International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

Application Form for Emissions Unit Programmes

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SECTION I: ABOUT THIS ASSESSMENT

Background

ICAO Member States and the aviation industry are implementing the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). Together with other mitigation measures, CORSIA will help achieve international aviation's aspirational goal of carbon neutral growth from the year 2020.

Aeroplane operators will meet their offsetting requirements under CORSIA by purchasing and cancelling CORSIA eligible emissions units. The ICAO Council determines CORSIA eligible emissions units upon recommendations by its Technical Advisory Body (TAB) and consistent with the CORSIA Emissions Unit Eligibility Criteria (EUC).

In March 2019, the ICAO Council unanimously approved the CORSIA Emissions Unit Eligibility Criteria for use by TAB in undertaking its tasks¹. TAB's assessment of emissions units programmes is undertaken annually². ICAO Council decisions that take account of these recommendations are contained in the ICAO Document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units*³.

ICAO invites emissions unit programmes⁴ to apply for the third cycle of assessment by the TAB, which will involve collecting information from each programme through this programme application form and supplementary materials and requested evidence.

Through this assessment, the TAB will develop recommendations on the list of eligible emissions unit programmes (and potentially project types) for use under the CORSIA, which will then be considered by the ICAO Council.

This form is accompanied by, and refers to, Appendix A "Supplementary Information for Assessment of Emissions Unit Programmes", containing the EUC and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation. These EUC and Guidelines are provided to inform programmes' completion of this application form, in which they are cross-referenced by paragraph number.

This form is also accompanied by Appendix B "Programme Assessment Scope", and Appendix C "Programme Exclusions Scope", which request all applicants to identify the programme elements⁵ they wish to submit for, or exclude from, TAB's assessment.

CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units Programmes must also complete Appendix D of this application, "Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation" in line with the instructions contained in Appendix D.

Recommendations from 2020 TAB assessment: https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB2020.aspx

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¹ Available on the ICAO CORSIA website: https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx

² Recommendations from 2019 TAB assessment: https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB2019.aspx

³ Available on the ICAO CORSIA website: https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx

⁴ "Emissions Unit Programme", for the purposes of TAB's assessment, refers to an organization that administers standards and procedures for developing activities that generate offsets, and for verifying and "issuing" offsets created by those activities. For more information, please review the TAB FAQs on the ICAO CORSIA website: https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB.aspx

⁵ At the "activity type" level (e.g., sector(s), sub-sector(s), and/or project "type(s)")

Applicant organizations are strongly encouraged to submit this information by the deadline for submitting all other application materials for the current assessment cycle.

This form also requests *evidence of programme procedures or programme elements*. These evidentiary documents enable TAB to a) confirm that a given procedure or program element is *in place*, b) more fully comprehend the programme's summary responses, and c) archive the information as a reference for potential future assessments.

Programme responses to this application form will serve as the primary basis for the assessment. Such assessment may involve e.g. clarification questions, live interview(s) with TAB, and a completeness check of the application, as further requested.

Translation: The working language of the assessment process is English. Translation services are not available for this process. If the programme documents and information are not published in English, the programme should <u>fully describe in English</u> (*rather than summarize*) this information in the fields provided in this form, and in response to any additional questions. Where this form requests *evidence of programme procedures*, programmes are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to provide these documents in English, to provide for accuracy and comprehension. Where this is not possible due to time constraints or document length, the programme may provide such documents in their original language <u>in a readily translatable format</u> (e.g., Microsoft Word). Those programmes that need to translate documents prior to submission may contact the ICAO Secretariat regarding accommodation.

Disclaimer: The information contained in the application, and any supporting evidence or clarification provided by the applicant including information designated as "business confidential" by the applicant, will be provided to the members of the TAB to properly assess the programme and make recommendations to the ICAO Council. The application and such other evidence or clarification will be made publicly available on the ICAO CORSIA website for the public to provide comments, except for information which the applicant designates as "business confidential". The applicant shall bear all expenses related to the collection of information for the preparation of the application, preparation and submission of the application to the ICAO Secretariat and provision of any subsequent clarification sought by the Secretariat and/or the members of the TAB. Under no circumstances shall ICAO be responsible for the reimbursement of such or any other expenses borne by the applicant in this regard, or any loss or damages that the applicant may incur in relation to the assessment and outcome of this process.

SECTION II: INSTRUCTIONS

Submission and contacts

A programme is invited to complete and submit the form, including accompanying evidence and with required appendices, through the ICAO CORSIA website no later than close of business on **18 February 2021**. Within seven business days of receiving this form, the Secretariat will notify the programme that its form was received.

If the programme has questions regarding the completion of this form, please contact ICAO Secretariat via email: officeenv@icao.int. Programmes will be informed, in a timely manner, of clarifications provided by ICAO to any other programme.

Form basis and cross-references

Questions in this form are derived from the CORSIA emissions unit eligibility criteria (EUC) and any *Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation* introduced in Section I (above). To help inform the programme's completion of this form, each question includes the paragraph number for its corresponding criterion or guideline that can be found in <u>Appendix A "Supplementary Information for Assessment of Emissions Unit Programmes"</u>.

Application Form completion

The programme is expected to respond to all questions in this application form at the time of application submission. TAB cannot initiate its assessment of applications in which this information is not provided in full as requested in this section. Failure to provide complete information may result in delays to the application's assessment.

A "complete" response involves three components: 1) a written summary response, 2) selection of the "YES" check box if a procedure is fully *in place*, and 3) supporting evidence. Information is also requested, as in "4)" below, where an applicant is considering or undertaking revisions to a programme procedure in question.

- 1) Written summary responses: The programme is encouraged to construct written summary responses in a manner that provides for general comprehension of the given programme procedure, independent of supporting evidence. TAB will confirm each response in the supplementary evidence provided by the programme. Please note that written summary responses should be provided in all cases—supporting evidence (described in *c*) below) should not be considered as an alternative to a complete summary response.
- 2) <u>"YES" check box</u>: Each question is accompanied by a check box for the programme to indicate the status of a given procedure or programme element. Here, programmes should accurately represent the status of its procedures and programme elements. Please note that an unselected check box does not, in itself, disqualify an application from further assessment; it will be taken into account when TAB reviews the programme's accompanying information.

The programme should select the "YES" check box if a procedure or element is in place.

The programme *should not* select the check box in the following instances:

a) The procedure in question is *not relevant to the programme's application* (if, e.g., the question applies to activity(ies) that the programme is not submitting for assessment, or an alternative

- approach is taken to the procedure or element in question). In such cases, please provide justification in the written summary response.
- b) The procedure in question is not yet in place, but the programme is planning to introduce such a procedure. In such cases, please describe any such plans in the written summary response, according to form instructions.
- c) The procedure in question *is not in place*. In such cases, please provide justification in the written summary response.
- 3) <u>Supporting evidence</u>: Most questions in this form request *evidence of programme procedures or programme elements*. Such evidence may be found in programme standards, requirements, or guidance documents; templates; programme website or registry contents; or in some cases, in specific methodologies. To help manage file size, the programme should limit supporting documentation to that which directly substantiates the programme's statements in this form.

Regarding such requests for evidence, programmes are expected to substantiate their responses in any of these ways (**in order of preference**):

- a) web links to supporting documentation included along with the written summary response to each given question; with instructions for finding the relevant information within the linked source (i.e. identifying the specific text, paragraph(s), or section(s) where TAB can find evidence of the programme procedure(s) in question);
- b) copying/pasting information directly into this form (no character limits) along with the written summary response;
- c) attaching supporting documentation to this form at the time of submission, with instructions for finding the relevant information within the attached document(s);

EXAMPLE of preferred approach to providing supporting evidence that could meet expectations for complete responses to a question:

"The Programme ensures its consistency with this requirement by requiring / undertaking / etc. the following:

[Paragraph(s) introducing and summarizing specific programme procedures relevant to question]

The full contents of these procedures can be found fashionable [Document title, page X, Section X, paragraphs X-X]. This document is publicly available at this weblink: [weblink]."

- 4) <u>Programme revisions</u>: Where the programme has any plans to revise the programme (e.g., its policies, procedures, measures, tracking systems, governance or legal arrangements), including to enhance consistency with a given criterion or guideline, please provide the following information in response to any and all relevant form question(s):
 - a) Proposed revision(s);
 - b) Process and proposed timeline to develop and implement the proposed revision(s);

c) Process and timeline for external communication and implementation of the revision(s).

Application and assessment scope

The programme may elect to submit for TAB assessment all, *or only a subset*, of the activities supported by the programme. The programme is requested to identify, in the following Appendices, the activities that it wishes to submit for, or exclude from, TAB's assessment:

In <u>Appendix B "Programme Assessment Scope"</u>, the programme should clearly identify, at the "activity type" level (e.g., sector(s), sub-sector(s), and/or programme/project "type(s)"), elements that the programme *is* submitting for TAB's assessment of CORSIA eligibility; as well as the specific methodologies, protocols, and/or framework(s) associated with these programme elements; which *are* described in this form.

In <u>Appendix C "Programme Exclusions Scope"</u>, the programme should clearly identify, at the "activity type" level (e.g., sector(s), sub-sector(s), and/or programme/project "type(s)"), any elements the programme *is not* submitting for TAB's assessment of CORSIA eligibility, which *are not* described in this form; as well as the specific methodologies, protocols, and/or framework(s) associated with these programme elements.

Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation

In <u>Appendix D "Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation"</u>, the programme should provide the information relating to programme registry functionality that is referred to in the attestation and its attachment._Both the programme representative of an emissions unit programme, and the administrator or authorized representative of the registry designated by the programme, should review and attest to the accuracy of this information and their acceptance of the terms, preferably at the time of application.

"Linked" certification schemes

This application form should be completed and submitted exclusively on behalf of the programme that is described in Part I of this form.

Some programmes may supplement their standards by collaborating with other schemes that certify, e.g., the social or ecological "co-benefits" of mitigation. The programme can reflect a linked scheme's procedures in responses to this form, where this is seen as enhancing—i.e. going "above and beyond"—the programme's own procedures.

For example, the programme may describe how a linked scheme audits sustainable development outcomes; but is not expected to report the linked scheme's board members or staff persons.

Programmes should clearly identify any information provided in this form that pertains to a linked certification scheme and/or only applies when a linked certification scheme is used.

Disclosure of programme application forms and public comments

Applications, including information submitted in Appendices B, C, and D, as well as other information submitted by applicants will be publicly available on the ICAO CORSIA website, except for materials which the applicants designate as business confidential.

The public will be invited to submit comments on the information submitted, including regarding consistency with the emissions unit criteria (EUC), through the ICAO CORSIA website, for consideration by the TAB in its assessment.

SECTION III: APPLICATION FORM

PART 1: General information

A. Programme Information

Programme name: REDD.plus Platform

Administering Organization⁶: Coalition for Rainforest Nations. Rainforest Nations provides the overall governance

for REDD.plus. The REDD+ Mechanism was created under and is administered by the UNFCCC

Official mailing address: 1401 Vanderbilt Ave

Telephone #: 1-646-448-6870

Official web address: www.redd.plus

B. Programme Administrator Information

Full name and title: Kevin Conrad

Employer / Company (if not programme): Coalition for Rainforest Nations

E-mail address: kevin@cfrn.org Telephone #:1-646-448-6870

C. Programme Representative Information (if different from Programme Administrator)

Full name and title: Paul DeNoon

Employer / Company (if not Programme): Coalition for Rainforest Nations

E-mail address: p.denoon@cfrn.org Telephone #: cell: 1-201-213-8109

D. Programme Senior Staff / Leadership (e.g., President / CEO, board members)

List the names and titles of programme's senior staff / leadership, including board members:

⁶ Name of the business, government agency, organization, or other entity that administers the Emissions Unit Programme, *if different from "Programme Name"*.

Coalition for Rainforest Nations Senior Staff:

Kevin Conrad, Executive Director

Federica Bietta, Managing Director

Mark Grundy, Director, Marketing & Communications

Paul Chung, Director, Funding

Paul DeNoon, Director, Carbon Markets & Policy

George Aposporos, Director, Technology Platforms

Leo Massai, Legal & Policy Director

Thelma Krug, Acting Director, Country Technical Advice

Board of Directors Members:

Dr. Geoffrey Heal, Chairman, Professor of Social Enterprise and International and Public Affairs, Columbia University **Kevin Conrad**, Executive Director CfRN

Federica Bietta, Managing Director, CfRN

Ruben Kraiem, Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP

Mark Grundy, Director of Marketing & Communications Coalition for Rainforest Nations, Formerly Head of Global Marketing at Rocky Mountain Institute. Joined CfRN Staff in November and will be replaced on External Board

Mr. Cristobal Sequeira, former Minister of the Environment, Nicaragua

Mr. Thomas Negints, former Minister of Environment, Papua New Guinea

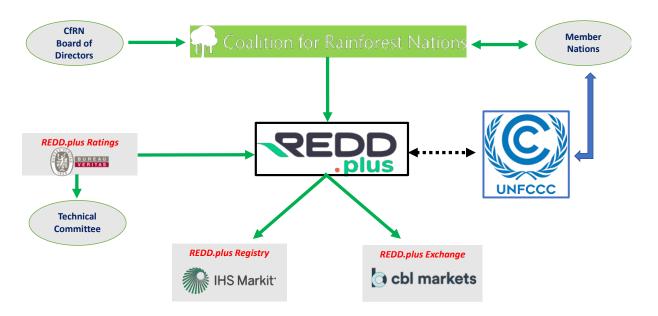
Mr. Eduardo Reyes, former Department Director of Environment, Panama

Provide an organization chart (in the space below or as an attachment) that illustrates, or otherwise describes, the functional relationship a) between the individuals listed in D; and b) between those individuals and programme staff / employees; and c) the functions of each organizational unit and interlinkages with other units.

