures that are in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution at all relevant levels regarding REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide more detailed description of the judicial and/or administrative procedures that are in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution at all relevant levels, with specific focus on the Amerindian Act.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the information provided relative to a GRM for Amerindian villages and communities is mostly concerned with internal matters rather than with REDD+ issues. The VVB notes that the support document “A Guideline for Amerindian Land Titling in Guyana” referenced and provided for VVB review details the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the Amerindian Land Titling process under Part III on page 31, was issued in 2017 which substantiates this document and associated policies and procedures as in place during the crediting period. The VVB notes this document, although not referencing REDD+ actions or national program specifically, would appear to provide a GRM to address REDD+ actions or national program.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD provides general statements regarding the general requirement by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to address and resolve issues. The VVB notes the TRD identifies Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA) Community Officers as a means for receiving feedback and addressing grievances for Amerindian communities. The generalized descriptions and statements do not clearly describe the specific procedures that are in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution at all relevant levels, specifically in regard to REDD+ actions or national program. Clarification is required to identify the specific procedures that are in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution at all relevant levels, specifically in regard to GRM procedures that would apply to REDD+ actions or national program, and clarification is requested to identify where in the support documents provided these GRM procedures are codified or have been issued as guidance for the respective agencies.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TMR provides similar information as the TRD, but also includes information regarding the basis for GRM on State Forest Leases. The VVB notes the TMR references a summary as being provided as an example of the matters raised for redress and the resolution of these with regards to non-Amerindian Communities and other stakeholders. The VVB reviewed the support document "Forest Sector Issues for Redress - 2019-2020.docx" and notes the listed issues do not specifically reference REDD+ actions or national program, but many of the issues would be related to REDD+ actions. The VVB notes the TMR is not clear on GRM procedures that would apply to REDD+ actions or national program, and clarification is requested to identify where in the support documents provided these GRM procedures are codified or have been issued as guidance for the respective agencies.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Clarification is provided on the procedures in place at the level of the MoAA and the MNR regarding the management of the grievance redress mechanism. This covers both State Forest and Amerindian Areas.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR, and acknowledges the corrected references. Based on a review of the information provided, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR describe procedures in place for guaranteeing non-discriminatory and non-cost prohibitive access to dispute resolution mechanisms at all relevant levels, and these are anchored in relevant domestic legal framework. The VVB determined from review of information provided that these procedures are applicable for addressing dispute resolution regarding REDD+ activities.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	28
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to facilitate access to dispute resolution mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the implementation of REDD+ actions including judicial and/or administrative procedures for legal redress, which, inter alia, provide access for indigenous peoples, local communities, or equivalent stakeholders with a recognized legal interest.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.4; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme B.4 Process Indicator, which are similar to the descriptions provided by the Theme B.2 Process Indicator. The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding the Office of the Auditor General being entitled to investigate the financial performance of government organizations. The TRD and TMR present similar descriptions regarding provisions within various Acts mandating independent audits. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to facilitate access to dispute resolution mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe the processes or other means to ensure the procedures outlined in the Theme B.4 Structural Indicator have been implemented throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions and that any additional identified requirements have been met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.4 Process Indicator, describing the processes or other means to ensure the procedures outlined in the Theme B.4 Structural Indicator have been implemented throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions and that any additional identified requirements have been met.</p>

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to outline the role of the MoAA, as the main public institutions that is involved in REDD+ projects at village level, in executing its mandates, procedures, and resources to facilitate access to dispute resolution mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe the process and procedures that guide the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions and makes reference to the two main projects at village level financed with REDD+ revenues: Amerindian Land Titling Project and the Amerindian Development Fund Programme.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR provide additional information on provisions of the Amerindian Act, but these provisions do not demonstrate how public institutions made use of mandates, procedures, and resources during this crediting period to facilitate access to dispute resolution mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the implementation of REDD+ actions including judicial and/or administrative procedures for legal redress, which among other things provide access for indigenous peoples, local communities, or equivalent stakeholders with a recognized legal interest. In addition to this nonconformance, clarification is also requested for how one referenced provision, Section 45 which appears to refer to allocation of village lands by the village, forms the main guideline for the Amerindian Land Titling Project.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference the Amerindian Land Titling Project and Amerindian Development Fund Programme as the two main REDD+ projects implemented at the community level. The TMR references “A Guideline for Amerindian Land Titling in Guyana” as detailing the GRM for the Amerindian Land Titling process under Part III on page 31, but does not identify how the MoAA or GFC made use of this procedure in conformance with the Process Indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.3 Process Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The process utilised by the MoAA and the MNR to implement the grievance redress mechanism at the Ministry level has been added. Correction has been made to refer to Part Vi, Subsections 59 to 64 of the Amerindian Act that refers to the Land Titling Process. More information has been provided in the Outcome indicator for this safeguard to demonstrate how the stated procedures and processes have been implemented.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR, and acknowledges the corrected references. Based on a review of the information provided, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR describe procedures public institutions have made use of to facilitate access to dispute resolution mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the implementation of REDD+ actions and that these can ensure that the implementation of REDD+ actions will be in conformance with the indicator. Site visit interviews with representatives of government agencies, community forest associations, and Amerindian villages substantiated that during the crediting period these procedures were in place for REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	29
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: Resolved disputes, competing claims, and effective recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme B.4; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR present similar tabular summaries identifying mechanisms reported as currently in place at the sector level. The tabular information provided in the TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that disputes and competing claims have been resolved, and effective and culturally appropriate recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute, or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions in line with requirements identified in the Theme B.4 structural indicator. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.4 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide context-specific outcomes and monitoring parameters that demonstrate that disputes and competing claims have been resolved, and effective and culturally appropriate recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute, or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information and the TMR has been updated to present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the context-specific outcomes.

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The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes that much of information provided in the Outcome Indicator section appears to address the GRM in place at the sector level, which appears to be more relevant to addressing the Process Indicator requirements. The VVB notes the TMR states that the indicator has been met by implementation of the GRMs at the sector level. The requirements for the TRD and TMR are for the Participant to demonstrate how this indicator is met, specifically for how resolved disputes, competing claims, and effective recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions.

For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB has determined that the TRD does not define how resolved disputes, competing claims, and effective recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions, or present an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.

For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB has determined that the TMR does not demonstrate how resolved disputes, competing claims, and effective recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions, or present an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.

The VVB notes “A Guideline for Amerindian Land Titling in Guyana” (2017) details the process for receiving, logging, and tracking all grievances received by the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) GRM. The VVB also notes that some concerns regarding REDD+ actions have been identified in various support documents (see finding for B.3 Process Indicator), and concerns were also identified during interviews with Amerindian villages and Amerindian NGOs regarding disputes and competing claims between Amerindian villages and government-controlled lands and/or mining concessions, the VVB has not been provided with a list of disputes or competing claims related to REDD+ actions for the crediting period, or a summary to demonstrate the status for resolution of each.

<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme B.4 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p> <p>Please provide supporting documentation to demonstrate the monitoring requirement has been met in accordance with the assertion in the TMR, or identify the specific support documents, and where in these documents, the monitoring results for this indicator may be found.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Summary Reports are provided, showing the outputs of the Grievance Redress Mechanism demonstrating how each grievance raised has been addressed.</p> <p>Additionally, at the level of the Ministry of Natural Resources, a full outline of the grievances raised has been documented, many of them directly or indirectly related to REDD+ through its linkages to sustainable mining and forestry activities, also showing for each year how each grievance/concern has been resolved and if not resolved, the reason for this.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TMR. The VVB determined the TRD presents an initial plan for collecting and monitoring information that can demonstrate how resolved disputes, competing claims, and effective recourse and remedies have been provided when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB determined the TMR identifies reports covering the crediting period to demonstrate that the initial plan described for collecting and monitoring GRM information by sector has been implemented. Review of supporting documentation substantiates disputes or competing claims have been resolved, or that effective recourse or remedies were being provided during the crediting period when there was a violation of rights, grievance, dispute or claim related to the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>30</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Participants have in place a legal framework, policies or procedures for the identification or self-identification of indigenous peoples, and local communities, or equivalent, and for the respect of their rights, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.1 Structural Indicator by identifying several governance arrangements that recognize the distinct identity of indigenous peoples who are citizens. Through a footnote to this Indicator, the TRD and TMR reference 'community group' as defined by the Forests Act. The TRD and TMR provide clear description of the legal framework that recognizes the distinct identity of indigenous peoples as legal subjects and summarizes the legal framework for the respect of their rights. The TRD and TMR do not provide clear description of the legal framework or procedures that recognize the distinct identity of non-Amerindian local communities as legal subjects and do not provide a clear description of the legal framework for the respect of their rights.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.1 Structural Indicator to describe the legal framework or procedures that recognize the distinct identity of non-Amerindian local communities as legal subjects and please provide clarification to describe the legal framework for the respect of their rights.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and the TMR have been updated to provide specific information on non-Amerindian communities with reference being made to Section 11 of the Forest Act which outlines the modalities of these agreements.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR identify the legal framework, policies or procedures for the identification or self-identification of indigenous peoples, and local communities, or equivalent, and for the respect of their rights. Review of supporting documents substantiates the legal framework in place.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>31</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+</b> <b>Transactions (ART)</b> <b>Program</b> <b>The REDD+</b> <b>Environmental Excellence</b> <b>Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions, according to relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.1 Process Indicator by identifying the Amerindian Act and Forest Act as containing details for provisions regarding allocation of absolute grants and titles to indigenous villages. The TRD and TMR provide a summary regarding general analyses associated with Amerindian land titling processes and make a reference to REDD+. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples, or non-Amerindian local communities or equivalent, in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe the processes or other means to ensure the procedures outlined in the Theme C.1 Structural Indicator have been implemented throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions and that any additional identified requirements have been met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.1 Process Indicator, describing how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples, and non-Amerindian local communities or equivalent, in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. Please provide clarification to describe the processes or other means to ensure the procedures outlined in the Theme C.1 Structural Indicator have been implemented throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions and that any additional identified requirements have been met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide information on how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples, or non-Amerindian local communities or equivalent, in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR have both been updated to describe the processes that are in place to ensure the procedures required by this safeguard are implemented throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR identify how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. Review of supporting documents and interviews with representatives of GFC, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources, Amerindian villages visited, and community forest associations substantiates the processes are in place as described.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>32</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>

