

FACT SHEET / AUG 2026

Proven Integrity, Proven Impact

Jurisdictional REDD+ Credit Types: FCPF and ART TREES– Fact Sheet



SECTION 01

Introduction

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is a United Nations-backed approach to provide results-based finance to developing countries for tackling forest loss.

Jurisdictional REDD+ programs operate across entire countries or subnational jurisdictions, combining large-scale emissions reductions and removals with robust governance, social and environmental safeguards to provide high-integrity forest carbon credits.

Two of the main frameworks in this space are the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Standard, administered by the World Bank from 2008–2028, and ART's TREES (Architecture for REDD+ Transactions — The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard).

This paper is designed to give corporate buyers an overview of the two standards, outlining how they compare in terms of integrity and the role that purchasing FCPC credits today can play in supporting forest countries to transition to ART TREES programs to benefit from long-term financing for forest protection and sustainable economic development.

SECTION 02

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

FCPF was established by the World Bank in 2008 to help developing countries reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by building readiness for REDD+ and piloting performance-based payments for verified results. It operated two complementary mechanisms: a Readiness Fund, which provided grants to help countries develop the policies, MRV systems and safeguards frameworks needed for REDD+, and a Carbon Fund, which supports results-based payments for verified emission reductions through Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (ERPAs).

The Readiness Fund supported 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean before closing in 2022. Fifteen of these 47 countries entered the Carbon Fund and signed ERPAs for large-scale emission reductions programs. To date (May 2026) these 15 countries have received results-based payments totalling over \$371.5 million from the Carbon Fund for verified emission reductions (ERs), and more than 20 million ERs have been generated in excess and are available to carbon markets. Total verified ER payments are expected to reach \$471 million by the end of 2026. The FCPF Carbon Fund is due to conclude in 2028.

ART TREES

ART's TREES was designed to credit results from jurisdictional REDD+ programs via standardized procedures that include rigorous social and environmental integrity requirements. TREES was built on a decade of learning and evolution in REDD+, from the FCPF program and others such as REDD Early Movers and is fully aligned with the requirements of the Paris Agreement. The World Bank and ART have formalised a transition pathway for FCPF countries to issue credits under TREES.

“The World Bank and ART are working together to ensure a high-integrity transition path for countries using the FCPF Standard... The World Bank welcomes the proposed transition pathway for FCPF programs in the draft of ART's TREES 3.0 standard, which aims to provide continuity for countries already using the FCPF Standard.”

— FCPF, 2025

Together, FCPF and ART form an evolving jurisdictional REDD+ pathway. FCPF has helped countries establish the technical, institutional, and safeguard foundations needed to generate verified results at scale. A number of countries are already monetizing results with payments from the FCPF program, while others, including Côte d'Ivoire and Costa Rica, are also accessing additional climate finance through the sale of excess ERs beyond the volumes contracted to FCPF.

ART TREES offers a long-term pathway for jurisdictions to continue to generate and issue high quality emissions reductions and removals and receive long-term finance to support sustainable development.

SECTION 04

FCPF: Three Pillars of Credit Quality

The FCPF program and standard pioneered many of the quality criteria across environmental integrity, social safeguards and governance that went on to inform the development of ART's TREES.

Environmental Integrity

- Conservative historical baselines (10-yr FCPF)
- IPCC Tier 2/3 carbon accounting for all primary pools
- Quantified uncertainty deductions on all credits
- Buffer reserves: 10–40% withheld against risk of reversals and pooled globally
- Leakage management: ER Program designed and implemented to mitigate leakage

Social Integrity

- WorldBank E&S Framework + UNFCCC Cancun Safeguards
- Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) processes where required under World Bank safeguards, national law, or customary practice
- Mandatory, transparent and consulted benefit-sharing plans
- Gender action plans in all ER programs
- EnABLE Fund for marginalized community access

Governance

- Mandatory reversal compensation mechanism
- CATS registry and connectivity to ART Registry (no double counting)
- Post-crediting reversal management for CORSIA-eligible programs
- Independent verification by ISO-accredited VVBs

SECTION 05

Bottom Line for Buyers

The FCPF program has played a foundational role in the advancement of the jurisdictional REDD+ market. By supporting forest governments to establish the policy and legal frameworks, emissions reduction and removal programs, and governance systems for carbon accounting and revenue distribution, FCPF has helped create conditions for jurisdictions to deliver verified high integrity results at scale, representing the highest standards of environmental quality and social safeguards. For some countries, strong national policies, programs, and incentives have driven overperformance in achieving emissions reductions beyond contracted volumes with the FCPF.

By purchasing FCPF credits, private sector buyers can support real emissions reductions and drive meaningful impacts on the ground today for people and communities. These purchases will also provide funding to support forest governments to transition to issuing credits under the ART TREES program, enabling them to access long-term climate finance in return for further reductions in emissions from deforestation.