Governance of and is governed REDD+ Mechanism.

- The CfRN is a hybrid, both NGO (US registered 501c3) and Inter-Governmental Organization https://www.rainforestcoalition.org/
 - o Its 50 participating nations comprise the vast majority of world's rainforests
 - o It is a recognized negotiating group under the UNFCCC
 - CfRN member nations introduced the <u>REDD+ concept in 2005 at COP11</u> in Montreal, and the CfRN has been the leading voice in creating the guidance, modalities and implementation procedures approved at COP meeting over the past 15 years. https://unfccc.int/documents/4046
 - REDD.plus thus serves in the interest of those countries who have and will make the efforts needed to slow stop and reverse deforestation
 - A good history of the REDD+ Mechanism and the CfRN can be found the CfRN's 2019 Annual Report https://www.rainforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CfRN_Annual_Report_2019-web.pdf
- The Board of Directors of the CfRN is the ultimate governing authority of both the Coalition and REDD.plus, and also oversees the operations and regulations of the Registry and Exchange
- The **Member Nations** of the CfRN help drive the negotiating strategy at COP meetings and the CfRN provides technical advice to the countries on creating a national GHG inventory and implementing a REDD+ program. Member Nations also work closely with the UNFCCC on the REDD+ programs, with the UNFCCC providing verification of reference levels and emissions results, recognizing the reductions as REDD+ Results and posting them on the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub.
 - The <u>National Focal Point</u> from the individual country on the REDD.plus Platform will manage their country's RRUs, determining when to create RRUs and the price at which they offer and eventually sell their emission reductions
 - o https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties/national-focal-points/national-focal-points-of-parties-to-the-unfccc
- The UNFCCC administers the **REDD+ Mechanism** which creates the REDD+ Results which REDD.plus converts into RRUs. There is ongoing interactions between Member Nations on the UNFCCC. REDD.plus will are report all retirements of RRUs/REDD+ Results to the UNFCCC to ensure their proper accounting and prevent double counting
- The <u>Technical Review Board</u> of REDD.plus reviews advises on any changes proposed or approved at COP meetings to the REDD+ Mechanism, oversees and works to enhance the RRU Ratings scheme, and reviews how countries are implementing REDD+ decisions and addressing recommendations received under the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA).
- The REDD.plus Registry was created to track the life-cycle of RRUs and is administered by IHS/Markit
- The REDD.plus Exchange was created for end-buyers of RRUs and is administered by CBLMarkets
- The REDD.plus Rating System will be administered by <u>Bureau Veritas</u>

REDD.plus Organizational Chart



PART 2: Programme summary

Provide a summary description of your programme

The mission of REDD.plus is simple; unlock financing for the largest emissions reduction program to preserve and restore the planet's rainforests at scale

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) is a critical initiative for the preservation and restoration of the planet's rainforests and for tackling the climate emergency this decade. It is a Paris Agreement-mandated mechanism that covers 90% of the planet's rainforests and around 65 rainforest countries. Launched by Coalition for Rainforest Nations under the - the pioneering not-for-profit organization behind REDD+mechanism - REDD.plus is a unique registry and exchange platform. It offers REDD+ emission reductions issued by governments of rainforest countries based on and only after a country has successfully slowed or stopped deforestation at national level. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) oversees the MRV system for all emission reductions from a country's conservation work - which are directly linked to the country and the global carbon budget. Once registered by the UNFCCC on the REDD+Info Hub, the carbon credits are made available for purchase on the REDD.plus registry.

ICAO members can help stop deforestation on a global scale with REDD.plus. With access to nationally issued carbon credits netted at a country scale (not privately developed REDD+ projects, jurisdictional or sub-national programs) they can purchase carbon credits or REDD+ Reduction Units (RRUs) which are impactful, have high atmospheric integrity and transparency on pricing; and 90% of the proceeds will go directly to funding further national efforts to protect rainforests.

We highlight relevant agreements reflected in ICAO Resolution A40-19 with regard to UNFCCC Mechanisms:

- Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement and acknowledging its principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances;
- Recognizing that the work related to CORSIA and its implementation will contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC;
- Whereas the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement provide for mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and a new market mechanism under the Paris Agreement, to contribute to the mitigation of GHG emissions to support sustainable development, which benefit developing States in particular;
- Welcoming the cooperation between the UNFCCC and ICAO on the development of CDM methodologies for aviation;
- Recognizing that this Resolution does not set a precedent for or prejudge the outcome of negotiations under the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, or other international agreements, nor represent the position of the Parties to the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, or other international agreements;
- 20. Recalls its decision at the 39th Session the emissions units generated by mechanisms established under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement are eligible for use in CORSIA, provided that they align with decisions by the Council, with the technical contribution of TAB and CAEP, including on avoiding double counting and on eligible vintage and timeframe;

Updates since our last application

We are excited to reapply to ICAO for the CORSIA program and provide an update on the advances made by our participating countries under the **REDD+ Mechanism** as well as the additions to our independent review processes of **REDD.plus**. We learned much from the last ICAO review and are pleased with the progress made since 2019. This application also hopefully provides a clearer explanation of the power and integrity of the **REDD+ Mechanism**

- Highlights for the REDD+ Mechanism
 - Acceleration in countries implementing REDD+ since early 2018:
 - 12 additional countries have submitted FRLs, bringing the total to 50 submissions
 - 6 additional countries have posted REDD+ results posted on the UNFCC, bringing the total to
 10
 - The UNFCCC has completed 23 more technical assessments, bringing the total to 45
 - Unfortunately, the payment for these efforts from developed governments is still woefully inadequate. If this doesn't change, countries will have no incentive for to take the actions needed to preserve and restore rainforests.
 - In December, the REDD+ Mechanism celebrated its fifth anniversary since being formalized in the Paris Agreement.
- Highlights for *REDD.plus*
 - The REDD.plus and REDD+ Result Units (RRUs) were introduced to the world in 2019 at COP-25 in Madrid
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge2MQAHQTPs&t=8s
 - o **REDD.plus** will celebrate its second anniversary in March 2021
 - o A ratings system has been developed for RRUs. It is based upon 54 indicators covering the key dec
 - The first retirement of RRUs was recently completed using emissions reduction generated from Papua New Guinea's REDD+ program
 - Ghana has signed an MOU and its *REDD.plus* and RRUs will be created from its REDD+ Results once they complete MRV under the **REDD+ Mechanism** and are registered on the REDD+ Info Hub.
 - Many other countries are participating in the 'on-boarding' process

REDD. plus is Unique in the Carbon Credit Markets

- We only sell carbon credits issued by national governments generated under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism.
- RRUs are the **only** carbon credits from emissions reduction program negotiated under an international convention, formalized in the Paris agreement and approved by 192 countries
- Full compliance with **ALL** elements of the Paris Agreement
- The measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of these emissions reductions is consistent with modalities that less developed countries use in reporting their overall mitigation efforts under the Paris Agreement. This affords a seamless integration of international transfer of credits into a countries NDCs, thus avoiding double counting
- All retirements of reported to UNFCCC

Defining the REDD+ Mechanism and REDD.plus

- The UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism: Is the program that provides the guidance, modalities/methodologies and implementation procedures for measuring, reporting and verifying the nationally issued emission reductions from preserving and restoring rainforests. The elements of the REDD+ Mechanism were approved at various COP meetings, using the recommendations from the standing subsidiary bodies (SBSTA & SBI) and Ad Hoc working groups, and are based on IPCC guidance and guidelines.
- REDD.plus Platform: With the approval of the national government, REDD+ Results (emissions reductions and removals) posted to the UNFCCC REDD+ Hub will be serialized, and their lifecycle tracked. The REDD.plus Registry, managed by IHS/Markit will be electronically linked to the REDD.plus Exchange run by CBL Markets. Xpansive CBL will be running the Aviation Carbon Exchange.

Critical Documents and Websites on the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism

The following documents and websites provide information on how the **REDD+ Mechanism** was developed and what the current requirements are to generate credits from emission reductions under this program

- "Key decisions relevant for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries", UNFCCC
 - Commonly referred to and "<u>Decision Booklet REDD+"</u>, it contains the 16 key decision which created the REDD+ Mechanism
 - Going forward we will simply refer to this as the "Booklet"
 https://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/application/pdf/compilation_redd_decision_booklet_v1.1.pdf
- "The Paris Agreement"
 - o https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english paris agreement.pdf
- UNCCC REDD+ Web Platform
 - o The website was mandated in 2007 at COP 12 in Bali
 - The three key pages are:
 - Fact Sheets providing background and documentation on the REDD+ Mechansim
 - Submissions countries post their documents on the 4 fundamental elements of a REDD+ program and their Biennial Update Report
 - Info Hub posts the actual emissions reductions or REDD+ results and supporting documentation once a country has fully completed the REDD+ process and their emissions reductions have been approved by the UNFCCC Secretariat
 - https://redd.unfccc.int

o "Handbook of Measurement, Reporting and Verification for Developing Countries", UNFCCC

- "Provides an overview of the full packages of decisions adopted in the international negotiations concerning measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) provisions for developing nations under the Convention"
- o Pages 51-54 discusses the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+ Activities
- This document provides insight into how the REDD+ Mechanism is part of a countries overall efforts to measure, report and verify its efforts to mitigate GHG emissions
 - https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom_/application/pdf/non-annex_i_mrv_handbook.pdf
- UNFCCC Website "REDD+ Documents"
 - Provides links to and the Technical Papers, Synthesis Reports and Workshops and Expert
 Meetings that are the foundation of the REDD+ Mechanism
- o REDD.plus Registry
 - https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

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Quick overview of the RRU process

- 1. Create Nationally Issued and UNFCCC REDD+ Results:
 - National governments create REDD+ Results employing the methods for measurement, reporting and verification approved in 16 decisions at multiple COP meeting and formalized in the Paris Agreement.
 - National REDD+ programs and emission reductions are assessed, validated and verified by third parties chosen from a roster of UNFCCC approved experts in LULUCF
- 2. Transform REDD+ Results into REDD+ Results Units (RRUs)
 - o The national government of rainforest nation signs an agreement with *REDD.plus*
 - o The *REDD.plus Registry,* operated by IHS/Markit, serializes each ton of REDD+ Results, thus turning them into a carbon credit (REDD+ Result Unit or RRU) that can be bought and retired.

- 3. Rate RRUs
 - A ratings system was developed by the CfRN in consultation with experts in REDD+ and the UNFCCC that will be independently administered by Bureau Veritas
- 4. Purchase and retirement of RRUs
 - o can be done on either the CBL platform or directly with REDD.plus
- 5. Track and transparently report the lifecycle of each RRU
 - will be done by the Registry
- 6. Integrate the RRUs into country NDCs and include their international transfer into the Global Carbon Budget
 - Using the information from the Registry, REDD.plus will report to the UNFCCC fulfilling all the requirements under an internationally traded mitigation outcome (ITMO) under the relevant COP decisions around transparency, market-based instruments, and double counting

What activities are covered under the REDD+ Mechanism

- 1. Reducing emissions from deforestation
- 2. Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- 3. Conservation of forest carbon stocks
- **4.** Sustainable management of forests
- **5.** Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

The Simple Logic of Nationally Issued Forest Carbon Credits

As negotiated and enshrined in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, the **REDD+ Mechanism** clearly and unequivocally vests the authority for measuring and reporting emissions reductions from forest activities with national governments, not projects or jurisdictional REDD+ programs. Sub-national programs are allowed only as an "interim step" to a national program. The REDD+ label was never intended to be used for individual projects.

- Advantages of nationally issued and UNFCCC verified emission reductions over project-based and subnational credits:
 - o Complies with all elements of the Paris Agreement
 - Ensures that there is no double counting of emission reductions by creating a seamless integration into a country's NDCs and therefore the global carbon budget
 - Eliminates leakage within a country and prevents "cherry picking" done by sub-national or jurisdictional programs
 - Increased cost efficiencies by reducing the overhead of managing and marketing numerous individual projects, thus a higher percentage of profits can go back to those responsible for the emission reductions
 - Recognizes that conserving the country's entire rainforest and tackling the drivers of deforestation requires governments actions to create and enforce land tenure and land-use regulations
 - o Creates the scale needed to address the problem on a cost-efficient basis
- REDD.plus enhances these benefits by:
 - Providing the transparency on price, volume and use of proceeds, thus boosting the confidence of buyers
 of carbon credits that they are paying the right price and their money is making a difference
 - Creating a ratings system for RRUs to enable buyers to differentiate on price, thus incentivizing countries to improve their REDD+ programs without creating an artificial barrier to entry

What activities are covered under the REDD+ Mechanism

- 1. Reducing emissions from deforestation
- 2. Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- 3. Conservation of forest carbon stocks
- **4.** Sustainable management of forests
- 5. Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

How were the standards created for REDD+ Results?