<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: Indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, have been identified and their respective rights have been respected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries identifying the legal mechanisms identifying the collective forest ownership and rights for Amerindian titled land and how those rights may be extinguished or diminished. The TRD and TMR do not identify whether non-Amerindian local communities or equivalent have been identified or whether their respective rights have been respected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that indigenous peoples and non-Amerindian local communities have been identified and their rights respected in the design and implementation of REDD+ action. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.1 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to reflect both Indigenous and Non Indigenous communities with regards to their respective rights in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions; the TRD and TMR have been updated to reflect specific outcomes to demonstrate that indigenous peoples and non-Amerindian local communities have been identified and their rights respected in the design and implementation of REDD+ action. The TRD has been updated to present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information on specific outcomes outlined in the TRD and identifies means of verification therein.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the general legal framework and processes in place regarding titling Amerindian lands and extinguishing or diminishing those rights. The VVB notes the TRD identifies the context-specific outcome as "Operational mechanisms in place to receive and address concerns and complaints at the sector level". The VVB notes that the TRD identifies the monitoring to be conducted as: 1) Sector level addressing of disputes; 2) Project level addressing of dispute resolution specific to individual processes like Land Titling; and 3) Initial work towards collating safeguards report at central level. The VVB acknowledges the context-specific outcome would allow monitoring of concerns by Amerindian groups and Community Forest Associations regarding REDD+ actions, but the VVB has determined that clarification is required in the TRD to describe how the context-specific outcome and monitoring meet the requirement for the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, to have been recognized in the design of REDD+ actions. The VVB notes that REDD+ actions to be addressed should include consideration of actions identified by the REDD+ Implementation Plan.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes a nonconformance in the TMR by the TMR not addressing the context-specific outcomes or monitoring identified by the TRD. Information is required, along with supporting documentation, that: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.1 Outcome Indicator for the TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements. Please provide Clarification for the TRD in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>This indicator has been updated to reflect alignment with the REDD+ Implementation Plan with activities identified in alignment with these actions. In the TRD reference is made to REDD+ actions. In the TMR, outcomes have been restructured to align with the TRD as well as specific references to means of verification that supports each outcome additional to the previous outlined of the websites.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TDR and TMR. The VVB has determined that clarification provided in the TRD describes how the context-specific outcomes and monitoring meet the requirement for the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, to have been recognized in the design of REDD+ actions. The VVB notes that REDD+ actions addressed in the TRD include actions identified by the REDD+ Implementation Plan. Through review of the description provided in the TMR and review of supporting documents, the VVB determined the outcomes are aligned with the desired context-specific outcomes outlined in the TRD and the evidence provided by the Participant demonstrates the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcomes has been implemented for identifying indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, and for how their respective rights have been respected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	33
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Relevant ratified international conventions/agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework define, and provide guidance for respecting and protecting indigenous people’s knowledge and/or local communities’ knowledge.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.2; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.2 Structural Indicator by identifying the legal framework that recognize Amerindian traditional rights and collective ownerships and rights. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how the legal framework or other policies define procedures that promote the respect and protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples or non-Amerindian local communities.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.2 Structural Indicator to describe how the legal framework or other policies define procedures that promote the respect and protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples or non-Amerindian local communities.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide information regarding the procedures that are in place that promote the respect and protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples or non-Amerindian local communities.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify the legal framework and procedures that promote the respect and protection of traditional rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples, as outlined in the Amerindian Act, and describe the legal framework for enforcing these rights rests with the Village Council and governance structure at the village level. The TRD and TMR specifically reference Section 2 of the Act that defines Traditional Rights, and Section 11 as outlining Functions of the Village Council, which include protecting and preserving the Village's intellectual property and traditional knowledge. However, the VVB notes that Section 13 of the Act contains these functions, rather than Section 11 as referenced in the TRD and TMR. Clarification is required to address this inconsistency.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR do not identify the legal framework by which the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in Amerindian communities other than in titled villages is respected and protected. Clarification is requested to describe the legal framework that respects and protects the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in Amerindian communities other than in titled villages.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR describe the legal structure that governs non-indigenous community use of State Forest lands through leases. The TRD and TMR reference the GFC Act and Forest Act as legislating Codes of Practice for sustainable forest management on State Forest leases. The VVB notes that review of the Forest Act Part 4, Section 35 substantiates the right of the GFC to propose a code of practice to regulate any class or description of forest operations. The VVB notes that the GFC Act and Forest Act do not define or provide specific guidance for respecting and protecting local communities' knowledge, but further notes that the Forest Act, Section 11 (4), references community forest management agreement opportunities afforded persons having strong traditional ties to use of the specified forest. Clarification, along with supporting documentation, is requested for the specific Codes of Practice that address this indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Correction has been made to refer to Section 13 rather than Section 11 of the Amerindian Act with reference to Traditional Knowledge.</p> <p>Clarification is made and supported by specific sections of the Amerindian Act that indeed this legislation covers both titled and untitled Amerindian Areas.</p> <p>For non Amerindian Areas, additional information has been provided on the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting citing specific sections, as well as the accompanying Guidelines for small concessions of which community forest management are a part.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR, and acknowledges the corrected reference. Based on a review of the information provided, including additional support documents, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR identify the legal framework that was in place to define, and provide guidance for respecting and protecting indigenous people’s knowledge and/or local communities’ knowledge.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>34</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities’ traditional knowledge in the implementation of REDD+ actions, in line with relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.2; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.2 Process Indicator by summarizing instances where public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect traditional Amerindian rights. The RD and MR do not clearly describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect traditional knowledge of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.2 Process Indicator, describing how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect traditional knowledge of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide information on how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect traditional Amerindian rights. Both the TRD and the TMR have been updated to describe how the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the GFC have used their mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect traditional knowledge of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR describe the processes by which the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, the Protected Areas Commission, and GFC implement mandates to protect traditional rights, which are understood by the VVB from the Structural Indicator description provided by the Participant to include traditional knowledge. The VVB notes the continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process is identified as a means for implementing these mandates; the VVB notes that the continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process for indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities as described is consistent with the Process Indicator for Safeguard C.1. The VVB further notes the governance structures described as in place identify means by which public institutions engage Amerindian villages and Community Forest Associations. The VVB notes that although not specifically referencing applicability to REDD+ actions, these structures and engagements are understood to broadly include REDD+ actions based on review of other support documents and interviews with representatives from GFC, Amerindian villages and community visited by the VVB, and Community Forest Associations.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference the EU FLEGT programme as having specific provisions made for traditional rights. The VVB notes that although the provision is identified, the presence of the provision demonstrates conformance with the Structural Indicator rather than Process indicator. The TRD and TMR do not describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities' traditional knowledge in the implementation of specific REDD+ actions, including EU FLEGT. The VVB notes that review of a supporting document provided to the VVB, "EU_FLEGT-Report_2016.pdf" identified the following statement (page 11): "In addition, logs are extracted from sites that are sacred for Guyana's indigenous peoples which constitutes a breach of their customs. It was noted however, that in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process, consideration is being given to the use of land for traditional purposes. One participant expressed the view that the indigenous people are not ready for FLEGT licensing and that they need more time to deliberate on the process." The VVB notes that other supporting documents provided to the VVB regarding the EU FLEGT programme do not address how the program incorporates the respect and protection of traditional knowledge. Clarification is requested in the TRD and TMR regarding how for the EU FLEGT programme public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities' traditional knowledge in the implementation of this REDD+ action; please provide these supporting documents for VVB use or identify the specific document(s) previously provided to the VVB and locations within the document(s) where this information is located. Similar clarification is also requested for the processes used by public institutions to ensure other REDD+ actions identified by the REDD+ Implementation Plan respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities' traditional knowledge.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>

<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Additional details have been provided to explain the processes of the GFC specifically regarding REDD+ Actions such as EU FLEGT, MRVS and SFM. Additional evidence have been provided on EU FLEGT to given references to traditional knowledge being specifically provided for through the legality definition and the GTLAS; the long and detailed process of FLEGT has also been outlined to present the long term nature of the FLEGT process and one that is aimed at creating capacities, readiness and ownership by all main stakeholder groups. Further, greater alignment has been provided on REDD+ actions and the processes that are in place.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined clarification provided in the TRD and TMR identifies how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities' traditional knowledge in the implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB determined the descriptions provided are substantiated through supporting documents provided to the VVB.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>35</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: Traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, has been respected and protected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions where permission for its use has been granted.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.2; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries identifying three main national processes reported as engaging indigenous peoples and forest communities' participation. The TRD and TMR identify two programs reported as involving indigenous peoples and identifying and utilizing traditional knowledge. The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples and/or non-Amerindian local communities has been identified and incorporated into the design and implementation of REDD+ actions with their permission and that any additional requirements under the Theme C.2 structural indicator have been met. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>

<p><b>Round 1.1</b> MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.2 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to define context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples and/or non-Amerindian local communities have been identified and incorporated into the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD has been updated to present a plan for collecting monitoring information and the TMR has been updated to illustrate a plan for monitoring the specific outcomes outlined in the TRD.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "REDD+ processes harnessed traditional knowledge and inputs of indigenous peoples". The VVB notes that the TRD identifies planning activities for REDD+ actions that are reported to have taken into account traditional knowledge and inputs of indigenous peoples. The VVB notes the TRD identifies several existing documents along with backup documentation available on four web pages as the means for verifying monitoring information. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR is not clear where in the referenced documents the collected monitoring information is located. The VVB determined through review of one of the referenced documents identified as to be used for verification, "Guyana's SOI on REDD+ Safeguards" that no information is provided on monitoring for how traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, has been respected and protected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions where permission for its use has been granted. The TMR is not clear where the monitored data is located which would allow the VVB to verify conformance with this indicator. Information is required, along with supporting documentation, that: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TMR in line with the findings</p>

<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b>	Additional information has been provided in the TMR to specify the parts of the documentation on EU FLEGT and the ADF where traditional knowledge has been utilised to inform and develop the REDD+ actions.
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TDR and TMR. The VVB has determined that clarification provided in the TMR demonstrates that the Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan for how verification will be achieved for how traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, has been respected and protected in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions where permission for its use has been granted.  Item closed.

<b>Finding Number</b>	36
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Participants have in place legal framework, policies or programs to respect, protect and fulfill human rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, in conformity with customary law, institutions, and practices as applicable and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.3; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.3 Structural Indicator, which are similar to the descriptions provided for the Theme C.2 Structural Indicator. The TRD and TMR identify the legal framework that recognizes Amerindian traditional rights and collective ownerships and rights. The TRD and TMR statement regarding a procedure where rights are susceptible to being extinguished or diminished does not clearly identify how this procedure meets the requirements of this indicator. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how the legal framework or other policies define procedures or processes for respecting and protecting the rights of non-Amerindian local communities.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.3 Structural Indicator to describe how the legal framework or other policies define procedures respecting and protecting the rights of Amerindians and the rights of non-Amerindian local communities.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to detail how provisions relating to rights being susceptible to being extinguished, or diminished, connect to procedures within the Act that meet the indicator. Several sections of the Amerindian Act are quoted to provide that connection and further detailing to better meet the indicator. The TRD and TMR clarifies that there is no communal ownership or legal framework or other policies for land ownership of non-indigenous peoples and in keeping with Guyana's laws this relates only to Guyana's Indigenous Peoples. Land management, procedures and processes for respecting and protecting the rights of non-Amerindian local communities have been further explained with respect to compliance with the Forest Act and Codes of Practice.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify the legal framework and procedures that promote the respect and protection of traditional rights of indigenous peoples, as outlined in the Amerindian Act, and describe the Amerindian Act as defining the roles "of the MoAA [Ministry of Amerindian Affairs], the Toshaos, Village Leaders, and villagers in implementing the mandate of the Act to protect the rights of indigenous Peoples." The TRD and TMR specifically reference Section 2 of the Act that defines Traditional Rights, Section 13 as outlining Functions of the Village Council, Section 14 as rights of the Village Council to make rules, including rules associated with several aspects related to human rights, and Section 16 as enforcement rights by the Village Council.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR do not identify the legal framework, policies or programs to respect, protect and fulfill human rights of indigenous peoples in Amerindian communities other than in titled villages. Clarification is requested to describe the legal framework that respects, protects, and fulfills the human rights of indigenous peoples in Amerindian communities other than in titled villages.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR describe the legal structure that governs non-indigenous community use of State Forest lands through leases. The TRD and TMR reference the GFC Act and Forest Act as legislating Codes of Practice for sustainable forest management on State Forest leases. The VVB understands these leases would be applicable to local communities engaged in Community Forest Associations. The VVB notes that review of the Forest Act Part 4, Section 35 substantiates the right of the GFC to propose a code of practice to regulate any class or description of forest operations. The VVB notes that the GFC Act and Forest Act do not define or provide specific guidance for respecting, protecting, or fulfilling local communities' human rights, but the VVB further notes that Forest Act, Section 11 generally identifies community forest management agreements including items to be considered by the GFC in granting community forest management agreements, with many of the items related to recognizing human rights of the local communities. The VVB was not able to locate information on the specific Codes of Practice that were referenced as applicable in demonstrating conformance with this indicator. Clarification is requested for the specific Codes of Practice that address this indicator, and please furnish the VVB with a copy of these Codes of Practice or identify the location of these codes within documents already provided to the VVB.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Clarification is made and supported by specific sections of the Amerindian Act that indeed this legislation covers both titled and untitled Amerindian Areas.</p> <p>For non Amerindian Areas, additional information has been provided on the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting citing specific sections, as well as the accompanying Guidelines for small concessions of which community forest management are a part.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the clarifications and additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, including additional support documents, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR identify the legal framework that was in place to respect, protect and fulfill human rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, in conformity with customary law, institutions, and practices as applicable and these are anchored in relevant domestic legal framework.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	37
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect and fulfil rights of indigenous peoples local communities, or equivalent throughout the implementation of the REDD+ actions, according to relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.3; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme C.3 Process Indicator, which are similar to the descriptions provided for the Theme C.2 Process Indicator. The TRD and TMR provide general statements that public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect traditional Amerindian rights and provide an example, when GFC implemented the EU FLEGT programme. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect, and fulfil rights of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.3 Process Indicator, describing how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect, and fulfil rights of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe how the MoAA and the GFC as public offices, have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect, and fulfil rights of Amerindian peoples and non-Amerindian local communities in the implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR describe the processes by which the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and GFC implement mandates to protect traditional rights, which are understood by the VVB from the Structural Indicator description provided by the Participant to include traditional knowledge. The VVB notes the continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process is identified as a means for implementing these mandates; the VVB notes that the continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process for indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities as described is consistent with the Process Indicators for Safeguard C.1 and C.2. The VVB further notes the governance structures described as in place identify means by which public institutions engage Amerindian villages and Community Forest Associations. The VVB notes that although not specifically referencing applicability to REDD+ actions, these structures and engagements are understood to broadly include REDD+ actions based on review of other support documents and interviews with representatives from GFC, Amerindian villages and community visited by the VVB, and Community Forest Associations.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference the EU FLEGT programme as having specific provisions made for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The TRD and TMR do not describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect indigenous peoples and/or local communities' rights in the implementation of specific REDD+ actions, including EU FLEGT. The VVB notes that review of a supporting document provided to the VVB, "EU_FLEGT-Report_2016.pdf" identified the following statement (page 11): "In addition, logs are extracted from sites that are sacred for Guyana's indigenous peoples which constitutes a breach of their customs. It was noted however, that in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process, consideration is being given to the use of land for traditional purposes. One participant expressed the view that the indigenous people are not ready for FLEGT licensing and that they need more time to deliberate on the process." The VVB notes that other supporting documents provided to the VVB regarding the EU FLEGT programme do not address how the program incorporates the respect and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Clarification is requested in the TRD and TMR regarding how for the EU FLEGT programme public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect and protect the rights of indigenous peoples and/or local communities in the implementation of this REDD+ action; please provide these supporting documents for VVB use or identify the specific document(s) previously provided to the VVB and locations within the document(s) where this information is located. Similar clarification is also requested for other REDD+ actions identified by the REDD+ Implementation Plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>