Side-by-Side Standard Comparison

Detailed comparison of FCPF Standard and ART's TREES 2.0 requirements:

Program Governance & Scope

Standard	FCPF	ART
Category / Program Oversight	FCPF Carbon Fund World Bank as Trustee; Carbon Fund Meetings with Observers from CSOs, including Indigenous Peoples organizations	ART Board (independent experts); ART Secretariat at Winrock International
Eligible Entities	National governments (15 ERPAs across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean)	National & subnational governments; subnational (1 admin level below national) as interim measure through Dec 2030
Crediting Period	5–7 years through Dec 2024	5-year periods, renewable; subnational ends Dec 2030; national can renew indefinitely
Eligible Activities	Crediting approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, removals from non-forest to forest conversion and forest enhancement and reducing emissions through sustainable management of forests.	Crediting approaches for all jurisdictions, including HFLD jurisdictions, for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; removals from non-forest to forest conversion

Carbon Accounting & Baselines

Standard	FCPF	ART
Accounting Area	National or subnational scale; one or more administrative areas or a national-government-designated area such as an ecoregion; no fixed minimum area threshold but must represent a significant portion of the country's forest area. Programs covering 7.4 million ha with 4.1 million ha of forests in average.	National: no scale threshold. Subnational government led subnational area: entire single jurisdiction, minimum 2.5 million ha of forest. National-government led subnational area: one or more jurisdictions and/or recognized Indigenous territories; minimum 2.5 million ha of forest.
Emissions Reductions Reference / Crediting Level	Historical average over 10-year reference period; removals included in the overall program Reference Level / ER accounting if in scope; HFLD approach for reductions available for qualifying jurisdictions.	5-year historical average; updated every 5 years; new level may not exceed previous; HFLD approach for reductions available for qualifying jurisdictions.

Standard	FCPF	ART
Removals Crediting Approach	Removals are included in overall ER accounting and reported separately by activity; there is no separate removals crediting level. Only afforestation/reforestation (A/R) removals may be independently labelled if emissions reductions from deforestation and forest degradation are positive. For A/R removals, the activity must reflect human-induced reforestation/afforestation rather than unmanaged forest gain.	Separate removals crediting approach for non-forest-to-forest conversion. Removals credits can only be issued if emissions reductions are achieved in the same year. Natural restoration removals may use a zero reference/crediting level if stratified separately; otherwise, commercial forests and unstratified removals areas must exceed crediting level of 5-year historical average annual area converted from non-forest to forest. Participants must demonstrate prior intent to restore natural forests or that commercial forests are linked to a government plan or program.
Methodology	FCPF Methodological Framework: IPCC-aligned; Tier 2/3 for primary pools; peer-reviewed models required.	IPCC Tier 2/3 for primary pools & CO ₂ ; Tier 1 permitted only for secondary pools and removals if deemed conservative; models must be peer-reviewed.
Pools & Gases	Primary: above-ground tree biomass, CO ₂ . Secondary: below-ground, dead wood, soil, litter, CH ₄ , N ₂ O.	Primary: above-ground tree biomass, peat soils, CO ₂ . Secondary: below-ground, dead wood, litter, CH ₄ , N ₂ O.
Uncertainty	Monte Carlo simulation (90% CI, n=10,000); formulaic uncertainty deduction; recalculated end of crediting period.	Monte Carlo simulation (90% CI, n=10,000); formulaic uncertainty deduction; recalculated end of each crediting period.

Additionality, Permanence & Risk Controls

Standard	FCPF	ART
Additionality	Performance-based; requirement to implement new or enhanced mitigation measures.	Performance-based
Buffer / Reversals	Includes an uncertainty buffer (0-15%) and a pooled reversal buffer (10-40%) during the crediting period, with provision for part of the uncertainty and reversal buffer to be released if risk declines over time; CORSIA-aligned provisions.	Pooled buffer: 5–25% withheld based on risk assessment (3 mitigating factors); +5% surcharge for 5 years post-reversal; replenishment required after deficit; remaining contributions are not returned and are retired if the participant leaves ART; CORSIA-aligned provisions.
Leakage	ER Program interventions designed and implemented to address leakage; third-party verification assesses implementation of leakage mitigation strategy.	Tiered deductions: 0% (national, >90% forest) to 20% (subnational).
Double Counting	Provisions for double issuance, double use & double claiming; corresponding adjustments.	Provisions for double issuance, double use & double claiming; corresponding adjustments.

Safeguards, Verification & Registry

Standard	FCPF	ART
Safeguards	World Bank E&S Framework; SESA/ESMF; benefit-sharing plans; FPIC where required; EnABLE Fund for vulnerable groups.	UNFCCC Cancún Safeguards A–G; structure/ process/outcome indicators; FPIC where required; full conformance with outcome indicators within 5 years of joining ART.
Verification	ISO-accredited VVBs (via ANAB or ONAC); FCPF Facility Management Team conducts quality check; Separate from VVB process: WB regional teams conduct due-diligence on safeguards and benefit sharing plan implementation; WB legal team reviews ER title transfer provisions.	IAF-accredited VVBs; ART Secretariat desk review; ART Board final approval for credit issuance.
Registry	CATS: 102M ERs issued; serialised credits; public documentation; HFLD, removals; linked to ART & Verra; Climate Action Data Trust.	ART Registry: 58.43M ERs issued; serialised credits; public documentation; HFLD & removals labels; cooperation agreement with CATS.
Compliance Market	CORSIA fully approved (pilot phase and phase 1); Art. 6 corresponding adjustments supported.	Designed primarily for voluntary and compliance markets; CORSIA fully approved (Pilot Phase, Phase 1 and Phase 2); Art. 6 corresponding adjustments supported.

Next steps

If your company is interested in learning more about FCPF or TREES credits, please visit emergentclimate.com or contact:

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