- At the request of the COP, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) and Ad Hoc
 working groups developed the guidance, modalities and implementation procedures for the REDD+
 Mechanism based on relevant guidelines and guidance prepared by the IPCC. These recommendations are
 presented, debated and approved at subsequent COP meetings. The recommendations then become formal
 decisions of the COP and the international convention, including its Paris Agreement.
- Core to the UNFCCC is the "principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances." Based upon this Countries are afforded some flexibility in modalities chosen to calculate their carbon stocks and emissions reductions. This flexibility is limited to forest definition, scope of activities, carbon pools. GHGs included, and methods of gathering data and measuring emissions. All of these decisions are transparently reported in National Actions Plans, National Forest Monitoring System, FRL/FREL Submissions and the BUR. No flexibility is afforded on Reporting or Verification protocols. Countries are expected to make stepwise improvements in their REDD+ programs

Process for REDD+ Results to be Posted on the UNFCCC Hub and Become RRRUs

- 1. Fulfill the Four Basic Elements of a National REDD+ Program
 - a. Develop and publish a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan.
 - The critical first step is for a country to study, analyze and report on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the <u>REDD+ safeguards</u> including the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities.
 - This then leads to a national action plan or strategy for addressing deforestation and degradation inconsideration of land tenure, governance, gender and other safeguards
 - b. Countries must create and publish a National Forest Monitoring System.
 - National forest monitoring systems should be flexible, allow for improvement and build upon existing systems, as appropriate. The data and information provided by national forest monitoring systems should be transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying, taking into account national capabilities and capacities. In order to achieve this, the systems should also use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.
 - c. Develop and publish a Safeguards Information System.
 - In developing the REDD+ Mechanism the COP recognized the need to address a variety of environmental, governance and social risks. The seven "Cancun Safeguards" were approved by the COP in 2010. Before the UNFCCC can recognize emission reductions, a country must develop a system and provide evidence on how it will communicate its adherence to principles around the safeguards developed by the SBSTA and approved by the COP.
 - d. Generate and publish a national Forest Reference Level or Forest Reference Emissions Level (FRL/FREL).
 - Reference levels serve as benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD+ activities. Reference levels need to maintain consistency with the country's greenhouse gas inventory estimates. The FRL must be assessed and verified by a team from the UNFCCC roster of experts
- 2. The FRL/FREL is analyzed a validated
 - The analysis is conducted by a team chosen from the UNFCCC roster of experts

- The FRL/FREL must be consistent with the National Strategy, Forest Monitoring System and Safeguards Information System
- 3. Measure national emissions reductions against the FRL/FREL and publish them in the REDD+ Results Annex to the Country's Biennial Update Report (BUR)
 - The process to generate REDD+ Results is embedded into countries MRV requirements under the Paris Agreement "For developing country Parties, the existing MRV framework encompasses submitting national communications every four years and biennial update reports (BURs) every two years, undergoing international consultation and analysis (ICA), setting up domestic MRV of nationally appropriate mitigation actions under NDCs, and undertaking MRV of REDD-plus activities for the purpose of obtaining and receiving results-based incentives. " p51 "Handbook for Measurement, Reporting and Verification for Developing Countries"
- **4.** Analysis of emissions reductions is conducted under the **International Consultation Analysis (ICA)**, which has two key components:
 - An analysis of the BUR and REDD+ annex is done by a technical team of two experts chosen from the UNFCCC roster of experts looking at the extent to which:
 - i. There is consistency in methodologies, definitions, comprehensiveness and the information provided between the assessed reference level and the results of the implementation of the REDD-plus activities;
 - ii. The data and information provided in the technical annex is transparent, consistent, complete and accurate, and is consistent with the methodological guidelines on REDD-plus; The results are accurate, to the extent possible. (p4 "Handbook for Measurement, Reporting and Verification for Developing Countries")
 - A facilitative sharing of views
 - i. Organized as a workshop under the auspices of the SBI that seeks to increase the transparency of mitigation actions and their effects and contribute to the process of capacity building of developing countries leading to an improvement in in subsequent a BURs
 - 1. Link to the UNCCC webpage on the ICA https://unfccc.int/ICA

5. Credits posted to the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub

Once the independent technical team of experts reviews and approves the BUR and its technical
analysis all documentation is reviewed by the UNFCCC. Once approved the country can post its
emission reductions as REDD+ Results on the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub

6. Assessment and Ratings of REDD+ Results/RRUs

- A ratings system for RRUs has been developed by the Technical Committee using input from the CfRN's technical team and experts from the UNFCCC Roster of Experts
- The system uses 54 indicators to judge how well a country has adhered to the rules, methodologies and reporting requirements included in COP decisions.
- We have attached a pdf of this system.

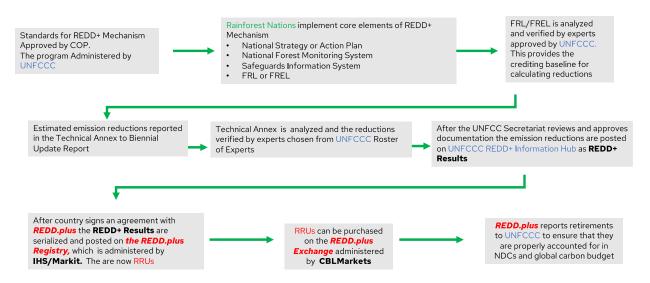
7. Countries sign MOU with REDD.plus and agreements with IHS/Market

- REDD+ Results are serialized and registered and become RRUs that can be purchased by individual and companies
- REDD.plus Registry administered by IHS/Markit tracks the life-cycle of RRUs
- CBL Markets provides the REDD.plus Exchange

8. REDD.plus reports all retirements to UNFCCC

 This last, but critical step ensures that countries have made appropriate adjustments to their national GHG inventories and NDCs as required under the Paris Agreement

Flow Chart: How REDD+ Results are created and become RRUs



FAO Chart of the process of creating REDD+ Results and the relevant COP Decisions that created these requirement

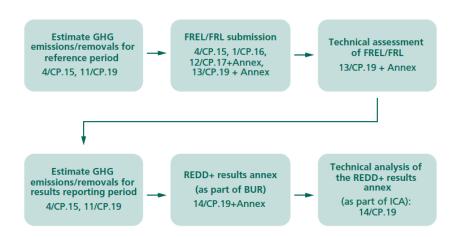


Figure 19. Measurement, reporting and verification for REDD+, and the most relevant decisions of the UNFCCC

"From reference levels to results reporting: REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2020 Update" page 59. Food and Agricultural Organizatoin of the United Nations. http://www.fao.org/3/cb1635en/cb1635en.pdf

A Technical Team of Experts (TTE) from the UN Roster of Experts verifies FRLs and REDD+ Results

"The UNFCCC Roster of Experts contains information on experts, who are nominated by their respective Governments through the National Focal Points of the Parties under the UNFCCC, to contribute to a number of

processes mandated by the COP, CMP, CMA and the subsidiary bodies. These processes, among others, include the reviews of annual submissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and supplementary information submitted by Annex I Parties, reviews of national communications and biennial reports submitted by Annex I Parties and technical analysis under the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process of biennial update reports (BURs) submitted by non-Annex I Parties.

In addition, nominated experts to the UNFCCC Roster of Experts contribute to the technical assessment sessions of proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels for the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (REDD-plus), submitted on a voluntary basis by developing country Parties." https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/roestaging/Pages/Home.aspx

PART 3: Emissions Unit Programme Design Elements

Note—where "evidence" is requested throughout *Part 3* and *Part 4*, the programme is expected to provide web links to documentation and to identify the specific text, paragraph(s), or section(s) where TAB can find evidence of the programme procedure(s) in question. If that is not possible, then the programme may provide evidence of programme procedures directly in the text boxes provided (by copying/pasting the relevant provisions) and/or by attached supporting documentation, as recommended in "SECTION II: INSTRUCTIONS—*Form Completion: Supporting Evidence*".

Note—"Paragraph X.X" in this form refers to corresponding paragraph(s) in <u>Appendix A</u> "Supplementary Information for Assessment of Emissions Unit Programmes".

Note—Where the programme has any plans to revise the programme (e.g., its policies, procedures, measures, tracking systems, governance or legal arrangements), including to enhance consistency with a given criterion or guideline, provide the following information in response to any and all relevant form question(s):

- Proposed revision(s);
- Process and proposed timeline to develop and implement the proposed revision(s);
- Process and timeline for external communication and implementation of the revision(s).

Question 3.1. Clear methodologies and protocols, and their development process

Provide evidence⁷ that the programme's qualification and quantification methodologies and protocols are in place and available for use, including where the programme's existing methodologies and protocols are publicly disclosed: (Paragraph 2.1)

- The modalities(methodologies), protocols and guidelines of the REDD+ program have been approved in over 16 decisions at COP meetings, with input from the SBSTA and the SBI.
- The key decisions are summarized on page 1 of the <u>"Booklet"</u> and on this flow charts from the FAO we presented in the program overview
- The webpage "REDD+ Methodological Guidance" provides
 - "information, including the history of negotiations, relating "Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries" from SBSTA 24 (May 2006) to SBSTA 42 (June 2015). These pages provide links to the conclusions agreed by the SBSTA at the respective sessions."
 - https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/redd-methodological-guidance
- The key decisions made at are summarized on page 1 of the "Booklet" and on this flow charts from the FAO we presented in the program overview

⁷ For this and subsequent "evidence" requests, evidence should be provided in the text box (e.g., web links to documentation), and/or in attachments, as recommended in "SECTION II: INSTRUCTIONS—*Form Completion*".

- COP agreed to 4 basic elements of a national REDD+ program and they are spelled out in paragraph 71 in decision 1 at COP 16 in Cancun. Pages 8 and 9 in the "Booklet"
 - o (a) A national strategy or action plan;
 - (b) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
 - o (c) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, 7 in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, while respecting sovereignty;
- The FRL/FRELs are the baselines on which emissions reductions credited, and thus critical to the integrity of the REDD+ mechanism. Key decisions on the FRL/FRELs can be found:
 - Decision 12 at COP 17 and its Annex, pages 17 -19 in the "Booklet"
 - Decision 13 at COP 19 and its Annex, pages 32-36 in the "Booklet"
- The modalities for Measuring, Reporting and Verifying emissions reductions that become REDD+ Results can be found:
 - Decision 14 at COP 19 and its Annex, page 37-40 in the "Booklet"
- COP mandates that countries implementing REDD+ activities use the most recent IPCC guidance and methods for
 estimating forest-related anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and
 forest area changes.

Link to "Booklet"

- The UNFCCC Handbook of Measurement, Reporting and Verification of for Developing Countries,
 - o "provides an overview of the full package of decisions adopted in the international negotiations concerning measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) provisions for developing countries under the Convention, including measurement and reporting through national communications and biennial update reports (BURs); procedures for international consultation and analysis (ICA); and guidelines for domestic MRV frameworks, including those for domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus).1". Pages 51 to 54 deal specifically with the "MRV for REDD-Plus Activities".

https://unfccc.int/files/national reports/annex i natcom /application/pdf/non-annex i mrv handbook.pdf

- A link to the SBSTA webpage on REDD+ Mechanism
 https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/redd-methodological-guidance
- UNFCCC webpage highlighting all COP decisions and the recommendations and reporting done by the SBSTA and SBI
 - https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/resources/redd-documents

Summarize the programme's process for developing further methodologies and protocols, including the timing and process for revision of existing methodologies: (*Paragraph 2.1*)

- Since REDD-plus framework is governed by an intergovernmental process, all proposals to revise or update the methodological guidance and guidelines will have to negotiated and adopted by the Parties to the UNFCCC. Per the UNFCCC's procedure, any initiative to revise the methodological guidance and guidelines in the existing REDD-plus framework, will have to be placed on the COP's agenda by a Party or group of Parties. It will then be assigned to the relevant subsidiary body for consideration, usually with a mandate to provide recommendations to the COP for adoption by a certain date.
 - Link to UNFCCC Website on their processes https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings
- Independently the IPPC periodically updates its guidance for the measurement of GHG inventories
 - o https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/12/19R V0 01 Overview.pdf
- Also note, that while guidance and modalities may not change, countries with REDD+ programs are expected to
 make stepwise improvements in their efforts to measure and report their emissions from forest-related activities.
 This is part of the 5-year "Stocktake" process under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement.
 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english paris agreement.pdf pages 18-19

Provide evidence of the public availability of the programme's process for developing further methodologies and protocols: (Paragraph 2.1)

- The UNFCCC website provides information of the processes and procedures that will be employed to further develop the REDD+ Mechanism
 - https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings
- Information on the ICA (International Consultation and Analysis) highlights efforts made to help non-Annex 1
 parties to the Paris Agreement improve their efforts in measuring, reporting, verifying and managing GHG
 emissions
 - https://unfccc.int/ICA
- The SBSTA and SBI play critical roles the UNFCCC process of developing guidance, modalities and procedures under the REDD+ Mechanism.
 - o https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/sbst
 - o https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/sbi

Question 3.2. Scope considerations

Summarize the level at which activities are allowed under the programme (e.g., project based, programme of activities, jurisdiction-scale): (*Paragraph 2.2*)

 The REDD+ Mechanism as enshrined in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement is a crediting program for emissions reductions taking at the national level. Thus Redd.plus will only offer for purchase/retirement RRUs from national emission reduction programs under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism.