<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Additional details have been provided to explain the processes of the GFC specifically regarding REDD+ Actions such as EU FLEGT, MRVS and SFM. Additional evidence have been provided on EU FLEGT to given references to human rights being specifically provided for through the legality definition and the GTLAS; the long and detailed process of FLEGT has also been outlined to present the long term nature of the FLEGT process and one that is aimed at creating capacities, readiness and ownership by all main stakeholder groups. Further, greater alignment has been provided on REDD+ actions and the processes that are in place.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined clarification provided in the TRD and TMR identifies how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect and fulfill human rights throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB determined the descriptions provided are substantiated through supporting documents provided to the VVB.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>38</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent, have been identified and respected, protected and fulfilled in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme C.3; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries identifying two programs reported as involving indigenous peoples that were implemented to address land tenure and resource availability, identified in the TRD and TMR as enabling conditions for ensuring realization of human rights and fundamental freedom priorities central to REDD+ governance. The Amerindian titling program description identifies three goals, and the Amerindian development program provides a summary of general goals. The TRD and TMR identify and list a number of accomplishments achieved for these programs, which demonstrates that some outcomes may have been achieved. The TRD and TMR are not clear on which of these accomplishments were achieved during this crediting period. The TRD and TMR do not address local communities in this indicator.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the rights of indigenous peoples and non-Amerindian local communities have been recognized respected, and protected during the design and implementation of REDD+ actions and that any additional requirements under the Theme C.3 structural indicator have been met. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme C.3 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to clarify the time period of the listed accomplishments. The TRD and TMR have clarified that engagements on EU ELEGT and MRVS engage with both indigenous and non indigenous communities.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify specific outcomes and monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the rights of indigenous peoples and non-Amerindian local communities have been recognized respected, and protected during the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD has been updated to present an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART. The TMR has been updated to show progress on context-specific outcomes outlined in the TRD.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "Continuous engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on REDD+ Implementation". The VVB notes that the TRD identifies three primary REDD+ actions or activities along with the desired outcomes to be demonstrated. The VVB notes the TRD identifies several documents as the means for verifying monitoring information. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR provides a summary of monitoring for various aspects of the Amerindian Land Titling Programme and Amerindian Development Fund Programme. Review of supporting documentation and interviews with representatives from GFC, Amerindian Villages and Community visited by the VVB, and Amerindian NGOs substantiated representative achievements identified. The VVB notes the TMR does not present monitoring information or is clear where in the referenced documents the collected monitoring information is located for the remaining items identified as part of the outcome monitoring plan in the TRD. The TMR is not clear where the monitored data is located which would allow the VVB to verify conformance with this indicator. Clarification is requested, along with supporting documentation, that: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>Additional information has been provided in the TMR to specify the parts of the documentation on EU FLEGT and the ADF where rights of indigenous peoples and communities have been respected in REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TDR and TMR. The VVB has determined that clarification provided in the TMR demonstrates that the Participant has concluded development and implementation of its outcome monitoring plan for how verification will be achieved for how rights of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, have been identified and respected, protected, and fulfilled in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	39
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Participants have in place legal frameworks, policies or programs to respect, protect and fulfill the right of all relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively, including timely access and culturally appropriate information prior to consultations, and these are anchored in relevant ratified international conventions/agreements and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework; access is established to recourse mechanisms to ensure the participation process is respected.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme D.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme D.1 Structural Indicator by identifying the legal framework that is reported as outlining the levels and processes of public participation by stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders in the forestry sector. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how the legal framework or policies define procedures that recognize, respect, and protect the rights of relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme D.1 Structural Indicator to describe how the legal framework or policies define procedures that recognize, respect, and protect the rights of relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe how the legal framework or policies, define procedures that recognize, respect, and protect the rights of relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR describe the legal frameworks, policies, and programs in place to respect, protect and fulfill the right of all relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR provide specific references to procedures identified in the Iwokrama Act, the Amerindian Act, the Forest Act, and the Forest Policy Statement and Forest Plan, but does not provide specific references to procedures identified in the Protected Areas Act. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR reference Part IV of the Amerindian Act as containing information on the land titling process; the VVB noted a discrepancy based on review that indicated Part IV of the Act covers the National Toshias Council, although Part VI of the Act covers Grants of Communal Land to Amerindian Villages and Amerindian Communities. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference Specific Objective 4 of the Forest Plan and Policy Statement as outlining procedures for stakeholder engagement; the VVB notes that although Specific Objective 4 appears to address public education, this objective does not clearly outline procedures related to stakeholder participation in design and implementation of REDD+ actions, but notes Specific Objective 3 (specifically 3.2.1) identifies Stakeholder Engagement as a policy strategy for improving participation and transparency. The VVB notes review of the other referenced sections within the cited documents substantiates the legal framework in place as described in the TRD and TMR. Clarification is required regarding the Protected Areas Act reference and the discrepancies noted in the other referenced documents.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Sections in the Amerindian Act and the National Forest Policy have been adjusted. Information has been added on the Protected Areas Act.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the clarifications and additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, including support documents, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR identify the legal framework that was in place to respect, protect and fulfill the right of all relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions, including timely access and culturally appropriate information prior to consultations, and these are anchored in relevant domestic legal framework.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



# ASTER GLOBAL™

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

<b>Finding Number</b>	40
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect and fulfill the right to full, effective and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions, as indicated in relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme D.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme D.1 Process Indicator by identifying stakeholder consultations as being part of several REDD+ action-related activities, including the submission of Guyana's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC, the development of the EU FLEGT process, the EITI process, and the MRVS and FCPF processes. Site visit interviews and review of supporting documents substantiate the engagement of government, business sector, Amerindian, and community forest representatives for aspects of planning involving REDD+ activities.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe the processes or other means to ensure the procedures outlined under the Theme D.1 Structural Indicator are implemented throughout the design and implementation for the REDD+ actions and that any additional requirements identified under the structural indicator are met. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe the procedures and resources used by public institutions to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to full, effective, and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR reference the FCPF process within the description for D.1 Process Indicator, as well as the Theme B.3 Outcome Indicator, D.1 Outcome Indicator, and D2 Process Indicator. Information on the FCPF process does not appear to be among the support documents or evidence provided to the VVB.</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme D.1 Process Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p> <p>Please provide support documents or evidence for VVB review to substantiate assertions made in the TRD and TMR regarding the FCPF process that was reported as undertaken.</p>

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to clearly describe the processes used to ensure the procedures under this indicator are implemented throughout the design and implementation fo the REDD+ actions. Further, the TRD and TMR have also been updated to describe the procedures and resources used by public institutions to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to full, effective, and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. Information and reports on Guyana's FCPF engagements have been included that are relevant to this indicator.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings (02 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the Structural Indicator for D.1 within the TRD and TMR describes a domestic legal framework within four Acts and two Plans/Policies as outlining the levels and processes of public participation applicable to this indicator. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR now provide descriptions for the Process Indicator for the procedures and processes identified as used by GFC and the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to full, effective, and timely participation by relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR do not describe similar applicable processes for the agencies subject to the processes under the referenced Protected Areas Act or Iwokrama Act. Clarification is requested for identifying how the process is implemented for the mandates under the Protected Areas Act and Iwokrama Act, referenced in the D.1 Structural Indicator, in support of conformance with this indicator.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify support of the land titling process as part of the effective governance structures in place for procedures or processes used by public institutions to allow for the effective and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB notes that information presented in Amerindian Land Titling quarterly and annual reports covering the years 2016 through 2020 identified numerous concerns and challenges in completing activities to recognize, inventory, map, and secure (statutory and customary) rights to lands and resources on lands for which Amerindian villages and communities had submitted requests for titling, which has been determined to be relevant to the design and implementation of REDD+ actions for the crediting period. The VVB notes many of these concerns and challenges were identified, along with other concerns and challenges, in the "Mid-term Evaluation of the Amerindian land Titling Project in Guyana" document (November 2016) that reports on progress from October 2013 through October 2016, which overlaps with the first year of the crediting period. Clarification is requested in the TRD and TMR to identify, in light of these concerns and challenges, how the Amerindian land titling process conducted during the crediting period meets the Process Indicator requirement for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the right to full, effective and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The VVB offers an observation based on site visit interviews that the Participant may want to consider additional efforts to ensure the effective and timely participation by stakeholders from Amerindian villages and communities in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB's understanding from interviews and review of support documents is that changes in village leadership may result in loss of continuity for previous engagement and coordination efforts. The VVB also notes from site visit interviews with selected Amerindian Villages and Community that the process by which Amerindian Villages may "opt-in" to</p>

	national REDD+ programs, is not widely understood although this opportunity was discussed with Toshaos and some Villages in the past. The VVB acknowledges the program under ART-TREES was not in place during the crediting period, but notes this as an item to be evaluated more closely for the next crediting period.
<b>Round 2 MNCf/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings
<b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b>	Information has been added on the work of the Protected Areas Commission and the Iwokrama International Centre and their processes to implement the Protected Area Act and the Iwokrama Act respectively. Details have been added regarding the Project Unit responsible for Land Titling and its role in mainstreaming requests for titles as resolving issues, along with engaging with stakeholders as part of REDD+. The observation is noted regarding Opt In and the new LCDS 2030 had dedicated Chapter 2 to outlining the modalities for moving forward and this has been approved by the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee overseeing the LCDS, and a resolution passed by the National Toshaos' Council and has subsequently also approved by a resolution by Parliament.
<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b>	The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined clarification provided in the TRD and TMR identifies how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to respect, protect and fulfill the right to full, effective and timely participation in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB determined the descriptions provided are substantiated through supporting documents provided to the VVB.  Item closed.

<b>Finding Number</b>	41
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: Relevant stakeholders have participated fully, effectively and timely in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme D.1; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries identifying and describing a number of consultations on the REDD+ program between 2009 and 2020, with specific number of meetings, overall attendance numbers, and general stakeholder groups involved, which demonstrates that some outcomes have been achieved for this indicator during the crediting period.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that relevant stakeholders have participated fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions and that any additional requirements under the Theme D.1 structural indicator have been met. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. Without reference to an initial monitoring plan, the VVB is unable to determine to what degree this indicator may be met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme D.1 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to present clearly defined outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that relevant stakeholders have participated fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The TRD has been updated to present an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes. Additionally, the TMR has also been updated to present the initial plan for monitoring outcomes outlined in the TRD along with means of verification that demonstrate that Guyana has satisfactorily met the identified indicators for monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "Conducting of continuous engagement on REDD+". The VVB notes the TRD identifies stakeholder engagement for three primary REDD+ actions or activities along with the desired outcomes to be demonstrated. The VVB notes the TRD identifies several documents as the means for verifying monitoring information. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner for the REDD+ actions identified.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the</p>

	<p>initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR provides a summary of consultations on REDD+ conducted between 2009 and 2019. The VVB notes that for the crediting period, no consultations are identified in the TMR for 2016, 2017, 2018, or 2020. The VVB did not review or verify consultations reported for 2009 through 2015 based on these consultations occurring outside the crediting period under verification. The VVB notes from review of support documents and site visit interviews with stakeholder representatives that additional stakeholder engagement on REDD+ actions not reported in the TMR appears to have been conducted during the crediting period. Specifically, the VVB noted the following three discrepancies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The VVB notes from review of two support documents referenced and provided, MRVS Capacity Building and Stakeholder Report ("Report: Dialogue and Capacity Building on Guyana's MRVS", October 2018 and May 2021 reports) that additional stakeholder engagement meetings not reported in the TMR appear to have been conducted during the crediting period as reported for 2018 and 2020 respectively in these two documents; the VVB notes these documents provide descriptions for how relevant stakeholders participated fully, effectively, and timely in the design and implementation of the MRVS, an identified REDD+ action.</li> <li>2) The VVB notes from review of one support document referenced and provided, the FCPF Summary Consultation Report ("Final Evaluation Report of Stakeholder engagement", November 2019), there are discrepancies reported in the TMR for the number of workshops and cluster meetings held in 2019, and Regions in which these were held.</li> <li>3) The VVB notes from review of EU FLEGT consultation reports referenced and provided (Communications Consultant Monthly Report, specifically for those covering 2020) that stakeholder engagement meetings appear to have been conducted on EU FLEGT during 2020 but the reports did not clearly identify the nature or extent of the meetings; the VVB further notes the EU FLEGT reports do not appear to clearly identify how all relevant stakeholders participated fully, effectively, and timely in the design and implementation of this REDD+ action.</li> </ol> <p>Clarification is requested in the TMR to describe and demonstrate how engagement of relevant stakeholders on REDD+ would be considered continuous throughout the crediting period. The VVB is also requesting the Participant provide clarification in the TMR to identify the specific documents that provide the information documenting the data monitored for this indicator and to address the discrepancies noted.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR was updated to reflect the sessions which were held over the period 2016-2020, clearly outlining the purpose of the sessions, number of sessions held and participation rate, and the names of the reports in which these activities have been summarised.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information and clarification added by the Participant to the TMR. The VVB has determined that clarification provided in the TMR describes and demonstrate how engagement of relevant stakeholders on REDD+ would be considered continuous throughout the crediting period. The VV determined that the Participant has concluded development and implementation of its outcome monitoring plan for verifying how relevant stakeholders have participated fully, effectively and timely in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	42
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic legal framework recognizes, respects, and protects the respective rights to participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, or equivalent, through their respective decision-making structures and processes,<sup>21</sup> which requires appropriate procedures take place in a climate of mutual trust.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Documents- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme D.2; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme D.2 Structural Indicator, which are similar to the descriptions provided for the Theme D.1 Structural Indicator. The TRD and TMR identify the legal framework that is reported as outlining the levels and processes of public participation by stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders in the forestry sector. The TRD and TMR do not describe how the procedures described as part of Theme D.1 promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme D.2 Structural Indicator to describe how the procedures described as part of Theme D.1 promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe how the procedures described as part of Theme D.1 promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant REDD+ actions.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR describe the legal frameworks, policies, and programs in place to respect, protect and fulfill the right of indigenous peoples and local communities to participate fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR provide specific references to procedures identified in the Iwokrama Act, the Amerindian Act, the Forest Act, and the Forest Policy Statement and Forest Plan, but does not provide specific references to procedures identified in the Protected Areas Act. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR reference Part IV of the Amerindian Act as containing information on the land titling process; the VVB noted a discrepancy based on review that indicated Part IV of the Act covers the National Toshihaos Council, although Part VI of the Act covers Grants of Communal Land to Amerindian Villages and Amerindian Communities. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR reference Specific Objective 4 of the Forest Plan and Policy Statement as outlining procedures for stakeholder engagement; the VVB notes that although Specific Objective 4 appears to address public education, this objective does not clearly outline procedures related to stakeholder participation in design and implementation of REDD+ actions, but notes Specific Objective 3 (specifically 3.2.1) identifies Stakeholder Engagement as a policy strategy for improving participation and transparency. The VVB notes review of the other referenced sections within the cited documents substantiates the legal framework in place as described in the TRD and TMR. Clarification is required regarding the Protected Areas Act reference and the discrepancies noted in the other referenced documents.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>Sections in the Amerindian Act and the National Forest Policy have been adjusted. Information has been added on the Protected Areas Act.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the clarifications and additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, including support documents, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR identify the relevant domestic legal framework that recognizes, respects, and protects the respective rights to participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, or equivalent, through their respective decision-making structures and processes.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<b>Finding Number</b>	43
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: Design, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ actions were, where relevant, undertaken with the participation of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, including if applicable through FPIC, in accordance with relevant international and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework, and in accordance with their respective rights and decision-making structures and processes.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme D.2; interviews with GFC, Amerindian representatives, community forest group representatives, and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>The TRD and TMR present summaries identifying and describing a number of activities associated with REDD+ programs where indigenous communities and local communities were reported as participating. The TRD and TMR are not clear which of these activities occurred during the crediting period and which ones occurred prior to the crediting period.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant REDD+ actions were undertaken with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and that any other requirements identified under the structural indicator have been met. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. Without reference to an initial monitoring plan, the VVB is unable to determine to what degree this indicator may be met.</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme D.2 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant REDD+ actions were undertaken with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. The TRD has been updated to outline an initial plan for collecting monitoring information. Further, the TMR shows how the initial plan for monitoring the specific outcomes are met identifying mean of verification for each area.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "Projects on REDD+ addressing Land Tenure and Amerindian Development are implemented and receive required resource support". The VVB notes that the TRD identifies three primary REDD+ actions or activities along with the desired outcomes to be demonstrated. The VVB notes the TRD identifies several documents as the means for verifying monitoring information. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR continues to provide a general summary of planned activities for various aspects of the Amerindian Land Titling Programme and Amerindian Development Fund Programme over an unspecified timeframe, but no specific results are reported for the crediting period. The VVB also notes the TMR states indigenous peoples and local communities were engaged in initiatives on forest governance, but does not describe monitoring outcomes that would substantiate how, in accordance with the initial plan for collecting monitoring information described in the TRD, the Amerindian Land Titling Programme, the advancement of the MRV System for the forest sector, and the implementation of the EU FLEGT Programme were implemented in a manner such that planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of REDD+ actions were undertaken with the participation of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, including through FPIC.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD identifies implementation of the Amerindian Land Titling Programme to secure tenure for Amerindian Villages and Communities as part of the outcome to be monitored for conformance with this indicator. The VVB notes that information presented in Amerindian Land Titling quarterly and annual reports covering the years 2016 through 2020 identified numerous concerns and challenges in completing activities to recognize, inventory, map, and secure (statutory and customary) rights to lands and resources on lands for which Amerindian villages and communities had submitted requests for titling, which has been determined to be relevant to the design and implementation of REDD+</p>

	<p>actions, including through FPIC, for the crediting period. The VVB notes many of these concerns and challenges were identified, along with other concerns and challenges, in the "Mid-term Evaluation of the Amerindian land Titling Project in Guyana" document (November 2016) that reports on progress from October 2013 through October 2016, which overlaps with the first year of the crediting period. The VVB notes similar concerns and challenges were identified through review of other documents and through interviews conducted with representatives from Amerindian Villages and Community visited by the VVB, Amerindian NGOs, and Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.</p> <p>Clarification is requested, along with supporting documentation, that: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB is also requesting the Participant provide clarification in the TMR to identify the specific documents that provide the information documenting the data monitored for this indicator and to address the discrepancies noted. Clarification is also requested in the TMR to identify, in light of the concerns and challenges identified for the Amerindian Land Titling Programme during the crediting period, how the Amerindian Land Titling Programme results during the crediting period meet the outcome identified by the initial monitoring plan described in the TRD, including how this REDD+ action was undertaken with the participation of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, through FPIC.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNC/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been revised to pinpoint the specific outcomes for this period that relate to this safeguard. Focus has been made on three of the main REDD+ activities that have delivered context specific outcomes in this period: MRVS, EU FLEGT and FCPF REDD+ readiness.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information and clarification added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB has determined that clarification provided in the TRD and TMR describes and demonstrates how design, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ actions were, where relevant, undertaken with the participation of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent. The VVB determined support documents and interviews with representatives of government agencies, community forest associations, and Amerindian villages, substantiate the outreach efforts described for the participation of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent, particularly through their designated or elected representatives, in the design, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



# ASTER GLOBAL™

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

<b>Finding Number</b>	44
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Structural Indicator: Relevant domestic legal framework, policies and programs consistently define the term natural forests and other natural ecosystems, distinguishing them from plantations, describe the process for mapping the spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems, and policies or procedures are in place prohibiting the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems as part of REDD+ actions.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders

<p><b>Findings – Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for the Theme E.1 Structural Indicator.</p> <p>According to the TRD and TMR, the definition of forest is utilized as per the Forest Act which states “ Forest means an ecosystem dominated by woody plants consisting of closed forest formations where trees of various stories and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; or open forest with continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent and includes mangrove forests and any wetlands or open lands within a forest which forms an integral part of the ecosystem, forest produce in the ecosystem; and biological soil and water resources of the ecosystem.” However, the audit team noticed another definition in “Guyana SOP - Forest Change Assessment” document which states “Under the Marrakech Accords, Guyana has elected to classify land as forest if it meets the following criteria: Tree crown cover of minimum 30%, At a minimum height of 5m and Over a minimum area of 1 ha”. It is unclear to the audit team why such inconsistency occurs.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how the legal framework or policies distinguish natural forests from plantations.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR identify a minimum mapping unit of 1 hectare is utilized for mapping spatial distribution of natural forests by the GFC. The TRD and TMR do not identify how the legal framework or policies describe the process for mapping of other natural ecosystems.</p> <p>TRD and TMR provide identify several Acts and provide a general description regarding the protection of wildlife, endangered species, creating protected areas, and biodiversity conservation. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe any policies or procedures that prohibit the conversion of natural forests as part of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the inconsistencies in forest definition noted and provide documentation suitable to demonstrate conformance with this indicator;</li> <li>2) how Guyana's legal framework or policies distinguish natural forests from plantations;</li> <li>3) how the Guyana's legal framework or policies describe the process for mapping of other natural ecosystems; and</li> <li>4) policies or procedures that prohibit the conversion of natural forests as part of REDD+ actions.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been updated to detail the legal and supporting monitoring definition of forest where the minimum mapping unit is defined for spatial mapping purposes; the documents have also been updated to provide legal and procedural stipulations regarding natural and forest plantations with reference made to the National Forest Policy Statement; further details have been added to both the TRD and the TMR on Guyana's policies, processes and plans relating to mapping of other natural ecosystems; and policy and legal provisions that prohibit conversion of natural forests as part of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information provided in the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the Structural Indicator requires conformance with three items: 1) relevant domestic legal framework, policies and programs consistently define the term natural forests and other natural ecosystems, distinguishing them from plantations; 2) process described for mapping the spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems; and 3) policies or</p>

procedures are in place prohibiting the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems as part of REDD+ actions.

1) The VVB has determined the TRD and TMR do not clearly or consistently describe how relevant domestic legal framework, policies, and programs define the term "natural forest" or distinguish plantations from natural forests. The VVB notes that the revisions to the TRD and TMR omit the crown cover percentage portion of the forest definition provided in the Forest Act of 2009, specifically regarding (a)(ii) which is "open forest with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent;"

The VVB notes that although this full definition is not the definition provided in the main text TRD and TMR, this full definition from the Forest Act is provided in footnote 52 of the TRD and footnote 53 of the TMR. The VVB has reviewed and concurs that the operational forest definition listed in the TREES Registration Document is consistent with the most recent definition used by the national government in reporting to the UNFCCC. Specifically, the VVB confirmed documentation provided in the UNFCCC's "Report on the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level of Guyana submitted in 2014", which was provided as a hyperlink in Guyana's TREES RD (10/22/2021 version) Annex 3, Section 3.3. Within this UNFCCC technical assessment (TA), Sect. II (3) provides the following definition of forest: "33. Guyana provided in its submission the definition of forest used in the construction of the FREL, which is a minimum area of 1.0 ha, a minimum height of 5 m and a minimum tree canopy cover of 30 per cent." The VVB confirmed this definition is consistent with the forest definition provided for "operational and monitoring purposes" in the TRD and TMR. However, clarification is required in the TRD and TMR for the discrepancy noted in the use of an incomplete definition of "forest" cited as being from the Forest Act and the statement that the definition of "forests" in the Forest Act is consistent with the definition of "forests" applied in the national REDD+ programme.

The VVB notes the TRD and TMR state Guyana classifies land for operational and monitoring purposes as forest if it meets selected criteria for minimum area (1 ha), canopy cover (minimum 30%), and height of stand (minimum 5 m at maturity). The VVB notes these criteria do not distinguish natural forest from plantations. Clarification is requested in the TRD and TMR to describe how relevant domestic legal framework, policies and programs consistently define the term "natural forests" and other natural ecosystems, distinguishing them from "plantations".

2) The VVB has determined the TRD and TMR describe the process for mapping the spatial distribution of natural forests. The VVB notes the MRVS does not currently map or identify natural ecosystems other than forests, but the TRD and TRM state the Roadmap for the MRVS outlines plans to integrate other aspects of natural ecosystems within the MRVS within the next 5 years. The VVB notes the MRVS does not appear to include a category for or map the spatial distribution of plantation forests, but notes the TRD and TMR state, as substantiated by interviews with GFC representatives, that commercial forest plantations have historically been limited to a small area and no plantation projects were implemented during the crediting period.

3) The VVB has determined the TRD and TMR do not clearly or consistently describe the policies or procedures in place prohibiting the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems as part of REDD+ actions.