Summarize the eligibility criteria for each type of offset activity (e.g., which sectors, project types, and geographic locations are covered): (*Paragraph 2.2*)

o All non-Annex 1 countries that have signed the Paris Agreement are eligible to generate REDD+ Results, which *REDD.plus* will convert into RRUs. The REDD+ Mechanism is global in scale, having been approved by 192 countries.

- The activities allowed under the REDD+ Mechanism are spelled out in various UNFCCC documents and COP decisions:
 - o Reducing Emissions from Deforestation
 - Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation
 - Conservation of forest carbon stocks
 - Sustainable management of forests
 - Enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- o REDD are the first two activities and the "+" are the last three.

Provide *evidence* of the Programme information defining a) level at which activities are allowed under the Programme, and b) the eligibility criteria for each type of offset activity, including its availability to the public: (*Paragraph 2.2*)

- The definition of REDD+ activities can be found in COP decisions
 - Decision 1, paragraph 70 of COP 16 in 2010
 - "Encourages developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances:
 - (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
 - (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
 - (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
 - (d) Sustainable management of forests;
 - (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;"
 - This can be found on page 8 of the "Booklet"
 - Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in 2015
 - "Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches."
 - https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english paris agreement.pdf page 5

Are procedures in place defining how offset credits are (Paragraph 2.3)	
a) issued?	\boxtimes YES
b) retired / cancelled?	⊠ YES
c) subject to discounting (if any)?	□ YES

Are procedures in place defining (Paragraph 2.3)	
d) the length of crediting period(s)?	\boxtimes YES
e) whether crediting periods are renewable?	⊠ YES

Provide evidence of the procedures referred to in a) through e) (if any, in the case of "c"), including their availability to the public:

- The MRV of the emissions reductions is administered by the UNFCCC. After being posted to the <u>REDD+Infor Hub</u>, a country can decide to create REDD+ Result Units (RRUs). It does this by signing agreements with REDD.plus and IHS/Markit. The onboarding document is attached.
- The REDD. Plus Registry maintains thorough operational procedures related to the management of projects and units throughout a credit's entire lifecycle. Information on the rules governing the registry are available here:

https://cdn.ihsmarkit.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf

- Registry Operational procedures are agreed between the registry and the standard, so are not made available to the public
- Discounting is not relevant for national-scale programs.
- The normal length of a crediting period is 5 years
- The updating or renewal of crediting periods can be part of either a BUR or National Communications under the Paris Agreement. The BURs take place every two years, while National Communications take place every 4 years. It is expected that under this process countries generate new estimates of historical emission and FRL/FREL using more advanced measurement, data and scope of emissions.

Question 3.4 Identification and Tracking

an electronic registry or registries? (Paragraph 2.4.2) ⊠ YES

Provide web link(s) to the programme registry(ies) and indicate whether the registry is administered by the programme or outsourced to a third party (*Paragraph 2.4.2*):

The REDD.plus Registry is a third-party hosted registry available at the following link: https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/frn-public/#/home

Does the programme have procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry	
or registries:	
a) have the capability to transparently identify emissions units that are deemed ICAO-	\boxtimes YES
eligible, in all account types ? (Paragraph 2.4.3)	
b) identify, and facilitate tracking and transfer of, unit ownership/holding from	\boxtimes YES
issuance to cancellation/retirement? (Paragraphs 2.4 (a) and (d) and 2.4.4)	
c) identify unit status, including retirement / cancellation, and issuance status?	\boxtimes YES
(Paragraph 2.4.4)	
d) assign unique serial numbers to issued units? (Paragraphs 2.4 (b) and 2.4.5)	\boxtimes YES
e) identify in serialization, or designate on a public platform, each unique unit's country	⊠ YES
and sector of origin, vintage, and original (and, if relevant, revised) project registration	
date? (Paragraph 2.4.5)	
f) are secure (i.e. that robust security provisions are in place)? (Paragraph 2.4 (c))	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the procedures referred to in a) through f), including the availability to the public of the procedures referred to in b), d), and f):

The REDD.plus Registry hosted by IHS Markit features the ability to designate appropriate market eligibility of individual units. It is built upon a workflow engine which allows for units to proceed through a range of status changes. These status changes include transfers from one account to another, and through the credit lifecycle including from pending issuance through retired or cancelled. The REDD.plus Registry also assigns unique serial numbers to issued units. The IHS Markit Registry public view is visible here:

https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

• As is evident on the site, certain details related to projects and units are publicly visible, including country, project type/sector, and vintage year.

List any/all international data exchange standards to which the programme's registry(ies) conform: (Paragraph 2.4 (f))

■ IHS Markit, as an information services firm, is already connected with the largest financial institutions, trading platforms, exchanges, and clearing and settlement systems globally for a number of our products. Registry connectivity is the basis of the IHS Markit Registry system upon which the REDD.plus Registry is built.

Are policies and robust procedures in place to	
a) prevent the programme registry administrators from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of registry services? (<i>Paragraph 2.4.6</i>)	⊠ YES
b) ensure that, where such conflicts arise, they are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated? (<i>Paragraph 2.4.6</i>)	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

- The terms and conditions governing the REDD.plus Registry are available at the following link: https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf
- Additionally, information on IHS Markit's governance and code of conduct is available here:
 http://investor.ihsmarkit.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=188457&p=irol-govhighlights

Are provisions in place	
a) ensuring the screening of requests for registry accounts? (Paragraph 2.4.7)	⊠ YES
b) restricting the programme registry (or registries) accounts to registered businesses and individuals? (<i>Paragraph 2.4.7</i>)	⊠ YES
, <u>G 1</u>	
c) ensuring the periodic audit or evaluation of registry compliance with security provisions? (<i>Paragraph 2.4.8</i>)	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the registry security provisions referred to in a) through c):

• Due to confidentiality concerns, REDD.plus and IHS Markit do not disclose security provisions beyond those outlined in the Registry's terms and conditions:

https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf.

Question 3.5 Legal nature and transfer of units

Does the programme define and ensure the following:	
a) the underlying attributes of a unit? (Paragraph 2.5)	\boxtimes YES

b) the underlying property aspects of a unit? (Paragraph 2.5)	⊠ YES
o) the underlying property aspects of a unit. (I dragfuph 2.5)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the processes, policies, and/or procedures referred to in a) and b), including their availability to the public:

- REDD.plus and IHS Markit's policies regarding legal title to units is outlined in our terms and conditions: https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf.
- Information regarding registration and issuance of units is disclosed on a on the IHS Markit Registry public view:
- https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/index.jsp?s=ca

Question 3.6 Validation and verification procedures

Are standards, requirements, and procedures in place for (Paragraph 2.6)	
a) the validation of activities?	\boxtimes YES
b) the verification of emissions reductions?	⊠ YES
c) the accreditation of validators?	⊠ YES
d) the accreditation of verifiers?	⊠ YES

- Provide evidence of the standards, requirements, and procedures referred to in a) through d), including their availability to the public:
- Decision 13 at COP 19, Warsaw 2013, and its Annex govern the validation of the FRL/FRELs. Pages 32 to 36 in "Booklet" is performed by LULUCF experts chosen from the UNFCCC's Roster of Experts
- Decision 14 at COP 19 (Warsaw 2019) and its Annex govern the verification of emissions reductions that have been submitted in the Technical Annex to the BUR. Pages 37 to 40 in "Booklet"
 - o Link to "Booklet"
- Accreditation of validators and verifiers is done by the UNFCCC
 - o https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/roestaging/Pages/Home.aspx

Question 3.7 Programme governance

Does the programme publicly disclose who is responsible for the administration of	⊠ YES
the programme? (Paragraph 2.7)	
Does the programme publicly disclose how decisions are made? (Paragraph 2.7)	⊠ YES

Provide evidence that this information is available to the public:

- The UNFCCC administers the program under which the emissions reductions are measured, reported and verified. It administers the REDD+ Information Hub
- Changes to the emissions reduction program take place under the UNFCCC processes and procedures.
 - https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings#:a0659cbd-3b30-4c05-a4f9-268f16e5dd6b
- The REDD.plus platform that converts the REDD+ Results into a tradeable carbon credits (REDD+ Result Units
 or RRUs) is administered by the Coalition for Rainforest

Can the programme demonstrate that it has (Paragraph 2.7.2)	
a) been continuously governed for at least the last two years?	⊠ YES
b) been continuously operational for at least the last two years?	⊠ YES
c) a plan for the long-term administration of multi-decadal programme elements?	⊠ YES
d) a plan for possible responses to the dissolution of the programme in its current	☐ YES
form?	

Provide evidence of the activities, policies, and procedures referred to in a) through d):

- a) & b)
 - The <u>REDD+ Mechanism</u>, the program under which the emission reductions are measured, verified and reported, was formalized and approved in 2015 in the Paris Agreement at COP 21.
 - https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement
 - https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english paris agreement.pdf
 - o **REDD.plus** was incorporated in NY State on 31 March 2019
 - https://www.redd.plus
 - The Coalition for Rainforest Nations was started in 2005
 - https://www.rainforestcoalition.org
- c) & d) The dissolution of the REDD+ Mechanism would likely only come about with the dissolution of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreements
- No plan is in place for the dissolution of the REDD.plus Mechanism

Are policies and robust procedures in place to	
a) prevent the programme staff, board members, and management from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision	⊠ YES
of programme services? (Paragraph 2.7.3)	
b) ensure that, where such conflicts arise, they are appropriately declared, and	⊠ YES
addressed and isolated? (Paragraph 2.7.3)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

• The structure of our program limits conflicts of interests. The emission reductions program is administered by the UNFCCC, not the CfRN or REDD.plus. The CfRN is a 501c3. REDD.plus is managed to only cover the expenses of the program, any surplus would be returned to the CfRN to further activities with our member nations.

 All individuals involved with the CfRN or REDD.plus are subject to the CfRN's Conflict of Interest Policy which we have attached.

If the programme is not directly and currently administered by a public agency, can the	⊠ YES
programme demonstrate up-to-date professional liability insurance policy of at least	
USD\$5M? (Paragraph 2.7.4)	

Provide evidence of such coverage:

■ The UNFCCC registers the credits, IHS Markit administers the Registry, Xpansive CBL Holdings administers the trading platform, Bureau Veritas administers the Independent Rating Systems and the CfRN administers the REDD.plus Platform. It's our understanding that all have P&O insurance of USD\$5.0 million or above.

Question 3.8 Transparency and public participation provisions

Does the programme publicly disclose (Paragraph 2.8)	
a) what information is captured and made available to different stakeholders?	⊠ YES
b) its local stakeholder consultation requirements (if applicable)?	⊠ YES
c) its public comments provisions and requirements, and how they are considered (if applicable)?	⊠ YES

Provide evidence of the public availability of items a) through c):

- The **REDD+ Mechanism** and **REDD.plus** provides:
 - Full transparency available on the modalities chosen by a country to measure their emissions from forest activities are provided on the UN REDD+ Info Hub
 - o the prices paid to retire RRUs
 - o how much of price at retirement goes back into the country
 - o what the country does with the proceeds
- Involvement of local stakeholders is part of the Safeguard Information System, which is one of the four key elements in a country's REDD+ program

Does the programme conduct public comment periods relating to (Paragraph 2.8)	
a) methodologies, protocols, or frameworks under development?	⊠ YES
b) activities seeking registration or approval?	□ YES
c) operational activities (e.g., ongoing stakeholder feedback)	⊠ YES

d) additions or revisions to programme procedures or rulesets?	⊠ YES
--	-------

Summarize and provide evidence of any programme procedures referred to in a) through d):

- Changes to the <u>REDD+ Mechanism</u> take place within the UNFCCC process. At the request of the COP the SBSTA and or SBI research and analyze issues and make recommendations on guidance, modalities and implementation procedures. Before they make these recommendations, they ask for comments. At the COP meetings there is an time for Parties to the UNFCCC or Paris Agreements and other entities to make comments on the propose rules.
 - https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/sbsta
 - https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx
 - https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/redd-methodological-guidance
- Any additional activities that could be added to the REDD+ program must go through the UNFCCC processes and be approved at a COP meeting

Question 3.9 Safeguards system

Are safeguards in place to address (Paragraph 2.9)	
a) environmental risks?	⊠ YES
b) social risks?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the safeguards referred to in a) and b), including their availability to the public:

A critical part of the <u>REDD+ Mechanism</u> is decision 1 at COP 16, commonly referred to as the "Cancun Safeguards" system. These safeguard can be seen in Appendix 1 of this decision on page 11 and 12 of the "<u>Booklet</u>".