	<p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR state "Forest Regulations No. 2 of 2018 outlines in Section 15 (4): Limits on Cutting and Taking Forest produce and provides operational mandate for protecting against the conversion of natural forests." However, the VVB notes a discrepancy in that this cited section in the Forest Regulations document provided for VVB review does not appear to address conversion of natural forests but rather felling or killing of trees on a list of species included in "Schedule C". Clarification is requested for this discrepancy.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify the National Forest Policy Statement as the policy in place excluding plantation forests within Guyana's REDD+ application based on exclusion of plantation forests from Guyana's forest strategy, but identifies the planned future development of a National Forest Plantation Strategy. The VVB notes Policy Strategy 2.2.5 (Afforestation and Reforestation) within the National Forest Policy Statement does not appear to clearly identify this exclusion. The TRD and TMR do not address how the stated policy promoting afforestation and reforestation prohibit the conversion of other natural ecosystems through forest plantation development as part of REDD+ action. Clarification is requested to address these discrepancies.</p> <p>The VVB notes a discrepancy in the TRD and TMR regarding Part 1, Section 2 of the Forest Act cited as outlining the legislative and policy mandates including no conversion of natural forests for commercial timber harvesting, however this section appears to provide definitions and no information was found in this section regarding the stated legislative and policy mandates. Please provide clarification in the TRD and TMR for the appropriate location for the stated mandate regarding no conversion of natural forests for commercial timber harvesting.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR state Guyana used 1990-era satellite imagery to define the forest area per the selected definition. A vegetation map developed in 2001 (Ter Steege, 2001) from aerial photography classifies the defined vegetation types within the forest area. This classification has been retained and is used within the forest monitoring system.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and the TMR have been updated a follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarification has been provided that the MRVS indeed distinguishes between plantation and natural forests and reference is made to the section in the SOP for Mapping and in the Annual MRVS reporting to illustrate this.</li> <li>- The definition of forests in the Forest Act has been presented in full.</li> <li>- The Section regarding the Forest Regulations which is not context specific has been removed and instead Section 35 of the Forest Act has been further elaborated showing that the Code of Practice which Section 35 of the Forest Act brings into effect, outlines the type of harvesting legally allowed in Guyana and that is in keeping with SFM principles as reference in the Code.</li> <li>- Clarification has been provided that Section 2.2.5 of the National Forest Policy Statement 2018 which speaks to afforestation and reforestation, were these to be advanced, would first need to be part of an approved Strategy for Plantations. Reference to the fact that Plantations would need to be guided by a strategy is made in the Policy.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the clarifications and additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. Based on a review of the information provided, including support documents, the VVB has determined that the TRD and TMR describe how the legal framework or policies defines the term natural forests, distinguishing them from plantations, and defines procedures for mapping of natural forests. The VVB determined the TRD and TMR describe policies that prohibit the conversion of natural forests as part of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>45</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure the design and implementation of REDD+ actions considers information of spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems and avoids the conversion of these forests and other natural ecosystems, in line with relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework, policies and programs.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>TRD and TMR states "The Guyana Forestry Commission has exercised its mandate under the Forest Act for sustainable management of forest resources in Guyana. In doing so, REDD+ actions identified in Guyana's NDC have reflected an approach of maintaining Guyana as a High Forest Cover Low Deforestation rate country. "</p> <p>The TRD and TMR provide general statements on how processes outlined under the structural indicator are implemented and identify six NDC priorities reported as identified and pursued by Guyana. However, the TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure the design and implementation of REDD+ actions consider information of spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems and avoids the conversion of these forests and other natural ecosystems, in line with relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal framework, policies and programs.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings to describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure the design and implementation of REDD+ actions consider information of spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural habitats and avoids the conversion of these forests and other natural ecosystems.</p>

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide details on process which have been planned and were implemented on EU FLEGT, RIL, MRVS, SFM and low impact mining; these have been detailed to show how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure the design and implementation of REDD+ actions consider information of spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems and avoids the conversion of these forests and other natural ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information provided in the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure the design and implementation of REDD+ actions consider information of spatial distribution of natural forests and avoids the conversion of these forests. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR mention GFC consideration of the spatial distribution of other natural ecosystems as part of the design and implementation of REDD+ actions. The VVB notes the REDD+ actions described for this crediting period are associated with forested areas and do not identify conversion of non-forested natural areas. Review of supporting documents and interviews with representatives from GFC, other government agencies, and Community Forest Associations substantiates the design and implementation of REDD+ actions has considered information of spatial distribution of natural forests and other natural ecosystems and avoids the conversion of these forests and other natural ecosystems.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>46</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: REDD+ actions were designed and implemented avoiding the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.1; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide a similar description of Guyana's Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS), consisting of the Forest Area Assessment System and Forest Carbon Monitoring System that have been developed and which are utilized to collect data to track historical forest cover changes and emissions factors. According to MRVS reports, deforestation has been contained to 0.079% and there has been no conversion to plantation forests in Guyana. Guyana provided the VVB with supporting documentation for other monitoring conducted by various government agencies.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how the MRVS or other monitoring demonstrate that REDD+ actions did not result in the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. Without reference to an initial monitoring plan, the VVB is unable to determine to what degree this indicator may be met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme E.1 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to show how the MRVS result relate to the provision of an evidenced based, independently assessed system and thus indicator, to show that there is no conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations. The documents have been updated to outline a plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes. The TMR has been updated to demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring specific outcomes outlined in the TRD has been implemented.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "MRVS Implementation Reflecting Deforestation Rate below 0.1%". The VVB notes that the TRD identifies two means by which the REDD Secretariat will implement and track progress for this objective. However, while the VVB notes the Participant's defined context-specific outcome and initial monitoring plan would track overall deforestation rates, the TRD is not clear how this objective and monitoring plan would address how REDD+ actions were designed and implemented to avoid the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses. The VVB notes that separate findings for E.1 Structural Indicator address MRVS tracking of natural ecosystems other than forests as well as categorization and tracking of forest plantations. Clarification is requested for the TRD to identify how the stated outcome and initial monitoring plan address the Outcome Indicator requirement to demonstrate how REDD+ actions were designed and implemented avoiding the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR reports on the overall deforestation rate, however the TMR does not demonstrate how monitoring confirmed the design and implementation of REDD+ actions avoided the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses. Clarification is requested for the TMR to identify how the implemented monitoring plan demonstrates REDD+ actions were designed and implemented to avoid the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and the TMR have been updated a follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarification has been provided that the MRVS indeed distinguishes between plantation and natural forests and reference is made to the section in the SOP for Mapping and in the Annual MRVS reporting to illustrate this. This allows for the design and implementation of REDD+ actions were designed to avoid the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information and clarification added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB noted that clarification provided in the TRD and TMR describes and demonstrates how the MRVS was used as the basis for informing the design, and monitoring the implementation, of REDD+ actions for the crediting period. The VVB determined the TRD defines the desired context-specific outcome and presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB noted the MRVS Assessment Year 2020 Report (last year of crediting period under validation/verification) substantiates no afforestation activities had been reported to date. The VVB determined the TMR demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part, and that REDD+ actions during the crediting period were designed and implemented avoiding the conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems to plantations or other land uses.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	47
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic legal framework or policies identify priorities for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar lists in tabular format for international conventions/agreements Guyana has agreed to, and provide summaries for how these international conventions and agreements generally promote or have goals for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. The Standard also requires description of domestic legal framework providing similar function. The TRD and TMR do not identify the relevant domestic legal framework or policies for the Theme E.2 Structural Indicator to identify priorities for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme E.2 Structural Indicator to identify relevant domestic legal framework or policies for priorities for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify the relevant domestic legal framework for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information provided in the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR now describe relevant domestic legal framework or policies, as well as relevant ratified international conventions and agreements that identify priorities for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute. The VVB determined through review of supporting documents that the identified domestic and international framework are relevant in identifying priorities for the protection and conservation of natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to which REDD+ actions could contribute.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>48</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect and avoid adverse impacts on natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions, according to relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic legal frameworks, policies and programs.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions for mandates, procedures, and resources available to the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), Guyana Lands &amp; Surveys Commission (GL&amp;SC), Protected Areas Commission (PAC), and Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (WCMC) to protect and avoid adverse impacts on natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. The TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how these public institutions have made use of these in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings to describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to ensure that REDD+ actions are designed, implemented and monitored in a manner that incentivizes protection and conservation of the natural forest areas, biodiversity, and ecosystem services identified as priorities under the structural indicator.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to show how public institutions have made use of these in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information provided in the TRD and TMR. The VVB notes the TRD and TMR now describe how public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect and avoid adverse impacts on natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions, according to relevant domestic legal frameworks, policies and programs. The VVB determined through review of supporting documents and interviews with representatives from GFC and other government agencies that public institutions made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to protect and avoid adverse impacts on natural forest areas and natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions during the crediting period.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	49
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Outcome Indicator: REDD+ actions have promoted the protection of natural forest and other natural ecosystem areas, biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.2; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide a similar list of seven specific commitments proposed under Guyana's NDC that are aimed at protecting natural forest areas.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the REDD+ actions helped maintain the seven NDC commitments identified as priority areas or that any additional requirements were met. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. Without reference to an initial monitoring plan, the VVB is unable to determine to what degree this indicator may be met.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme E.2 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that the REDD+ actions helped maintain the NDC commitments identified. The TRD has been updated to present a plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes; the TMR has been updated to demonstrate that the plan for monitoring specific outcomes outlined in the TRD has been implemented.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "Guyana's REDD+ Actions proposed in Guyana's NDC are aimed at protecting natural forest areas, biodiversity and ecosystem services", with four specific REDD+ actions identified: sustainable management of forests, reduced impact logging, EU FLEGT, and MRVS. The VVB notes the TRD identifies initial monitoring goals and the means by which monitoring information and outcomes will be reported and demonstrated.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR summarizes how each of the four specific REDD+ actions were implemented during the crediting period in conformance with the initial plan, and identifies the support documents that provide information to substantiate the actions implemented. The VVB determined through review of supporting documents and interviews with representatives from GFC and other government agencies that the Participant has implemented the plan for monitoring and has demonstrated outcomes for the desired context-specific outcome during this crediting period.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>50</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>Structural Indicator: Relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic legal framework, policies and programs regulate the assessment of potential social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar general descriptions identifying Guyana as party to 33 international agreement, and that Guyana's current legal and institutional framework are in place for the protection and conservation of natural forests and biodiversity. The TRD and TMR do not clearly describe Guyana's current legal and institutional framework that regulate the assessment of potential social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR do not identify the governance arrangements and/or policies that identify priorities for the enhancement of social and environmental benefits to which the planned REDD+ actions can contribute.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme E.3 Structural Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to describe Guyana's current legal and institutional framework that regulates the assessment of potential social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions. The TRD and TMR also now include governance arrangements that identify priorities for the enhancement of social and environmental benefits to which the planned REDD+ actions can contribute.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The TRD and TMR describe procedures defined in two Acts as forming Guyana's framework to regulate the assessment of potential social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions: the EIA procedure established by the Environmental Protection Act; and provisions of the Amerindian Act. The VVB determined through review of supporting documents that the identified domestic and international framework are relevant and would provide for the assessment of potential social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions. Item Closed.</p> <p>The VVB is issuing an observation that Footnote 58 of the TRD and Footnote 59 of the TMR appear to be truncated and do not provide the full list of the referenced 33 international agreements. The VVB notes the Participant should review and address these potential typographical errors in the final documents.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>51</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have made use of mandates, procedures, and resources to assess social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions and to promote the enhancement of these benefits in the implementation of these actions, according to relevant ratified international conventions, agreements, and/or domestic and if applicable, subnational, legal frameworks, policies and programs.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR provide similar descriptions of procedures for conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and equivalent assessments for various sectors including mining and the forestry sector. The TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how these procedures were used to ensure the priorities outlined in the Theme E.3 Structural Indicator are or were considered during the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings to describe how the identified procedures were used to ensure the priorities outlined in the Theme E.3 Structural Indicator are or were considered during the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Please provide documentation for VVB review to demonstrate that these procedures have been used during the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to detail how the EIA procedures were used to ensure the priorities of this Indicator and were considered during the design, implementation, and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes the TRD and TMR identify several actions reported as undertaken by public institutions to engage stakeholders on REDD+ actions. However, the VVB notes that TRD and TMR do not clearly identify how the procedures identified in Theme E.3 Structural Indicator were used by public institutions to assess social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions and to promote the enhancement of these benefits in the implementation of these actions. Please provide clarification in the TRD and TMR for how the procedures identified in Theme E.3 Structural Indicator were used by public institutions to assess social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions and to promote the enhancement of these benefits in the implementation of these actions.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and the TRD have been updated to provide specific process that are in place from an institutional perspective to implement the structure in place. Details have been added on the MoAA and the Project Unit on Land Titling as well as on the GFC and the FLEGT Unit within the GFC.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined clarification provided in the TRD and TMR identifies how procedures identified in Theme E.3 Structural Indicator were used by public institutions to assess social and environmental benefits of REDD+ actions and to promote the enhancement of these benefits in the implementation of these actions. The VVB determined the TRD and TMR describe the procedures, processes, or other means to ensure the priorities outlined in the structural indicator were considered during the design, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ actions.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



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<b>Finding Number</b>	52
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Outcome Indicator: REDD+ actions have contributed to enhancing social and environmental benefits.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced for Theme E.3; interviews with GFC and other stakeholders
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>The TRD and TMR present similar summaries identifying and generally describing a number of positive social and environmental benefits reported to be relevant to REDD+. The TRD and TMR are not clear which of these benefits were delivered during the crediting period and which ones occurred prior to the crediting period.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR do not clearly define desired context-specific outcomes, specifically monitoring parameters to demonstrate that REDD+ actions will deliver or have delivered the social and environmental benefits in alignment with the priorities identified in the Theme E.3 Structural Indicator. The Standard requires, but the TRD does not present, an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of joining ART or sooner. The Standard requires, but the TMR does not present, demonstration that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or demonstrate that Guyana has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years of joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. Without reference to an initial monitoring plan, the VVB is unable to determine to what degree this indicator may be met.</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings for Theme E.3 Outcome Indicator for the TRD and TMR and in conformance with the indicator requirements for each.