Given their critical importance we have pasted them here:

Appendix I

Guidance and safeguards for policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries 1. The activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision should:

- (a) Contribute to the achievement of the objective set out in Article 2 of the Convention;
- (b) Contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments set out in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention;
- (c) Be country-driven and be considered options available to Parties;
- (d) Be consistent with the objective of environmental integrity and take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems;
- (e) Be undertaken in accordance with national development priorities, objectives and circumstances and capabilities and should respect sovereignty;
- (f) Be consistent with Parties' national sustainable development needs and goals;
- (g) Be implemented in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty, while responding to climate change;

- (h) Be consistent with the adaptation needs of the country;
- (i) Be supported by adequate and predictable financial and technology support, including support for capacity-building;
- (j) Be results-based;
- (k) Promote sustainable management of forests;
- 2. When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:
 - (a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
 - (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
 - (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
 - (e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the 12 protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits; 1
 - (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
 - (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.
- A Safeguards Information System is in place is one of the four key elements of a national REDD+ program we
 outlined in the Part 1: Program Overview. The National Safeguard Information Systems are publicly
 reviewable by country on the <u>UNFCCC REDD+ Information Hub</u> and can be found <u>here</u>.

Question 3.10 Sustainable development criteria

Does the programme use sustainable development criteria? (Paragraph 2.10)	⊠ YES
Does the programme have provisions for monitoring, reporting and verification in accordance with these criteria? (<i>Paragraph 2.10</i>)	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

• Article 3 paragraph 4 of the UNFCCC signed in 1992 states that "The Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development." Paragraph 5 states the "Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in All Parties"

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/convention text with annexes english for posting.pdf

 "Sustainable Development" is used 18 times in the Paris Agreement. It emphasized in the preamble and included 6 of the 29 Articles.

- Finally, the Cancun Safeguards, highlighted above, emphasizes sustainable development
- Thus, while there is no explicit measurement of how the program adheres to sustainable development criteria. The safeguards, sustainable development is an overarching goal of the UNFCCC and COP agreements

Question 3.11 Avoidance of double counting, issuance and claiming

Does the Programme provide information on how it addresses double counting,	⊠ YES
issuance and claiming in the context of evolving national and international regimes	
for carbon markets and emissions trading? (Paragraph 2.11)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the information referred to above, including its availability to the public:

- REDD+ Result Units (RRUs) only come from national programs under the REDD+ Mechanism, they are part of a national GHG. All RRUs are approved by relevant national authorities as required by CORSIA.
- Any REDD+ credit would be double counted that is not:
 - first registered on the UNFCCC REDD+ Hub,
 - approved by the respective national governmental authority
 - Reflected in national GHG inventories, national FRELs, national results, and where issuance and retirement is reported to the UNFCCC,

The REDD.plus Platform meets all of these requirements.

Related to RRUs on the REDD.plus Platform, the accounting for these emissions reductions is seamlessly and transparently integrated into the issuing country's NDCs. To ensure that proper accounting in the global carbon budget, REDD.plus will provide the annual reporting to the UNFCCC to fulfill the requirements related to "internationally transferred mitigation outcomes" (ITMO) under the relevant decisions around transparency, market-based instruments, and corresponding adjustments.

PART 4: Carbon Offset Credit Integrity Assessment Criteria

Note—where "evidence" is requested throughout *Part 3* and *Part 4*, the Programme should provide web links to documentation. If that is not possible, then the programme may provide evidence of programme procedures directly in the text boxes provided (by copying/pasting the relevant provisions) and/or by attached supporting documentation, as recommended in "SECTION II: INSTRUCTIONS—*Form Completion*".

Note—"Paragraph X.X" in this form refers to corresponding paragraph(s) in <u>Appendix A</u> "Supplementary Information for Assessment of Emissions Unit Programmes".

Note—Where the programme has any plans to revise the programme (e.g., its policies, procedures, measures, tracking systems, governance or legal arrangements), including to enhance consistency with a given criterion or guideline, provide the following information in response to any and all relevant form question(s):

- Proposed revision(s);
- Process and proposed timeline to develop and implement the proposed revision(s);
- Process and timeline for external communication and implementation of the revision(s).

Question 4.1 Are additional

Do the Programme's carbon offsets (Paragraph 3.1)	
a) represent greenhouse gas emissions reductions or carbon sequestration or removals that exceed any greenhouse gas reduction or removals required by law, regulation, or legally binding mandate?	□ YES
b) exceed any greenhouse gas reductions or removals that would otherwise occur in a conservative, business-as-usual scenario?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b), including their availability to the public:

The emissions reduction activities that are credited under the REDD+ Mechanism can come from changes in national laws. This is what makes national programs activities to preserves and restore rainforests such a poweful tool. Government policies are critical to the success of preserving and restoring rainforests. The REDD+ Mechanism can help ensure that proper credit and compensation accrues to the parties actually responsible for preserving and restoring rainforests. Recent research has highlighted the many forest projects are claiming title to emission reductions that are actually the result of government policy.

https://www.pnas.org/content/117/39/24188

REDD+ credits are additional. They are only credited using reference levels based on historical emissions and that
are below an a FREL that is review in the context of a national REDD+ Plan, national GHG inventories, and those
required by law, regulation, or legal mandate. The requirements of the technical review of the FRL are spelled out
in Decision 13 at COP 19, pages 32 to 36 in the "Booklet"

• The calculation of emissions reductions under the REDD+ Mechanism begins with creating a FRL/FREL. The technical assessment by LULUCF expert from the UNFCCC "Roster of Experts" ensures that these estimates meet the quality criteria established by the COP.

Is additionality and baseline-setting (Paragraph 3.1)	
a) assessed by an accredited and independent third-party verification entity?	⊠ YES
b) reviewed by the programme?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b), including their availability to the public:

- Under the <u>REDD+ Mechanism</u> after a country submits their FRL/FREL, LULUCF experts from the "UNFCCC Roster of Experts" review and analyze the submission. Their report is released on the <u>REDD+ Info Hub</u>. See pgs. 34-36 of the "Booklet"
- <u>REDD.plus</u> has created a ratings system which was highlighted in the Part 1: Program Overview section of this application. A pdf of the ratings system is attached.

Identify one or more of the methods below that the programme has procedures in place to ensure, and to support activities to analyze and demonstrate, that credited mitigation is additional; which can be applied at the project- and/or programme-level: (*Paragraphs 3.1, and 3.1.2 - 3.1.3*)

	Barrier analysis
	Common practice / market penetration analysis
	Investment, cost, or other financial analysis
\boxtimes	Performance standards / benchmarks
	Legal or regulatory additionality analysis (as defined in <i>Paragraph 3.1</i>)

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in the above list, including describing any/all additionality analyses and test types that are utilized under the programme:

As described in prior sections, REDD+ Results are only granted if emissions in the crediting period are below the
national FRL/FREL, and both the FRL/FREL and emissions reductions have undergone a technical analysis. This is
spelled out in Decision 14 of COP 19 and its Annex (Warsaw 2013) pages 37 to 40 in the "Booklet".

If the Programme provides for the use of method(s) not listed above, describe the alternative procedures and how they ensure that activities are additional: (*Paragraph 3.1*)

Not relevant

If the programme designates certain activities as automatically additional (e.g.,	☐ YES
through a "positive list" of eligible project types), does the programme provide clear	
evidence on how the activity was determined to be additional? (Paragraph 3.1)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures for determining the automatic additionality of activities, including a) the criteria used to determine additionality and b) their availability to the public:

There is no positive list. Not relevant under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism. The additionality of a country's REDD+ program is determined under the technical reviews of the FRL/FREL submission highlighted in other sections. Those looking to purchase RRUs can easily access all country submissions and the reports from the LULUCF experts on the REDD+ Info Hub.

Explain how the procedures described under Question 4.1 provide a reasonable assurance that the mitigation would not have occurred in the absence of the offset programme: (*Paragraph 3.1*)

- To ensure that the technical analysis of the FRL and emissions reductions is carried out with integrity, the reviewers cannot be from the issuing country, and one reviewer must be from a developed and one from developing country. This requirement is spelled out in Decision 13 and Decision 14 and their Annexes (Warsaw 2019), pages 32 to 40 in the "Booklet"
- Paragraph 9 of the Annex to Decision 13 of COP 13 (Warsaw 2019) page 35 of "Booklet"
 - O Composition of the assessment team
 - 9. The secretariat shall ensure a balanced representation of LULUCF experts from developing and developed countries. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention may nominate one of its experts from a developing country Party with relevant expertise to participate in the technical assessment as an observer. Each submission shall be assessed by two LULUCF experts selected from the UNFCCC roster of experts, one from a developed country and one from a developing country.

Question 4.2 Are based on a realistic and credible baseline

Are procedures in place to (Paragraph 3.2)	
a) issue emissions units against realistic, defensible, and conservative baseline	⊠ YES
estimations of emissions?	
b) publicly disclose baselines and underlying assumptions?	\boxtimes YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b), including how "conservativeness" of baselines and underlying assumptions is defined and ensured:

Baselines under the REDD+ Mechanism are credible, but importantly they are transparent and publicly reported and any expert opinions by the reviewers are publicly available. Additionally, the baselines, or in the case of the REDD+ Mechanism FRL/FRELs, normally do not extend past 5 years into the future and are revised when countries submit their BURs, National Communications under the Paris Agreements and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Activities.

Are procedures in place to ensure that *methods of developing baselines*, including modelling, benchmarking or the use of historical data, use assumptions, methodologies, and values do not over-estimate mitigation from an activity? (*Paragraph 3.2.2*)

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

- Baselines are created using the best practices and guidance of the IPCC and are based on historical data.
- As highlighted in the Program Overview, countries undergo an International Consultation and Advisory, which
 acts to highlight improvements in the process of measuring historical emissions, creating a FRL/FREL and
 calculating emission reductions
- The RRU ratings system developed by CrRN staff and independent experts will help buyers make their own judgement on baselines and help differentiate pricing.
- Yes, this a key element of the review process under decision 13 at COP 19, which can be found on pages 32-34 in the <u>"Booklet"</u>

Are procedures in place for activities to respond, as appropriate, to changing baseline conditions that were not expected at the time of registration? (*Paragraph 3.2.3*)

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

- Yes, as part of both the technical review and facilitative review of BURs, outside experts can provide input and guidance on improving the calculation of FRL and emission reduction results. FRL/FRELs can be revised and improved with additional activities and improved measurement capacities.
- Since the REDD+ Mechanism is part of the Paris Agreement, it is under the provision requiring a "Global Stocktake" every 5 years.
 - "Article 14 of the Paris Agreement requires the <u>CMA</u> to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. This process is called the global stocktake.

- The global stocktake shall be conducted in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.
- The CMA will undertake the first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter, unless otherwise decided by the CMA.
- https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/global-stocktake-referred-to-in-article-14-of-the-parisagreement

Question 4.3 Are quantified, monitored, reported, and verified

Are procedures in place to ensure that	
a) emissions units are based on accurate measurements and valid quantification	⊠ YES
methods/protocols? (Paragraph 3.3)	
b) validation occurs prior to or in tandem with verification? (<i>Paragraph 3.3.2</i>)	⊠ YES
c) the results of validation and verification are made publicly available? (Paragraph	⊠ YES
3.3.2)	
d) monitoring, measuring, and reporting of both activities and the resulting mitigation	⊠ YES
is conducted at <i>specified intervals</i> throughout the duration of the crediting period?	
(Paragraph 3.3)	
e) mitigation is measured and verified by an accredited and independent third-party	\boxtimes YES
verification entity? (Paragraph 3.3)	
f) ex-post verification of mitigation is required in advance of issuance of emissions	⊠ YES
units? (Paragraph 3.3)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through f):

- All of these procedures are spelled out in the "Warsaw Framework for REDD+" decisions made at COP 19 in 2013. This COP was critical is cementing the all the elements of the REDD+ Mechanism, which was then formalized in 2015 in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.
 - o a Annex to Decision 13, pages 34-36 of
 - o b Technical review of FRL is done when submitted by country and this is done prior to the review of the emission reductions that are part of the BUR
 - o c- the review of both the FRL and the BUR are posted to the REDD+ Info Hub
 - o d-timing is once a year as spelled out in the Annex to Decision 13, paragraphs 10 to 18
 - o e-compostion of the technical teams is spelled out in Annex to Decision 12 paragraphs 9
 - o f- yes, REDD+ Results are only granted expost

Documentation of the above can be found in the "Booklet", pages 29 to 40

Are provisions in place (Paragraph 3.3.3)	
---	--

a) to manage and/or prevent conflicts of interest between accredited third-party(ies)	⊠ YES
performing the validation and/or verification procedures, and the programme and the	
activities it supports?	
b) requiring accredited third-party(ies) to disclose whether they or any of their family	⊠ YES
members are dealing in, promoting, or otherwise have a fiduciary relationship with	
anyone promoting or dealing in, the offset credits being evaluated?	
c) to address and isolate such conflicts, should they arise?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through c):

- The UNFCCC ensures "balanced representation of LULUCF experts from developed and developing countries. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex 1 to the Convention may nominate one of its experts from a developing country Party ... to participate in the technical assessment as an observer. Each submission shall be assessed by two LULUCF experts selection from the UNFCCC Roster of Expert, one from a developed country and one from a developing country" Paragraph 9 of the Annex to Decision 13 at COP 19. Page 35 of "Booklet"
- Reviewers cannot come from the country under review and the UNFCCC Secretariat oversees relevant conflict of interests policies.
- Since we are dealing with nationally issued emissions reductions, with payments going to the national governments, and nobody from within the issuing country can act as a verifier, the conflicts of interest and fiduciary conflicts are reduced, if not eliminated. Additionally, <u>REDD.plus</u> is controlled by the national governments, all excess revenue generated is returned to the CfRN.