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to clarify that the benefits outlined were delivered during the crediting period.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to outline specific outcomes and specify monitoring parameters to demonstrate that REDD+ actions will deliver or have delivered the social and environmental benefits. The TRD has been updated to outline a plan for collecting monitoring information. TMR has been updated to show how the plan for monitoring specific outcomes outlined in the TRD has been implemented.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings (02 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>For validation of the TRD, for the first five years after the Participant joins ART the VVB evaluates the description provided in the TRD to ensure the ART Participant: 1) defines the desired context-specific outcome(s); and 2) presents an initial plan for collecting monitoring information that can demonstrate outcomes starting within five years of the Participant joining ART or sooner. The VVB notes that the TRD and TMR identify the context-specific outcome as: "Social and Economic Benefits Accrue from REDD+ Project to local stakeholders". The VVB notes the TRD identifies initial monitoring goals and the means by which monitoring information and outcomes will be reported and demonstrated.</p> <p>For verification of the TMR, for the first five years after joining ART the VVB evaluates whether the evidence provided by a Participant: 1) demonstrates that the initial plan for monitoring the Participant-defined context-specific outcome(s) outlined in the TRD has been implemented, fully or in part; or 2) demonstrates that the ART Participant has concluded development of its outcome monitoring plan by the end of five years after joining ART and is ready to implement the plan. The VVB notes the TMR reports on the outcomes generated during the crediting period for the implemented measures. The VVB determined through review of support documents and interviews with representatives from GFC and other government agencies, Amerindian Villages visited, and Community Forest Associations, that the results presented in the TMR demonstrate implementation of the Participant's defined context-specific outcome. The VVB notes that full accomplishment of the Amerindian Titling Programme has not been accomplished, as addressed in separate findings for other Indicators, but the evidence reviewed supports this aspect of the context-specific outcome as outlined in the TRD has been implemented in part, which conforms to the requirement for this indicator under the Theme E.3 Outcome Indicator.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



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<b>Finding Number</b>	53
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Process Indicator: Public institutions have identified and integrated measures to address the risk of reversals in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ actions.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR both provide similar description for Theme 6.1. It is mentioned that MRVS integrates the risk of reversals. Additionally, few other regulations including Guyana Forestry Commission Act, States Land Act are sourced as a measure to tackle reversals and displacement. However, TRD and TMR do not clearly describe how those regulations, policies, and procedures are put in place to address the risk of reversals in design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessment of REDD+ actions.
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with findings and in conformance with the indicator requirements.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to detail how the MRVS integrates the risk of reversals. TRD and TMR have also been updated to describe how the regulations, policies, and procedures in place help to address the risk of reversals in design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessment of REDD+ actions.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here, as well as the additional information included in the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>TRD (page 78) and TMR (Page 86) state “At the institutional level, there are various mechanisms in place to enable the objectives outlined in the structural indicators to be met and these include:”. However, according to the methodology no structure indicators are developed for Safeguard F as these issues are broadly addressed by requirements in other sections of the Standard. Clarification is requested to specify the location in the TRD of the "structural" indicators referenced by the Process Indicator.</p> <p>Additionally, the VVB notes three mechanisms “1. Continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process, 2. Operational Governance Structures, and 3. Continuous Engagement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Government Ministries” at the institutional level. The VVB acknowledges these processes as identified in the TRD identify measures integrated into government agency procedures used to address risk of reversals. However, the VVB notes that the TMR make the same statements about these mechanisms, but does not provide specifics about the procedures, resources, or efforts in place, nor do they demonstrate how they are implemented during the crediting period.</p> <p>The VVB notes that TRD and TMR states “The FA addresses the issue of detection and reduction of forest fires.” However, the TRD and TMR are unclear how other drivers (like mining, infrastructure development, agricultural conversion, etc.) will be and have been taken into account to address the risk of reversal. According to the MRVS report, the VVB noted that these are the primary causes of deforestation in the project area. The VVB notes that several items associated with the Process Indicator for Safeguard A.2 appear to identify measures that address the risk of reversals from these drivers. Clarification is requested for why these items are not identified as such within the Process Indicator for Safeguard F.</p> <p>The TRD states “Aiming to contribute to global efforts to reduce emissions associated with deforestation and forest degradation, Guyana’s national REDD+ Implementation Plan will seek to recognise the need for integrated and comprehensive land use planning efforts that inform the efficient and sustainable management and exploitation of natural resources, including in addressing the risk of displacement of emissions in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ policies and measures”. However, the TMR does not specify to what extent this statement was actually implemented during the crediting period.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please clarify in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to outline the objective that the process indicator is seeking to achieve; the TMR has been updated to provide details of the processes outlined, being implemented and adds details on the resource and administrative structure of the process in implementation; clarification was provided as to why forest fires have been pinpointed of the other drivers; and details were added on initial steps taken through the GRIF project on Sustainable Land Management to commence work on land use planning, during the crediting period.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB confirmed the TRD and TMR have been updated which outlines the objective that the process indicator is seeking to achieve. The VVB determined that updated TMR provides details on procedures outlined and resource and administrative structure process in implementation during this and future crediting periods. The VVB confirmed the clarification provided addresses findings issued on drivers of deforestation and risk of reversal.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	54
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Process Indicator: Public institutions have identified and integrated measures to address the risk of displacement of emissions in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ actions.</p>
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	<p>TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised; TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; support documents referenced</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR both state "Guyana's legal framework provides measures to tackle reversals and displacement. This is done through the PAA and the FA, as well as through several policy instruments: NFPS, NFP, and LCDS. These efforts include enforcement. The FA addresses the issue of detection and reduction of forest fires". However, it is unclear from the TRD and TMR on how these policies and regulations address the risk of displacement of emissions.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with findings and in conformance with the indicator requirements.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to show how existing and regulations address the risk of displacement of emissions.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here, as well as the additional information included in the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The VVB notes three measures “1. Consultative Process in Implementing the National Forest Policy, Codes of Practice and the Forest Act, 2. National scale implementation of the MRV System utilising best practice and guidance, and 3. Continuous Engagement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Government Ministries” identified by public institutions to address the risk of displacement. The VVB acknowledges that while the TRD and TMR make general statements about measures, they do not provide specifics about the procedures, resources, or efforts in place, nor do they demonstrate how they are enforced.</p> <p>The TRD states “Aiming to contribute to global efforts to reduce emissions associated with deforestation and forest degradation, Guyana’s national REDD+ Implementation Plan will seek to recognise the need for integrated and comprehensive land use planning efforts that inform the efficient and sustainable management and exploitation of natural resources, including in addressing the risk of displacement of emissions in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ policies and measures”. However, the TMR does not specify to what extent this statement was actually implemented.</p> <p>TMD and TMR state “Post-2010 AD is based on practically wall-to-wall monitoring using high resolution RapidEye imagery”. However, the VVB notes the transition to the Sentinel imagery is reported as from 2015. Please provide clarification to document whether the Sentinel imagery was used during the crediting period.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please clarify in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to provide details of the processes outlined, being implemented and adds details on the resource and administrative structure of the process in implementation; and details were added on initial steps taken through the GRIF project on Sustainable Land Management to commence work on land use planning, during the crediting period. Additionally, correction was made on the period range for use of RapidEye imagery.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB confirmed the TRD and TMR have been updated which outlines the objective that the process indicator is seeking to achieve. The VVB determined that updated TMR provides details on procedures outlined and resource and administrative structure process in implementation during this and future crediting periods. The VVB confirmed that the changes made to TMR and TRD address the issues reported regarding the type and time frame of imagery.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



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<b>Finding Number</b>	55
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Double issuance occurs when more than one unique unit is issued for a single ERR, within the same program/registry or when more than one program/registry issues unique units for a single ERR. To mitigate the risk of double issuance, TREES requires the disclosure of any verified or issued emission reductions in the same accounting area, including credits from projects, which will be deducted from TREES issuance volume, checks of duplicate registration under other programs (including offset programs) and requirements for disclosure of other registrations, as well as for cancellation of the units on one registry prior to re-issuance on another.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>The TRD and TMR state "To prevent double use, Guyana will develop a system to document proof of ownership of emission credits upon registration, tracking the ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account, and conduct an annual verification of ownership and use. To address double issuance, Guyana will track all emission credits attributed to every accounting period, including credits from projects, which will be deducted from TREES issuance volume. The system will identify any case of duplicate registration under other programs (including project-based initiatives). These will be registered and disclosed, and any units that are cancelled will be reflected in all relevant registries."</p> <p>Note that the TRD and TMR both state "will". The TMR needs to state not "will" but rather it should describe "how" the system described was implemented to ensure double counting was prevented.</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCf/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF Please clarify if this was done for this monitoring period and include the details of its implementation in the monitoring report.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify how the existing systems in place in Guyana, largely centered on the MRV process, prevent double issuance.

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here, as well as the additional information included in the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>The first paragraph from “Double counting” in the updated TRD is unclear to the VVB. Additionally, clarification is requested on why the language from original TRD was revised.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR state "The system is able to identify any case of duplicate registration under other programs (including project based initiatives). These have been registered and disclosed and any units that are cancelled have been reflected in all relevant registries". How the system detects and records any instances of duplicate registration needs to be made clear, along with any relevant evidence that may be required.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR state "Double issuance has been avoided by Guyana’s with the effective implementation of the MRV system which utilizes a Tier 3 approach, which means forest losses are spatially tracked in a GIS and reported annually". Clarification is required, along with appropriate documentation, for how the system tracks credits issued by other registries.</p> <p>Similar to findings issued in #57 the VVB requests for clarification in TRD and TMR on carbon rights ownership in alignment with the understanding provided in Guyana’s Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018).</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please clarify in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to reflect the following: To address double issuance, Guyana is only using the ART Registry for issuance of credits and all emission credits that are attributed to every accounting period, (there have been no credits from projects in the crediting period 2016-2020). There were no sub national projects during the crediting period. The Government is the only entity issuing credits and no credits were issued for the crediting period. From checks conducted, Guyana has affirmed that no other databases has listed Guyana’s credits for sale, inclusive of the databases for the five major GHG crediting programs that have been approved by ICAO - ACR, ART, CAR, Gold Standard, Verra.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined that Guyana utilizes ART Registry for the issue of credits assigned to each accounting period. The VVB determined that there were no credits from projects during this crediting period. The VVB confirmed that no other databases have placed Guyana's credits for sale, including the databases for the five major GHG crediting systems certified by ICAO - ACR, ART, CAR, Gold Standard, and Verra. The VVB determined that the Participant has provided evidence of ownership at the time of issue and establishes a mechanism for monitoring ownership of credits inside the registry by serial number and account.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>



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<b>Finding Number</b>	56
<b>Val/Ver</b>	vv
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b>	Double use occurs when a unique unit is used twice, for example if it is 1) sold to more than one entity at a given time (also referred to as double selling) due to double issuance or fraudulent sales practices, 2) used by the same owner toward more than one obligation / target, or 3) paid for as a results-based payment and then also transferred or sold to another entity. Double use can also occur if the use of a unique issued unit is reported, such as towards NDC achievement or a CORSIA obligation, but the unit is not retired or cancelled.
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised
<b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b>	<p>The TRD and TMR state "To prevent double use, Guyana will develop a system to document proof of ownership of emission credits upon registration, tracking the ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account, and conduct an annual verification of ownership and use. "</p> <p>Note that the TRD and TMR both state "will". The TMR needs to state not "will" but rather it should describe "how" the system described was implemented to ensure double use was prevented.</p>
<b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please clarify if this was done for this monitoring period and include the details of its implementation in the monitoring report.
<b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b>	The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify how the existing systems in place in Guyana, largely centered on the MRV process, prevent double issuance.
<b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here, as well as the additional information included in the TRD and TMR. As stated in the TRD and TMR the VVB notes implementation of MRVS to avoid double use.</p> <p>Clarification is requested on where in the MRVS the tracking system for emission credits is located, along with documentation demonstrating the tracking system has been developed and is in place in accordance with the statement in the TMR.</p> <p>In addition, Guyana's NDC commitment or other entities needs to be clarified, and if credits were used, the TMR needs to include clear evidence of their cancellation or retirement.</p>
<b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	CL: Please clarify in line with the findings.