Are procedures in place requiring that (Paragraph 3.3.4)	
a) the renewal of any activity at the end of its crediting period includes a reevaluation	\boxtimes YES
of its baselines, and procedures and assumptions for quantifying, monitoring, and	
verifying mitigation, including the baseline scenario?	
b) the same procedures apply to activities that wish to undergo verification but	\boxtimes YES
have not done so within the programme's allowable number of years between	
verification events?	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b), including identifying the allowable number of years between verification events:

- Verification takes place every 2 years with the release of the Biennial Update Report (BUR)
- Countries can enhance the FRL/FRELs by adding REDD+ activities not previously included. When the country submits a new FRL the REDD+ process begins again. Countries will not add additional activities to the baseline between the BUR

Are procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued <i>ex ante</i> and thus	⊠ YES
ineligible for use in the CORSIA? (Paragraph 3.3.5)	

Provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

The UNFCCC only considers ex-post credits under the REDD+ Mechanism

Question 4.4 <u>Have a clear and transparent chain of custody</u>

RRUs are assigned with unique identification numbers that allow for unites to be tracked from the moment a unit
is issued through its transfer or use (cancellation or retirement). A clear chain of custody is maintained within the
REDD.plus Registry

SECTION III, Part 3.4—Identification and tracking includes questions related to this criterion. No additional information is requested here.

Question 4.5 Represent permanent emissions reductions

List all emissions sectors (if possible, activity types) supported by the Programme that present a potential risk of reversal of emissions reductions, avoidance, or carbon sequestration:

 All REDD+ activities present a risk of reversals. However, reversals are accounted for between crediting periods under the UNFCCC and reflected in BURs and NDCs.

What is the minimum scale of reversal for which the Programme provisions or measures require a response? (Quantify if possible)

 No, any reversal above the stated FRL will automatically eliminate the country from generating emissions reductions. Reversals are publicly reported in the BUR and NDC

For sectors/activity types identified in the first question in this section, are procedures and measures in place to require and support these activities to	
a) undertake a risk assessment that accounts for, <i>inter alia</i> , any potential causes, relative scale, and relative likelihood of reversals? (<i>Paragraph 3.5.2</i>)	⊠ YES
b) monitor identified risks of reversals? (Paragraph 3.5.3)	⊠ YES
c) mitigate identified risks of reversals? (Paragraph 3.5.3)	⊠ YES
d) ensure full compensation for material reversals of mitigation issued as emissions	⊠ YES
units and used toward offsetting obligations under the CORSIA? (Paragraph 3.5.4)ds	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through d):

■ These policies and procedures are part of the Cancun Safeguards approve in 2010 at COP 16. This can be seen in Section 2, items g & f in the Appendix to Decision 1 at COP15, pages 11 & 12 in the "Booklet"

Are provisions in place that (Paragraph 3.5.5)	
a) confer liability on the activity proponent to monitor, mitigate, and respond to	⊠ YES
reversals in a manner mandated in the programme procedures?	
b) require activity proponents, upon being made aware of a material reversal event, to	⊠ YES
notify the programme within a specified number of days?	
c) confer responsibility to the programme to, upon such notification, ensure and	⊠ YES
confirm that such reversals are fully compensated in a manner mandated in the	
programme procedures?	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through c), including indicating the *number of days within which activity proponents must notify the programme of a material reversal event*:

- The reporting requirements under the **REDD+ Mechanism** and a country's overall reporting obligations under the Paris Agreements provide the process to report reversals. Under the Safeguard Information System, all reversals should be reported. Without resolution, a country's access to the **REDD.plus** platform and other sources of payments for the REDD+ Results will end until the reversal is rectified
- The reporting takes place every 2 years under the BUR.
- If there is a reversal the country cannot generate RRUs until that deficit is overcome

Does the programme have the capability to ensure that any emissions units which	\boxtimes YES
compensate for the material reversal of mitigation issued as emissions units and used	
toward offsetting obligations under the CORSIA are fully eligible for use under the	
CORSIA? (Paragraph 3.5.6)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

Yes. See above.

Would the programme be willing and able, upon request, to demonstrate that its	⊠ YES
permanence provisions can fully compensate for the reversal of mitigation issued as	
emissions units and used under the CORSIA? (Paragraph 3.5.7)	

As per above, part of the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism.

Question 4.6 Assess and mitigate against potential increase in emissions elsewhere

List all emissions sectors (if possible, activity types) supported by the programme that present a potential risk of material emissions leakage:

None

Are measures in place to assess and mitigate incidences of material leakage of	⊠ YES
emissions that may result from the implementation of an offset project or programme?	
(Paragraph 3.6)	
ummarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:	

- The UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism requires national scale reporting, GHG Inventories, and Forest (Emission) Reference Levels, with subnational allowed as an interim measure but expressly not for credit generating purposes.
- The national scale of the program eliminates the issue of inter-country leakage
 - Are provisions in place requiring activities that pose a risk of leakage when \boxtimes YES implemented at the project level to be implemented at a national level, or on an interim basis on a subnational level, in order to mitigate the risk of leakage? (*Paragraph 3.6.2*)

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

N/A. RRUs on REDD.plus are only issued in the context of National-scale systems for monitoring and measurement.

Are procedures in place requiring and supporting activities to monitor identified	⊠ YES
leakage? (Paragraph 3.6.3)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

The UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism requires national scale reporting, GHG Inventories, and Forest (Emission) Reference Levels

Are procedures in place requiring activities to deduct from their accounting emissions	\square YES
from any identified leakage that reduces the mitigation benefits of the activities?	
(<i>Paragraph 3.6.4</i>)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

The UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism Safeguard Information Systems account for such issues. But the national scope of the REDD+ program should effectively eliminate this risk.

Question 4.7 Are only counted once towards a mitigation obligation

Does the Programme have measures in place for the following	
a) to ensure the transparent transfer of units between registries; and that only one unit	\boxtimes YES
is issued for one tonne of mitigation (Paragraphs 3.7.1 and 3.7.5)	
b) to ensure that one unit is issued or transferred to, or owned or cancelled by, only	\boxtimes YES
one entity at any given time? (Paragraphs 3.7.2 and 3.7.6)	
c) to discourage and prohibit the double-selling of units, which occurs when one or	⊠ YES
more entities sell the same unit more than once? (Paragraph 3.7.7)	
d) to require and demonstrate that host countries of emissions reduction activities	⊠ YES
agree to account for any offset units issued as a result of those activities such that	
double claiming does not occur between the airline and the host country of the	
emissions reduction activity? (Paragraph 3.7.3)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through d):

- The <u>REDD.plus Registry</u>, administered by IHS/Markit uses a combination of technological features and operational policies and procedures in order to reduce the risk of double-issuance, double-use, and doubleselling.
- REDD.plus reports all retirements to the UNFCCC so that they can recognized on the <u>UNFCCC Info HUB</u> and to
 ensure that all Parties properly account the transfer in their national GHG inventories and NDCs
- The UNFCCC also requires demonstration of avoidance of double counting under Article 6.

Does the Programme have procedures in place for the following: (Paragraph 3.7.8)	
a) to obtain, or require activity proponents to obtain and provide to the programme,	\boxtimes YES
written attestation from the host country's national focal point or focal point's designee?	
b) for the attestation(s) to specify, and describe any steps taken, to prevent mitigation	⊠ YES
associated with units used by operators under CORSIA from also being claimed	
toward a host country's national mitigation target(s) / pledge(s)?	
c) for Host country attestations to be obtained and made publicly available prior to the	⊠ YES
use of units from the host country in the CORSIA?	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) through c):

- A) REDD.plus only accepts credits registered by the UNFCCC on the <u>REDD+ Info Hub</u>, which are, by requirement, approved by the national REDD+ Focal Point before they are posted.
- B) yes, all retired credits will be removed from the host country's inventory and as stated about *REDD.plus* will directly report these retirements to the UNFCCC so that they can be reflected on the UNFCC REDD+ Info hub and properly accounted for in the host country's national GHG inventory and NDC
- C) yes

Does the Programme have procedures in place requiring (Paragraph 3.7.9)	
a) that activities take approach(es) described in (any or all of) these sub-paragraphs to prevent double-claiming?	⊠ YES
⊠ Emissions units are created where mitigation is not also counted toward national target(s) pledge(s) / mitigation contributions / mitigation commitments. (<i>Paragraph</i> 3.7.9.1)	
Mitigation from emissions units used by operators under the CORSIA is appropriately accounted for by the host country when claiming achievement of its target(s) / pledges(s) / mitigation contributions / mitigation commitments, in line with the relevant and applicable international provisions. (<i>Paragraph 3.7.9.2</i>)	
⊠ Programme procedures provide for the use of method(s) to avoid double-claiming which are not listed above (<i>Paragraph 3.7.9.3</i>)	
b) that Host Country attestations confirm the use of approach(es) referred to in the list above?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

- This is potentially the most important differentiator of the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism when compared to project-based approaches/programmes. The UNFCCC process is governed by countries and that these emission reductions are governed by countries. The <u>REDD.plus Registry</u> has policies and systems that ensure that there is no double counting, double issuance and cast doubt over project-based standards that require country attestation letters to avoid double counting.
- REDD+ Results listed on the UNFCCC hub can only be transferred to the serialized and transferred to the <u>REDD.plus</u> <u>Registry</u> with the written approval of the country's focal point and other government entities. One of the clear advantages of using RRUs to offset emissions reductions is that the ensure against double counting. <u>REDD.plus</u> will provide annual reporting to the UNFCCC to fulfill all requirements related to "internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMO) und the relevant decisions around transparency, maket-based instruments, and corresponding adjustments.

Does the Programme (Paragraph 3.7.10)	
a) make publicly available any national government decisions related to accounting for units used in ICAO, including the contents of host country attestations described in paragraph 3.7.8?	⊠ YES
b) update information pertaining to host country attestation as often as necessary to avoid double-claiming?	⊠ YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

Any changes to national policies must be reported in regular updates provided to the UNFCCC

Does the Programme have procedures in place to compare countries' accounting for	\boxtimes YES
emissions units in national emissions reports against the volumes of eligible units issued	
by the programme and used under the CORSIA which the host country's national	
reporting focal point or designee otherwise attested to its intention to not double claim?	
(Paragraph 3.7.11)	

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

RRUs are based upon REDD+ Results generated from national programs. There integration into host country NDCs is seamless.

Does the Programme have procedures in place for the programme, or proponents of the activities it supports, to compensate for, replace, or otherwise reconcile double claimed mitigation associated with units used under the CORSIA which the host country's national accounting focal point or designee otherwise attested to its intention to not double claim? (*Paragraph 3.7.13*) □

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

Given all RRUs are already part of the host countries national accounting system, as required by the UNFCCC, and so attested by the National Focal Point, any double counting would inherently be an issue with other programs under CORSIA dealing with forest credits.

Would the Programme be willing and able, upon request, to report to ICAO's relevant bodies, as requested, performance information related to, *inter alia*, any material instances of and programme responses to country-level double claiming; the nature of, and any changes to, the the number, scale, and/or scope of host country attestations; any relevant changes to related programme measures? (*Paragraph 3.7.12*)

Question 4.8 Do no net harm

Are procedures in place to ensure that offset projects do not violate local, state/provincial, national or international regulations or obligations? (*Paragraph* 3.8)

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to above:

This is spelled out in the Cancun Safeguards. Pages 11 and 12 of the <u>"Booklet"</u>

Describe, and provide evidence that demonstrates, how the programme complies with social and environmental safeguards: (*Paragraph 3.8*)

- A country's adherence to the Cancun Safeguards is part of the Safeguard Information System, which is one of the core four elements of a national REDD+ Program.
 - o https://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/safeguards.html

Describe, and provide evidence of the programme's public disclosure of, the institutions, processes, and procedures that are used to implement, monitor, and enforce safeguards to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks: (*Paragraph 3.8*)

- The UNFCC provides a full transparency of country's efforts and results under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism.
 All documentation on submissions and reviews is available on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web
- How this disclosure takes place is spelled out in:
 - o Decision 12 at COP 17, Durban 2011, page 16 in "Booklet"
 - Decision 12 at COP 19, Warsaw 2013, page 31 in "Booklet"
 - o Disclosure by country's is part of their BURs and National Communications

PART 5: Programme comments

Are there any additional comments the programme wishes to make to support the information provided in this form?

Our planet cannot tackle the climate emergency without aligning to a 1.5 degrees pathway by 2030 and net-zero by 2050, according to McKinsey and other pathway studies. Tropical rainforests are a critical part of the climate solution, offering one of the largest and most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions. Not only do rainforests absorb greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere and creating warming, but they also provide the habitats for thousands of endangered species and provide livelihoods for many indigenous peoples. To get to net-zero by 2050 we need to slow, stop and then reverse global deforestation this decade.