<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been revised to reflect: Guyana is only using the ART Registry for issuance of credits and all emission credits that are attributed to every accounting period, (there have been no credits from projects in the crediting period 2016-2020). There were no sub national projects during the crediting period. The Government is the only entity issuing credits and no credits were issued for the crediting period. From checks conducted, Guyana has affirmed that no other databases has listed Guyana’s credits for sale. No credits are used for meeting NDC commitments.</p> <p>Clarification has also been made that the MRV System and tracking through a national registry is a plan for the future.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings 27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined that Guyana utilizes ART Registry for the issue of credits assigned to each accounting period. The VVB confirmed that there have been no credits used for meeting NDC commitments.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>57</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0 August 2021</b></p>	<p>To prevent double use, TREES requires clear proof of ownership upon issuance and tracking of ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account. In addition, double selling will be prohibited through rules in the legal Terms of Use agreement to be executed by all ART Registry account holders, which will expressly prohibit double use of credits and prohibit the transfer of ownership of credits off-registry.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised</p>
<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1 (17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The Standard requires clear proof of ownership rights upon issuance by ART. The TRD and TMR templates require the Participate to provide a brief summary of the Participant’s rights to the ERR’s generated from the accounting area (regulatory frameworks, laws or administrative orders) or a description of how rights will be obtained in accordance with domestic law. The Validation and Verification Standard requires that the VVB evaluate whether the ART Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights. Section 6 of the TRD and TMR do not provide a clear description of the ERs to be issued by ART or demonstrate ownership rights to credits being requested to be issued by ART.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to show that carbon services are managed and administered at national level as outlined in the guiding principles of the National Forest Policy.</p>

<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings</b> 02 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided but notes the changes in the TRD and TMR do not provide the same phrasing as this response. The TRD and TMR both state in Section 9 (Double Counting), regarding the national MRV system: "This system is uniform and consistent as the National Forest Policy defines central ownership of all carbon rights at State/national level." The VVB has determined that the statements used in TRD and TMR Section 9 do not provide the same clear understanding provided in the response, or that is provided on page 14 of Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) which is also included in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR. Clarification is requested in TRD and TMR Section 9 to bring the statement regarding carbon rights ownership into alignment with the understanding provided in Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) and the response provided. Separate findings regarding ownership rights to ERs were provided by the VVB as Finding #59.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please provide Clarification within the TRD and TMR in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant</b> (12 September 2022)</p>	<p>The TMR and TRD were revised to reflect the response provided in Round 1 and the statements in the National Forest Policy. This was further supported by the LCDS 2030 Chapter 2, the approval of the approach to national issuance and engagement in the carbon markets by the Multistakeholder Steering Committee, the National Toshaos' Council and the National Assembly of Guyana. Evidence on each of these have been provided along with the publicly available links for accessing these.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> 27 September 2022</p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the clarification provided by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB has determined that the statements used in TRD and TMR Section 9 are consistent with the response provided, Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018), information provided in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR, and documents provided in support of Section 6. The VVB determined the Participant has demonstrated proof of ownership upon issuance and identifies a system for tracking of ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>

<p><b>Finding Number</b></p>	<p>58</p>
<p><b>Val/Ver</b></p>	<p>vv</p>
<p><b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> August 2021</p>	<p>Double claiming occurs when the same ERR is used by two or more entities (e.g. Parties to the Paris Agreement, aeroplane operators under CORSIA, corporate voluntary buyers) to meet climate change mitigation obligations, targets, pledges, commitments or efforts, including international transfers under the Paris Agreement towards achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and transfers for use by aeroplane operators under the ICAO CORSIA, or when voluntary market transfers are counted toward both corporate buyer pledges and supplier country NDCs. ART Participants may authorize transfers of TREES Credits for compliance purposes to buyers outside of the Participant's country by submitting a Host Country Letter of Authorization to ART<sup>23</sup> and subsequently applying an accounting adjustment in biennial transparency reports to the UNFCCC. <sup>24</sup> At present, voluntary market transactions do not require corresponding adjustments.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Used to Assess</b></p>	<p>TREES-Monitoring-Report-Guyana Revised Submission Oct 2021; TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016-2020 Revised</p>

<p><b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR state "To safeguard against double claiming, Guyana will maintain a system that documents, in such cases, the transfer and sale of emissions credits whether for third party NDC commitments, or trading scheme. If credits were to be used for reporting on Guyana's NDC commitments, these will also be documented and treated as required by the Standard. "</p> <p>Note that the TRD and TMR both state "will". The TMR needs to state not "will" but rather it should describe "how" the system described was implemented to ensure double claiming was prevented.</p>
<p><b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please clarify if this was done for this monitoring period and include the details of its implementation in the monitoring report.</p>
<p><b>Round 1 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TRD and TMR have been updated to identify how the existing systems in place in Guyana, largely centered on the MRV process, prevent double claiming.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1</b> <b>Response Review and</b> <b>Round 2 Findings</b> <b>02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here, as well as the additional information included in the TRD and TMR. However, clarification is requested on why the language from original TRD was revised.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR state: "To safeguard against double claiming, Guyana has maintained a system that documents, in such cases, the transfer and sale of emissions credits whether for third party NDC commitments, or trading scheme." The TRD does not clearly identify the system and documentation of implementation of this system is not provided within the TMR.</p> <p>The TRD and TMR state, "If credits were to be used for reporting on Guyana's NDC commitments, these are documented and treated as required by the Standard. This process is managed within the ART Registry in part, and within the national MRVS when credit issuance commences and reported as part of Guyana's Biennial Transparency Report to the UNFCCC". Please provide clarification whether credits were used for reporting on Guyana's NDC commitment or for other entities. If any credits were used, please provide clarification of the transfer and sale of emissions credits in the TMR. Clarification is requested on where in the MRVS the tracking system for claiming of emission credits is located, along with documentation demonstrating the tracking system has been developed and is in place in accordance with the statement in the TMR.</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>CL: Please clarify in line with the findings.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from</b> <b>Program Participant</b> <b>(12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been revised to reflect: Guyana is only using the ART Registry for issuance of credits and all emission credits that are attributed to every accounting period, (there have been no credits from projects in the crediting period 2016-2020). There were no sub national projects during the crediting period. The Government is the only entity issuing credits and no credits were issued for the crediting period. From checks conducted, Guyana has affirmed that no other databases has listed Guyana's credits for sale. No credits are used for meeting NDC commitments. This process is managed within the ART Registry.</p> <p>Clarification has also been made that the MRV System and tracking through a national registry is a plan for the future.</p>

<b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided here and the additional information added by the Participant to the TRD and TMR. The VVB determined that Guyana utilizes ART Registry for the issue of credits assigned to each accounting period. The VVB determined that no credits were used to fulfill NDC commitments. and future plan of using MRVS and national registry for tracking.</p> <p>Item closed.</p>
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<b>Finding Number</b>	59
<b>Val/Ver</b>	val
<b>Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program</b> <b>The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0</b> <b>August 2021</b>	6. Description of ownership rights to ERs to be issued by ART
<b>Evidence Used to Assess</b>	TREES-Registration-Document- Guyana 2016 - 2020 Revised
<b>Findings - Round 1.1</b> <b>(17 June 2022)</b>	<p>Section 6 of the TRD references the Guyana Forestry Commission Act 2007 and the Forest Act 2009 as the two national legislations outlining the national ownership and mandate of forest areas in Guyana and including forest goods and forest carbon services, and the TRD states this assertion is further supported by Guyana's National Forest Plan and Policy. Section 6 of the TRD does not clearly identify how, under existing constitutional or legal frameworks, carbon rights and/or related intangible property interests, are established and addressed for lands under different types of state, private, or indigenous peoples land ownership. The Information provided with TRD Safeguards Theme A.1 states the GFC manages the "12.5 million hectare" State Forest Estate, which does not include the full Accounting Area identified as 18,001,790 hectares reported in TRD Section 4 as constituting 100% of the National Forest. The TRD does not clearly identify any agreements in place or that will be in place, for the transfer of TREES rights or benefit allocation arrangements with landowners / resource rights holders that exist between the Participant and project owners, landowners and/or other collective rights holders (including indigenous peoples and other traditional communities).</p> <p>The Standard requires a description of ownership rights to ERRs to be issued by ART. The TRD template requires the Participate to provide a brief summary of the Participant's rights to the ERR's generated from the accounting area (regulatory frameworks, laws or administrative orders) or a description of how rights will be obtained in accordance with domestic law. The Validation and Verification Standard requires that the VVB evaluate whether the ART Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights. Section 6 of the TRD does not provide a clear description of the ERs to be issued by ART or demonstrate ownership rights to credits being requested to be issued by ART.</p>
<b>Round 1.1</b> <b>MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b>	MNCF: Please address in line with the findings.

<p><b>Round 1 Response from Program Participant (02 July 2022)</b></p>	<p>Section 6 in both the TRD and TMR have been updated to outline the structure of forest distribution across Guyana, details on policy guidance on carbon management and administration, and commitments made for benefits sharing in Guyana's LCDS.</p>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 1 Response Review and Round 2 Findings 02 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the additional information provided in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR.</p> <p>Section 6 of the TRD and TMR identify Guyana's National Forest Policy as outlining the national ownership and mandate of forest areas in Guyana, and further state this includes forest goods and services including forest carbon services. The VVB confirmed that the policy cited from page 14 of Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) and included in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR states:</p> <p>"Forest Carbon Services – Guyana shall advance engagement to secure payment for forest carbon and other ecosystem based services from global, bilateral and market based mechanisms for areas relating but not limited to emissions trading. Forest Carbon Services shall be managed and administered at the national level and shall cover all forest areas. The Guyana Forestry Commission will be responsible for the coordination and management of this initiative and will liaise closely with relevant Government and Non-Governmental stakeholders in doing so."</p> <p>The VVB has reviewed Guyana's National Forest Policy Statement (2018) and determined the policy quoted from page 14 establishes the national policy for GFC to coordinate and manage the national policy for coordinating forest carbon services at the national level and that this policy covers all forest areas. The VVB determined implementation of this policy was substantiated through the review of supporting documents and through interviews with GFC personnel and other stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the VVB has determined that this cited policy does not establish or demonstrate ownership rights to all the lands from which the ERs are being claimed by the Participant in the TRD and TMR. Section 15 of the TMR currently identifies Titled Amerindian lands as included within the lands from which ERs are being claimed. However, page 8 of Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) states:</p> <p>"Guyana's National Forest Policy (NFP) will guide the administration and management of forested areas on State Lands, which includes the State Forests as well as the inland waterways, protected areas, and research areas. It does not apply to private property and Amerindian Titled Lands. However, the Policy can accommodate the participation of indigenous communities once options are developed to facilitate the genuine participation of Amerindian Titled Lands."</p> <p>The VVB's understanding from review of support documentation provided, including the Amerindian Act (2006) and Forests Act (2009), as well as based on results of interviews with GFC staff, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs staff, several Indigenous NGOs, and representatives from Amerindian villages and communities visited during the site visit, is that the trees and associated carbon rights for those trees on titled Amerindian lands would belong to the titled Amerindian village.</p> <p>The table provided in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR identifies 2,298,000 ha of Forest on Titled Amerindian Lands, with this same amount of titled Amerindian</p>

	<p>lands also included in the table in Section 15 of the TMR identified as part of the "Total Forest Area Eligible for ART ERR Jurisdictional Application". The TRD and TMR do not identify how much of the forested areas on Amerindian titled lands can be included for ERs to be issued by ART based on agreements executed with individual Amerindian villages holding the ownership rights to those lands. The VVB has not been provided with documentation demonstrating which Amerindian villages have consented to include their titled lands or otherwise have executed agreements with GFC to participate by enrolling forested areas on their titled lands within the ART program.</p> <p>The TREES Standard requires the Participant to provide a description of ownership rights to ERs to be issued by ART. The VVB has determined that Section 6 does not contain a full description of the ownership rights to the ERs to be issued by ART.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 MNCF/mNCF/Obs/CL</b></p>	<p>MNCF: Please address in line with the findings. Please provide documentation (executed agreements) for Amerindian titled land to establish rights to ERs to be issued by ART for these titled lands.</p>
<p><b>Round 2 Response from Program Participant (12 September 2022)</b></p>	<p>The TMR and TRD have been updated to highlight and evidence the following: Guyana's National Forest Policy outlines the national ownership and mandate of forest areas in Guyana and includes forest goods and services including forest carbon services.</p> <p>Page 8 of Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) states: "Guyana's National Forest Policy (NFP) will guide the administration and management of forested areas on State Lands, which includes the State Forests as well as the inland waterways, protected areas, and research areas. It does not apply to private property and Amerindian Titled Lands. However, the Policy can accommodate the participation of indigenous communities, once options are developed to facilitate the genuine participation of Amerindian Titled Lands." Further, Page 14 of the policy sets out the following: "Forest Carbon Services – Guyana shall advance engagement to secure payment for forest carbon and other ecosystem based services from global, bilateral and market based mechanisms for areas relating but not limited to emissions trading. Forest Carbon Services shall be managed and administered at the national level and shall cover all forest areas. The Guyana Forestry Commission will be responsible for the coordination and management of this initiative and will liaise closely with relevant Government and Non-Governmental stakeholders in so doing." Since 2009, Guyana has participated in national scale action involving the participation of all forested lands.</p> <p>The TMR and TRD have been updated to reflect how this participation continued throughout the period 2016-2020 as evidenced by the carbon and SOI indicators covered by this report.</p> <p>The issue of participation in the sharing of the benefits from this participation was assessed after the release of the ART-TREES HFLD module in August 2021. After August 2021, support for participation in sharing the benefits of the period 2016-2020 was evidenced through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The release of a draft LCDS 2030 in October 2021, inclusive of proposals relating to participation in ART-TREES for the period 2016-2020 which were set out in Chapter 2 (Guyanas-Low-Carbon-Development-Strategy-2030.pdf (lcds.gov.gy)</li> <li>- Seven months of national consultation on the draft LCDS 2030 (originally</li> </ul>