After 15 years of relentless work and political action to stop deforestation, participating rainforest nations are now fulfilling their promise to bring emissions reductions from the planet's tropical rainforests at a multi-gigaton level. For ICAO, emissions reductions from rainforests have the potential to fundamentally transform the airline industry 's commitment to the climate and make a real impact. Members will be able to directly reward rainforest countries for their nationwide efforts to slow, stop and reverse the deforestation and incentivize future conservation.

Recalling of Assembly Decision A20-19, and its decision at the 39th Session agreeing that the emissions units generated by mechanisms established under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement are eligible for use in CORSIA, provided that they align with decisions by the Council, with the technical contribution of TAB and CAEP, including on avoiding double counting and on eligible vintage and timeframe, we suggest the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism along with the REDD.plus Platform qualify under CORSIA.

Thus, we urge ICAO to recognize *REDD.plus* - the only forest carbon credit program that has been negotiated under an international treaty - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (UNFCCC) - and enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement.

SECTION IV: SIGNATURE

I certify that I am the administrator or authorized representative ("Programme Representative") of the emissions unit programme ("Programme") represented in a) this form, b) evidence accompanying this form, and c) any subsequent oral and/or written correspondence (a-c: "Programme Submission") between the Programme and ICAO; and that I am duly authorized to represent the Programme in all matters related to ICAO's analysis of this application form; and that ICAO will be promptly informed of any changes to the contact person(s) or contact information listed in this form.

As the Programme Representative, I certify that all information in this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

As the Programme Representative, I acknowledge that:

Programme Representative (Signature)

the Programme's participation in the assessment does not guarantee, equate to, or prejudge future decisions by Council regarding CORSIA-eligible emissions units; and

the ICAO is not responsible for and shall not be liable for any losses, damages, liabilities, or expenses that the Programme may incur arising from or associated with its voluntary participation in the assessment; and

as a condition of participating in the assessment, the Programme will not at any point publicly disseminate, communicate, or otherwise disclose the nature, content, or status of communications between the Programme and ICAO, and of the assessment process generally, unless the Programme has received prior notice from the ICAO Secretariat that such information has been and/or can be publicly disclosed.

Signed:

Paul De Noon

Full name of Programme Representative (Print)

Date signed (Print)

(This signature page may be printed, signed, scanned and submitted as a separate file attachment)

SHEET B: METHODOLOGIES / PROTOCOLS LIST (Here, list all methodologies / protocols that support activities described in Sheet A)

Methodology name	Unique Methodology / Protocol Identifier	Date of entry into force of most recent version	Prior versions of the methodology that are credited by the Programme (if applicable)	Greenhouse / other gases addressed in methodology	Web link to methodology
Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, Decision 4 at COP 15 UNFCCC	UNFCCC	2015		CO2, CH4 & N20	https://unfccc.int/resource/do cs/2009/cop15/eng/11a01.pdf #page=11
Most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted by Conference of Parties, as basis for estimating anthropogenci forest-related greenhouse gase emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes, Decision 4 at COP14	IPCC	2019		CO2, CH4 & N20	https://www.ipcc.ch/report/20 19-refinement-to-the-2006- ipcc-guidelines-for-national- greenhouse-gas- inventories/SHEET
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SHEET B: EXCLUDED METHODOLOGIES (Here, list all methodologic

Methodology name	Unique Methodology /
Methodology hame	Protocol Identifier
None	

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Applicable methodology	Date of entry into force of	Prior versions of the methodology that are
version(s)		credited by the Programme (if applicable)

5

Greenhouse / other gases	Web link to methodology
addressed in methodology	OV.

Programme Application Form, Appendix D

Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation

PART A. Applicability and Instructions

- 1. Relevance and definitions:
 - **1.1.** These terms are relevant to emissions unit programmes and their designated registries:
 - **1.1.1.***CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme:* emissions unit programme approved by the ICAO Council as eligible to supply emissions units under the CORSIA.
 - **1.1.2.** *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme registry:* registry designated by a CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme to provide its registry services.
 - **1.1.3.** *Material change:* any update to the procedures of an emissions unit programme or its designated registry that would alter the functions that are addressed in the Emissions Unit Criteria (EUC), related guidelines, or the contents of this attestation. This includes changes that would alter responses to questions in the application form that the programme has submitted to the ICAO Secretariat or contradict the confirmation of the registry's adherence to the requirements contained in this attestation.
 - **1.1.4.** *Cancel:* the permanent removal and single use of a CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit within a CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme designated registry such that the same emissions unit may not be used more than once. This is sometimes also referred to as "retirement", "cancelled", "cancelling" or "cancellation".
 - **1.1.5.** *Business day:* defined by the CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme registry when responding to formal instruction from a duly authorized representative of the owner of an account capable of holding and cancelling CORSIA Eligible Emission Units.
 - 1.2. References to "Annex 16, Volume IV" throughout this document refer to Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation *Environmental Protection*, Volume IV *Carbon Offsetting and reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)*, containing the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for CORSIA implementation.
- **2.** Programme registry relationship:
 - 2.1. The ICAO Council's Technical Advisory Body (TAB) conducts its assessment of emissions unit programme eligibility including an assessment of the programme's provisions and procedures governing the programme registry, as represented by the programme. The ICAO Council determines CORSIA eligible emissions units upon recommendations by TAB and consistent with the EUC. The programme registry is not separately or independently considered throughout this process.
 - **2.2.** The provision of registry services under the CORSIA by a CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme registry is fully subject to the terms, conditions and limitations to the

- programme's scope of eligibility. Such terms include, *inter alia*, the programme's commitment to administer any and all provisions and procedures governing the programme registry in the manner represented by the programme in the application form and additional information provided to TAB during the assessment process.
- **2.3.** A CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit Programme registry can provide registry services to aeroplane operators prior to the programme's and programme registry's demonstration of the registry's consistency with the registry requirements contained in this attestation. However, the programme registry can only claim to support and can only provide for aeroplane operators to fulfill the provisions in Annex 16, Volume IV involving emissions unit cancellation-, reporting-, and verification-related actions after its consistency with the registry requirements contained in this attestation is demonstrated, and the signed attestation is published on the CORSIA website in addition to the ICAO document "CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units".
- **3.** Submitting an "Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation":
 - **3.1.** Both the administrator or authorized representative ("Programme Representative") of an emissions unit programme ("Programme"), and the administrator or authorized representative ("Registry Representative") of the registry designated by the Programme ("Programme Registry") will review and attest to their acceptance (as signed in Section 8 of this attestation) of all terms contained herein.
 - **3.2.** The Programme will electronically submit to the ICAO Secretariat a unique, dual-signed attestation for each and every Programme Registry that will provide its registry services to the Programme under the CORSIA:
 - **3.2.1.**If the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council taken in 2020, the Programme will submit the signed attestation(s) to the ICAO Secretariat no later than one year after the Programme is determined to be eligible by the ICAO Council.
 - **3.2.2.**From 2021, the Programme should submit the signed attestation(s) to the ICAO Secretariat at the time of applying for assessment by the TAB. If the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council after 31 December 2020, the Programme will submit the signed attestation(s) to the ICAO Secretariat no later than 180 days after the Programme is determined to be eligible by the ICAO Council.
 - **3.3.** As soon as possible upon receiving a signed attestation from the Programme, the ICAO Secretariat will:
 - **3.3.1.** Forward the signed attestation to the TAB; and
 - **3.3.2.**If the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council, publicly post the signed attestation on the CORSIA website in addition to the ICAO document "CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units".

PART B: Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation

- **4. Programme application materials**. As the Registry Representative, I certify items 4.1 to 4.4:
 - **4.1.** I have read and fully comprehend the following information:
 - **4.1.1.** The instructions and terms of this attestation;
 - **4.1.2.** The contents of the ICAO document "CORSIA Emissions Unit Eligibility Criteria";
 - **4.1.3.** The contents of the most recent version of the application form that the Programme has provided to the ICAO Secretariat; and
 - **4.1.4.**The terms, conditions and limitations to the Programme's scope of eligibility and further action(s) requested to the Programme by the ICAO Council, as presented to the Programme upon relevant decision of the ICAO Council on the Programme's eligibility¹.
 - **4.2.** The Programme's representation of its provisions and procedures governing the Programme Registry, and of Programme Registry functionality, as contained in the most recent version of the application form that the Programme has provided to the ICAO Secretariat, is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of my knowledge;
 - **4.3.** The Programme Registry will notify the Programme of any material changes to the Programme Registry, to enable the Programme to maintain consistency with relevant criteria and guidelines throughout its assessment by TAB and up to an eligibility decision by the ICAO Council; and, if applicable, continuing on from the effective date of an affirmative eligibility decision by the ICAO Council, the Programme Registry will notify the Programme of any material changes to the Programme Registry, such that the Programme can maintain consistency with relevant criteria and guidelines;
 - **4.4.** The Programme Registry and Registry Representative will not publicly disseminate, communicate, or otherwise disclose the nature, content, or status of communications between the Programme, the Programme Registry, and/or the ICAO Secretariat, related to the status of the Programme's provision of programme and registry services under the CORSIA, unless the Programme has received prior notice from the ICAO Secretariat that such information has been and/or can be publicly disclosed.
- **5. Scope of Programme responsibilities under the CORSIA**. As the Registry Representative, I acknowledge items 5.1 to 5.2:
 - 5.1. The scope of the Programme assessment by the TAB, through which the TAB will develop recommendations on the list of eligible emissions unit programmes (and potentially project types) for use under the CORSIA, which will then be considered by the ICAO Council for an eligibility decision, including the Programme's responsibilities throughout this process; and

¹ Only applicable when the Programme submits the signed "*Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*" to the ICAO Secretariat after the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council.

- **5.2.** The scope and limitations of the ICAO Secretariat's responsibilities related to the assessment process.
- **6. Programme Registry relationship**. As the Registry Representative, I understand and accept items 6.1 to 6.2:
 - **6.1.** The Programme Registry's provision of registry services under the CORSIA is subject to the terms, conditions and limitations to the Programme's scope of eligibility, as presented to the Programme upon relevant decision of the ICAO Council on the Programme's eligibility; and
 - **6.2.** Only after the Programme and the ICAO Secretariat have completed all steps in Part A, Section 3 of this attestation, can the Programme Registry facilitate and identify emissions unit cancellations specifically for CORSIA use, and support any related reporting and verification activities. The Programme Registry will not promote itself as being capable of providing registry services for the described purpose until such time.
- **7. Scope of Programme Registry responsibilities under the CORSIA**. As the Registry Representative, I certify items 7.1 to 7.11:
 - **7.1.** The Programme Registry is capable of fully meeting the objectives of any and all Programme provisions and procedures related to the Programme Registry that the Programme is required to have in place:
 - **7.1.1.**In the manner represented by the Programme in the application form that the Programme has provided to the ICAO Secretariat; and
 - **7.1.2.** As acknowledged by the Programme in the signed "Programme acceptance to terms of eligibility for inclusion in the ICAO document "CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units".
 - **7.2.** The Programme Registry will not deny a CORSIA participant's request for a registry account solely on the basis of the country in which the requestor is headquartered or based;
 - **7.3.** The Programme Registry will, upon request of the CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, designate the participant's cancellation of emissions units for the purpose of reconciling offsetting requirements under the CORSIA, including by compliance cycle;
 - 7.4. The Programme Registry will, within 1 3 business days of receipt of formal instruction from a duly authorized representative of the owner of an account capable of holding and cancelling CORSIA Eligible Emission Units within the registry, and barring system downtime that is scheduled in advance or beyond the control of the registry administrator, make visible on the Programme Registry's public website the account owners cancellations of CORSIA Eligible Emission Units as instructed. Such cancellation information will include all fields that are specified for this purpose in Annex 16, Volume IV;

² Only applicable when the Programme submits the signed "*Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*" to the ICAO Secretariat after the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council.

- 7.5. The Programme Registry will, upon request of the CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, generate report(s) containing the information specified for this purpose in Annex 16, Volume IV;
- 7.6. The Programme Registry will maintain robust security practices that ensure the integrity of, and authenticated and secure access to, the registry data of CORSIA participant account holders or participants' designees, and transaction events carried out by a user; and disclose documentation of such practices upon request. The Programme Registry will utilize appropriate method(s) to authenticate the identity of each user accessing an account; grant each user access only to the information and functions that a user is entitled to; and utilize appropriate method(s) to ensure that each event initiated by a user (i.e. transfer of units between accounts; cancellation/retirement of a unit, update of data, etc.) is an intentional transaction event confirmed by the user. Such security features will meet and be periodically updated in accordance with industry best practice;
- 7.7. The Programme Registry will, upon identifying any breach of Programme Registry data security or integrity that affects a CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, notify the CORSIA participant account holder or their designee, and notify the Programme, which will inform and engage with the ICAO Secretariat on the matter in the same manner as required for material deviations from the Programme's application form;
- **7.8.** The Programme Registry will ensure the irreversibility of emissions unit cancellations and the designation of the purpose of emissions units cancellations, as per the requirements contained in Annex 16, Volume IV (Part II, Chapter 4). Without prejudice to the aforementioned, such requirement would not prevent a Programme Registry from utilizing secure, time-bound and auditable methods for correcting unintentional user-entry errors;
- **7.9.** The Programme Registry will ensure that all cancellation information on its website is presented in a user-friendly format; is available at no cost and with no credentials required; is capable of being searched based on data fields; and can be downloaded in a machine-readable format, e.g., .xlsx;
- **7.10.** The Programme Registry will retain documents and data relevant to CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units and cancellations on an ongoing basis and for at least three years beyond the end date of the latest compliance period in which the emissions unit programme is determined to be eligible; and consistent with the Programme's long-term planning, including plans for possible dissolution;
- **7.11.** The Programme Registry will append a document to the end of the signed attestation describing how it will ensure its ability to implement the requirements of this document. This will include references to existing registry functionalities that already meet the requirements of this document and/or description of business practices and procedures that ensure the Programme Registry's ability to implement the requirements in this document.
- **8.** Accuracy and completeness of information. The signatures below certify that the information provided is true and correct in all material respects on the date as of which such information is dated or certified and does not omit any material fact necessary in order to make such information not misleading. Representatives are duly authorized for official correspondence on behalf of their organization.