	<p>this was to be three months of consultation, but this was extended following requests from stakeholders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Release of an updated LCDS 2030 in July 2022, incorporating input from the seven month national consultation, inclusive of updates to the proposals relating to ART-TREES</li> <li>- Endorsement of the updated LCDS 2030 by the national body representing elected village Toshias (National Toshias' Council, NTC) at their conference in July 2022 (Endorsement of LCDS 2030 by the National Toshias' Council – LCDS)</li> <li>- Approval of the Draft LCDS 2030 by the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC Approves Finalisation of LCDS 2030 – LCDS) of the LCDS 2030,</li> <li>- Approval of the LCDS 2030 by Parliamentary Resolution in August 2022 (Parliamentary Resolution – LCDS 2030 – LCDS).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aster Global Round 2 Response Review and Round 3 Findings</b> <b>27 September 2022</b></p>	<p>The VVB acknowledges the response provided and the additional information provided in Section 6 of the TRD and TMR, and the additional supporting documents provided as evidence.</p> <p>To assess conformance against TREES requirements, the VVB considered the following:</p> <p>1) TREES Validation and Verification Standard (December 2021) [TREES V&amp;V Standard] Section 3.3 requires validation of "Ownership Rights to TREES Credits", specifically through the requirement: "The VVB evaluates whether the ART Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights. The VVB validates the completeness of the description but does not validate the legality of the claims to the credits."</p> <p>The VVB reviewed TRD Section 6 and determined the Participant has provided a description of its rights to TREES credits. The VVB determined the TRD provides a brief summary of the regulatory framework, based on Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) [Policy Statement], that identifies (on page 14) the Participant's rights to manage and administer forest carbon services at the national level, covering all forest areas, and to engage to secure payment for forest carbon services. Based on review of the Policy Statement, the VVB determined that this Policy Statement (on page 8) provided evidence, supported by other documents provided, that the Participant has clear ownership rights to TREES Credits on State Lands. The VVB determined the Policy Statement (on page 8) states that Guyana's National Forest Policy does not directly apply to the administration and management of forest areas on Amerindian Titled Lands and private property, including forest goods and services including forest carbon services, but the Policy Statement further identifies the opportunity for participation of Amerindian Titled Lands.</p> <p>The VVB reviewed the description provided for the plan to obtain rights to TREES credits for Amerindian Titled Lands for the crediting period, specifically through the participation identified as an opportunity for Amerindian Titled Lands under the Policy Statement (page 8). Evidence reviewed included: 1) the Resolution of the National Toshias Council Conference: Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, dated July 15, 2022; 2) LCDS sections specifically referencing the ART program, and involvement of indigenous villages and forest-based communities. The VVB determined the TRD identifies Chapter 2 (pages</p>

35 to 46) of the new LCDS 2030 as providing the approach to ART-TREES and the benefit-sharing mechanism, inclusive of the period 2016-2020. The VVB determined the national approach to the mechanism for the sale of forest climate services provided in the LCDS 2030 is consistent with Guyana's Revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018), specifically regarding the policies that "Forest Carbon Services shall be managed and administered at the national level and shall cover all forest areas" and "[t]he Guyana Forestry Commission will be responsible for the coordination and management of this initiative and will liaise closely with relevant Government and Non-Governmental stakeholders in doing so." The VVB noted the National Toshihos Council referenced previous endorsement of the LCDS 2009, including forest carbon credit framework and the resulting revenues financing programs benefiting Amerindian peoples, and the Endorsement specifically welcomes the proposal to move to a second phase for accessing forest carbon financing to continue the approach outlined in LCDS 2009. The VVB determined that the endorsement of the National Toshihos Council for the LCDS 2030 contains specific provisions consistent with the description provided by the Participant in Section 6 of the TRD that identifies the endorsement as evidence for support for LCDS 2030 by the NTC on behalf of Indigenous Communities and Titled Amerindian Villages.

The VVB noted the cited LCDS 2030 and National Toshihos Council Endorsement identify specific plans available for participation by Amerindian and other communities, and identify the benefit allocation arrangement consisting of the percentage of revenue from the sale of ART-TREES credits that would be allocated to the resource right holders under these plans in addition to funds from the national share of revenue. The VVB noted the TRD does not provide the specific details on these plans or allocation arrangement, but provides a summary and cites the LCDS 2030 and National Toshihos Council endorsement and provides an embedded link to these and related documents where the details can be found.

Review of the TRD, TMR, and associated MRVS determined that state lands and Amerindian Titled Lands, but no private property was included in the forest cover inventory or accounting area for ART TREES, and therefore no credit rights or plan to obtain such rights for private property is required for this crediting period.

In summary, the VVB determined the Participant provided a complete description of its rights to TREES credits, including the legal basis for establishing these credits. The VVB determined issuing an "Observation" is appropriate for this item.

Per TREES V&V Standard Section 3.6.3.4, an Observation is an issue identified by the audit team that does not have objective evidence to constitute a nonconformance but may lead to one in the future. The VVB noted that because endorsement of the National Toshihos Council for the LCDS 2030 is a key consideration used in substantiating the Participant's rights to manage and administer ERs to be issued by ART that are derived from titled and untitled Amerindian land, any changes to this endorsement by the National Toshihos Council would require reassessment to determine how the changes could affect the Participant's rights. Although no concerns are currently identified by the VVB, the status of National Toshihos Council continued endorsement warrants ongoing consideration due to its importance so it is being made an observation.

2) TREES V&V Standard Section 3.4 requires "Verification of ownership rights to ERRs to be issued by ART", specifically through the requirement: "The VVB verifies that the ART Participant has provided a description of its rights to the TREES credits or plan to obtain rights and verifies that any changes since

the last TREES document submission have been included. The VVB does not assess the legality of the claims to the credits."

The VVB reviewed TMR Section 6 and determined the Participant has provided a description of its rights to TREES credits. The VVB determined the description provided in TMR Section 6 is the same provided in TRD Section 6 and that no changes were identified regarding rights to TREES credits. The VVB determined no changes have occurred based on this being the initial crediting period under ART-TREES and the TRD being submitted concurrently with the TMR. The VVB notes that findings presented for the validation of ownership rights in Section 6 of the TRD would be applicable to verification of similar items for Section 6 of the TMR.

3) Based on review of TREES Standard Section 2.5, the VVB understands decisions regarding issuance of TREES credits is based on the recommendation of the Secretariat to the ART Board, and approval by the ART Board.

In summary, the VVB has determined the Participant has provided a description in Section 6 of both the TRD and TMR for its rights to the ERs to be issued by ART. The VVB issued an Observation that the participant may choose to respond to or elect not to respond.

Item closed.

## Appendix D – List of Documents Received and Reviewed by Aster Global

Name	Received
10TH MONTH - 12 February - 11 March 2021	2/4/2022
10TH MONTH - 12 February - 11 March 2021	2/4/2022
10TH MONTH - 12 February - 11 March 2021	2/4/2022
10TH MONTH - 12 February - 11 March 2021	2/4/2022
10TH MONTH - 12 February - 11 March 2021	2/4/2022
11TH MONTH - 12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2021	2/4/2022
11TH MONTH - 12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2021	2/4/2022
11TH MONTH - 12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2021	2/4/2022
11TH MONTH - 12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2021	2/4/2022
11TH MONTH - 12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2021	2/4/2022
12TH MONTH - 12 APRIL - 11 MAY 2021	2/4/2022
12TH MONTH - 12 APRIL - 11 MAY 2021	2/4/2022
12TH MONTH - 12 APRIL - 11 MAY 2021	2/4/2022
12TH MONTH - 12 APRIL - 11 MAY 2021	2/4/2022
12TH MONTH - 12 APRIL - 11 MAY 2021	2/4/2022
1ST MONTH - 11 May - 11 June 2020	2/4/2022
1ST MONTH - 11 May - 11 June 2020	2/4/2022
1ST MONTH - 11 May - 11 June 2020	2/4/2022
1ST MONTH - 11 May - 11 June 2020	2/4/2022
1ST MONTH - 11 May - 11 June 2020	2/4/2022
44473	1/28/2022
44497	1/28/2022
44505	11/5/2021
44533	2/4/2022
44551	1/28/2022
44594	2/4/2022
44609	2/18/2022
44612	3/21/2022
44614	2/22/2022
44615	3/21/2022
44616	3/21/2022
44627	3/17/2022
44628	3/8/2022
44631	3/21/2022
44637	3/17/2022
44639	3/21/2022
44642	3/22/2022
44643	3/23/2022

44644	3/24/2022
44649	3/29/2022
44656	4/5/2022
44659	4/8/2022
44665	4/18/2022
44671	4/20/2022
44683	5/3/2022
44693	9/23/2022
44711	9/23/2022
44744	7/7/2022
44768	9/23/2022
44816	9/13/2022
44817	9/23/2022
44828	9/24/2022
44831	9/30/2022
44834	9/30/2022
2ND MONTH - 12 June - 11 July 2020	2/4/2022
2ND MONTH - 12 June - 11 July 2020	2/4/2022
2ND MONTH - 12 June - 11 July 2020	2/4/2022
2ND MONTH - 12 June - 11 July 2020	2/4/2022
2ND MONTH - 12 June - 11 July 2020	2/4/2022
3RD MONTH - 12 July - 11 August 2020	2/4/2022
3RD MONTH - 12 July - 11 August 2020	2/4/2022
3RD MONTH - 12 July - 11 August 2020	2/4/2022
3RD MONTH - 12 July - 11 August 2020	2/4/2022
3RD MONTH - 12 July - 11 August 2020	2/4/2022
4TH MONTH - 12 August - 11 September 2020	2/4/2022
4TH MONTH - 12 August - 11 September 2020	2/4/2022
4TH MONTH - 12 August - 11 September 2020	2/4/2022
4TH MONTH - 12 August - 11 September 2020	2/4/2022
4TH MONTH - 12 August - 11 September 2020	2/4/2022
5TH MONTH - 12 September- 11 October 2020	2/4/2022
5TH MONTH - 12 September- 11 October 2020	2/4/2022
5TH MONTH - 12 September- 11 October 2020	2/4/2022
5TH MONTH - 12 September- 11 October 2020	2/4/2022
5TH MONTH - 12 September- 11 October 2020	2/4/2022
6TH MONTH - 12 October - 11 November 2020	2/4/2022
6TH MONTH - 12 October - 11 November 2020	2/4/2022
6TH MONTH - 12 October - 11 November 2020	2/4/2022
6TH MONTH - 12 October - 11 November 2020	2/4/2022
6TH MONTH - 12 October - 11 November 2020	2/4/2022



Biomassplots	3/29/2022
Carbon tool Biomass plots	3/22/2022
Carbon tool Biomass plots-20220310T184746Z-001	3/22/2022
Communication Reports - EU FLEGT	2/4/2022
Communication Reports - EU FLEGT	2/4/2022
Communication Reports - EU FLEGT	2/4/2022
Communication Reports - EU FLEGT	2/4/2022
Communication Reports - EU FLEGT	2/4/2022
Contract ammendments	2/4/2022
DataRequest_Audit_17_03_2022	3/21/2022
DegradationAnalysis_Final	4/8/2022
Documents requested_RemoteSensing_Audit	3/22/2022
EITI Reports	2/4/2022
EITI Reports	2/4/2022
EITI Reports	2/4/2022
Evidence - Round 1-1	7/7/2022
Explanatory notes	3/21/2022
Final_Deg_Buffers.gdb	4/8/2022
Finding 1	7/7/2022
Finding 13	7/7/2022
Finding 16	7/7/2022
Finding 23	7/7/2022
Finding 26	7/7/2022
Finding 28	7/7/2022
Finding 29	7/7/2022
Finding 32	7/7/2022
Finding 41	7/7/2022
Finding 44	7/7/2022
Finding 53	7/7/2022
From Program System	11/5/2021
GFC_Toolbar_GEE_Link	3/22/2022
GRIF reports	2/4/2022
HPFC	3/22/2022
ICT	2/4/2022

LCDS 2030 Consultation Reports	2/4/2022
LPFC	3/22/2022
Mapping Toolbar	3/22/2022
MPFC	3/22/2022
MSE	2/4/2022
No cost Extensions	2/4/2022
OLD DOCS LISTS	4/21/2022
Original_Shp_reformatted.gdb	4/8/2022
Other Docs used by VVB	8/3/2022
Phase 1	2/4/2022
Phase 1	3/22/2022
Phase 2	2/4/2022
Phase 2	3/22/2022
Plot data for Aster.zip	7/7/2022
Preparation documents	2/4/2022
Protected Areas Trust Reports	2/4/2022
Protected Areas Trust Reports	2/4/2022
Re_Field_verification_exercise	3/21/2022
Rechecks	3/22/2022
Reports	2/4/2022
RIL Reports	2/4/2022
RIL Reports	2/4/2022
spatial_data.gdb	3/22/2022
spatial_data.gdb	3/22/2022
spatial_data_03_08_2022.gdb	3/22/2022
Start Forest Area 2021	3/22/2022
Start_Forest_Area_Shapefile	3/22/2022
Stratification Map	4/6/2022

Stratification Map-20220405T183715Z-001	4/6/2022
Technical Report on MRVS Areas	2/4/2022
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