Park	Michelle loader
Programme Representative Signature	Registry Representative Signature
Paul DeNoon	Michelle Loader
Programme Representative Name	Registry Representative Name
	Director
REDD.plus	
	Markit Group Limited
Programme Name	Registry Name
18-February-2021	February 18, 2021
Date	Date

DocuSigned by:

Instructions for Registry Representative: Please append a document on the next page of this attestation describing how your Registry will ensure its ability to implement the requirements of this document, including references to existing registry functionalities that meet the requirements of this document and/or description of business practices and procedures that describe the Programme Registry's implementation of the requirements of this document.

ATTACHMENT A: PROGRAMME REGISTRY ATTESTATION DISCLOSURE FORM

PART 1: INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

The following information request corresponds to the registry representative's certification of its adherence to items 7.1 to 7.10 of the *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation* "Scope of Programme Registry responsibilities under the CORSIA".

In accordance with item 7.11 of the *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*, registry administrators are to complete and append this form to the signed *Attestation* describing how the Registry will ensure its ability to implement the requirements of the *Attestation*. This includes references to existing registry functionalities that already meet the requirements of the *Attestation* and/or descriptions of business practices and procedures that ensure the Programme Registry's ability to implement the requirements in the *Attestation*.

For further guidance regarding the format and approaches for providing summary information and evidence of system functionalities and/or procedures in this form, refer to instructions for "Form Completion" in the *Application Form for Emissions Unit Programmes*³.

PART 2: REGISTRY AND REGISTRY REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

[A. – C. Programme, Administrator, and Representative information from Part 1 of Application Form]

[D. – E. Programme Registry and Administering Organization Name and contact; Programme Registry Administrator Name and contact information (may duplicate information from A. – C.)]

PART 3: EVIDENCE OF ADHERENCE TO SCOPE OF REGISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

Does the Programme Registry fully meet the objectives of any and all Programme provisions and procedures related to the Programme Registry that the Programme is required to have in place in the manner represented by the Programme in the application form that the Programme has provided to the ICAO Secretariat and, if applicable⁴, as acknowledged by the Programme in the signed "Programme acceptance to terms of eligibility for inclusion in the ICAO document 'CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units'"?

✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

7.1 IHS Markit collaborated with the Coalition for Rainforest Nations ("CFRN") in the development and submission of the original application sent to the ICAO Secretariat. As a result, IHS Markit is confident that the CFRN REDD.plus Registry can fully meet ICAO's objectives.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

⁴ Only applicable when the Programme submits the signed "*Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*" to the ICAO Secretariat after the Programme is determined to be eligible by a decision of the ICAO Council.

³ https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB.aspx

7.3

REDD.plus Registry Public View:

https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

Will the Programme Registry ensure that a CORSIA participant's request for a registry account will not be denied solely on the basis of the country in which the requestor is headquartered or based?

✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

As the registry provider for CFRN, IHS Markit will conduct "know-your-customer" due diligence checks on every registry account application. The country in which the requestor is headquartered or based is not a deciding factor in the due diligence process.

7.2 In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

IHS Markit Registry's Terms and Conditions:

https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf.

The IHS Markit registry business practices and procedures are not available for public consumption.

Will the Programme Registry, upon request of the CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, designate the participant's cancellation of emissions units for the purpose of reconciling offsetting requirements under the CORSIA, including by compliance cycle?

✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

The REDD.plus Registry features the ability to designate appropriate market eligibility of individual units. It is built upon a workflow engine which allows for units to proceed through a range of status changes. These status changes include transfers from one account to another, and through the credit lifecycle including from pending issuance through retired or cancelled. The REDD.plus Registry also assigns unique 54-digit serial numbers (e.g., Serial No: CFRNPG-RRU-PG-10400000026255-17062019-17062020-32551-101050-MER-0-P) to issued REDD.plus carbon credits, i.e. RRUs, that can be tracked from when the unit is issued through its transfer or use (cancellation or retirement) via the registry system. A clear chain of custody is maintained by IHS Markit in the Registry.

Regarding distinguishing units, all units in the Registry will have a flag which denotes whether they are CORSIA-eligible. Once this indicator flag is appended to units by the Registry Administrator and Regulator, then they are clearly distinguishable from other voluntary or compliance units. This means that the job of any Airline Operator or ICAO gets simplified to identify emission units that are eligible under CORSIA. The assigning of the "CORSIA-Compliant" flag by CFRN would be done if the projects (further referred to as "activities") are registered and associated emission units/credits (i.e. RRUs) are issued based on the confirmation

that the relevant CFRN rules that incorporate the CORSIA's 'EMISSIONS UNITS CRITERIA (EUC)' have been applied in implementation and monitoring of activities.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

REDD.plus Registry Public View:

https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

a. Will the Programme Registry, within 1-3 business days of receipt of formal instruction from a duly authorized representative of the owner of an account capable of holding and cancelling CORSIA Eligible Emission Units within the registry, and barring system downtime that is scheduled in advance or beyond the control of the registry administrator, make visible on the Programme Registry's public website the account owner's cancellations of CORSIA Eligible Emission Units as instructed.

✓YES

b. Will such cancellation information (row a) include all fields that are specified for this purpose in Annex 16, Volume IV⁵?

✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

7.4 The status change of credits is visible on the public view the moment all actions are approved within the registry. In this way, the cancellation of CORSIA-eligible units will be immediately reflected on the public view. In addition, the registry includes a "remarks" field which users can populate when cancelling units. These remarks are displayed on the registry's public webpage as well.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

REDD.plus Registry Public View:

https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

Will the Programme Registry, upon request of the CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, generate report(s) containing the information specified for this purpose in Annex 16, Volume IV⁶?

✓YES

7.5

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

IHS Markit recognizes the importance of the ability to export available information into downloadable reports including activities, issuances, transfers and retirements. Registry reports enable users to track their actions on the Registry and evaluate the status of their activities and/or

⁵ [Reference to SARPs provisions containing specific information / fields to reflect in registry]

⁶ [Reference to SARPs provisions containing specific information / fields to reflect in registry]

holdings. Users may export information about activities, issuances, current holdings, retirements and transfers to both Excel and PDF file formats. In addition, users have access to an activity log allowing them to view all events that took place within their account within a specific time period. IHS Markit also offers consolidated reporting with information on all accounts, activities, and credits in the REDD.plus program.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

These features require a user to have a username and password; consequently, they are only available in web-based format for those with access to the registry.

	a. Does the Programme Registry maintain robust security practices that ensure the integrity of, and authenticated and secure access to, the registry data of CORSIA participant account holders or participants' designees, and transaction events carried out by a user?	✓YES
	b. Does the Programme Registry disclose documentation of such practices (row a) upon request?	✓YES
	c. Does the Programme Registry utilize appropriate method(s) to authenticate the identity of each user accessing an account?	✓YES
	d. Does the Programme Registry grant each user access only to the information and functions that a user is entitled to?	✓YES
7.6	e. Does the Programme Registry utilize appropriate method(s) to ensure that each event initiated by a user (i.e. transfer of units between accounts; cancellation/retirement of a unit, update of data, etc.) is an intentional transaction event confirmed by the user?	✓YES
	f. Do such security features (rows $a - e$) meet and undergo periodic updates in accordance with industry best practice?	✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement each provision in rows a - f:

Due to confidentiality concerns, IHS Markit does not disclose externally its security provisions beyond those outlined in the IHS Markit Registry's Terms and Conditions: https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf and IHS Markit's Information Security Overview: https://cdn.ihsmarkit.com/www/pdf/1018/IHS-Markit-Information-Security-Overview-External.pdf.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

Please see the Terms and Conditions and Information Security Overview listed above.

a. Will the Programme Registry, upon identifying any breach of Programme Registry data security or integrity that affects a CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, notify the CORSIA participant account holder or their designee?	✓YES
b. Will the Programme Registry, upon identifying any breach of Programme Registry data security or integrity that affects a CORSIA participant account holder or participant's designee, notify the Programme, which will inform and engage with the ICAO Secretariat on the matter in the same manner as required for material deviations from the Programme's application form?	✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement each provision in rows a and b:

IHS Markit understands that our clients expect our products to maintain consistent high standards of security and business continuity. For this reason, IHS Markit considers software security and business continuity as a key element of our product and service offerings. With regard to security, IHS Markit has developed an approach that focuses on our main assets: people and software. Guided by our principles of innovation and transparency, we have fused these to create a unique industry program offering our clients greater levels of comfort and security.

Our software security program is a company-wide initiative guided by a risk management 7.7 framework developed in collaboration with our security team, senior development management and industry leaders in secure coding. The program's aims are to detect, assess and address security issues before they enter production environments. Our commitment is to embed the use of secure coding and source code reviewing into the development cycle.

As part of the registry platform, IHS Markit maintains a secure entitlement framework around the management of the registry services, which in turn allows only approved users to access confidential data. Access to registry data via web interface is restricted to approved registered users that have registered and gone through know-your-customer ("KYC") checks.

If a data breach is found to have impacted any registry account, the Account Holder and Program Administrator (i.e. CFRN) will be immediately notified by the IHS Markit team.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation.

Please see the Terms and Conditions and Information Security Overview listed in response to 7.6.

Does the Programme Registry ensure the irreversibility of emissions unit cancellations 7.8 and the designation of the purpose of emissions units cancellations, as per the requirements contained in Annex 16, Volume IV (Part II, Chapter 4)^{7,8}?

✓YES

⁷ Sections 4.2.2 (b)

⁸ Without prejudice to the aforementioned, such requirement would not prevent a Programme Registry from utilizing secure, timebound and auditable methods for correcting unintentional user-entry errors.

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:

Once a unit is cancelled on the registry, it can no longer be actioned. Users are unable to select any "action" buttons (such as Transfer or Retire) for that unit or block. Similarly, once a unit is retired on the registry, it can no longer be actioned. Users are unable to select any "action" buttons (such as Transfer) for that unit or block, thereby eliminating the ability of that cancelled or retired credit to be sold

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

IHS Markit's policy on unit cancellations is available in the IHS Markit Registry's Terms and Conditions: https://cdn.ihs.com/www/pdf/MER-Terms-and-Conditions-Account-Guidelines.pdf

a. Does the Programme Registry ensure that all cancellation information on its website is presented in a user-friendly format?	✓YES
b. Does the Programme Registry ensure that all cancellation information on its website is available at no cost and with no credentials required?	✓YES
c. Does the Programme Registry ensure that all cancellation information on its website is capable of being searched based on data fields?	✓YES
d. Does the Programme Registry ensure that all cancellation information on its website can be downloaded in a machine-readable format, e.g., .xlsx?	✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement each provision in rows a - d:

7.9 The REDD.plus Registry public view is available to all members of the public at no cost and with no credentials required in a user-friendly format. The public view will reflect all cancellation information that the user or regulator (i.e. CFRN) has chosen to make publicly available.

Reports can be exported from the registry into machine-readable formats.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

REDD.plus Registry Public View:

https://products.markit.com/br-reg/public/cfrn-public/#/home

a. Will the Programme Registry retain documents and data relevant to CORSIA Eligible
Emissions Units and cancellations on an ongoing basis and for at least three years beyond the end date of the latest compliance period in which the emissions unit programme is determined to be eligible?

b. Will the Programme Registry retain documents and data relevant to CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units and cancellations consistent with the Programme's long-term planning, including plans for possible dissolution?

✓YES

Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement each provision in rows a and b:

IHS Markit handles and retains both information (documents and data) within and output from systems in accordance with applicable local, state and federal laws, as well as program regulatory requirements.

IHS Markit retains audit records for an organization-defined time period consistent with records retention requirements to provide support for after-the-fact investigations of security incidents and to meet program and organizational information retention requirements.

IHS Markit uses vendor-recommended settings and industry-recognized secure practices to confirm audit records are retained as necessary by legal or contractual requirements to provide support for investigations of incidents and to meet data retention requirements.

In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry's implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this *Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation*.

Please see the IHS Markit Information Security Overview:

https://cdn.ihsmarkit.com/www/pdf/1018/IHS-Markit-Information-Security-Overview-External.pdf