

UK Technical Assistance Programme for **Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF)**

The **UK Technical Assistance Programme for LEAF** will support governments in Africa, Asia and Latin America to access funding to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and additional forest-related activities that protect the climate (REDD+). The two-year, £5 million programme will provide technical assistance for Jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD+) in selected nations or sub-national territories.

Targeted support will enable governments to generate carbon credits by adhering to The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), a high-integrity standard for J-REDD+ that requires robust approaches to emissions accounting and social and biodiversity safeguards. Governments will be further supported to secure Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) for the sale of TREES credits to the LEAF Coalition, a unique public-private partnership that aims to mobilise finance at scale to support forest governments, communities and Indigenous Peoples in combatting deforestation and protect some of the world's most valuable carbon sinks.

OBJECTIVES

Deliver bespoke packages of technical assistance to support jurisdictions to:



Meet the requirements of ART's high integrity standard TREES, including quantification, monitoring and reporting of emissions and removals; and implementation of social and environmental safeguards.



Navigate the ERPA Process, working with Emergent to negotiate and finalise agreements.



Build long-term technical expertise and skills, ensuring that there is lasting impact.

THE CHALLENGE

High integrity forest carbon markets provide a mechanism to mobilise finance to better enable governments to protect their forests. J-REDD+ allows for action at scale to protect forests and address climate change, and the LEAF Coalition is a flagship carbon market program for J-REDD+.

Governments face common challenges in seizing this opportunity, such as the following:

- Establishing and implementing REDD+ Strategies and Action.
- Complying with ART/TREES requirements for emissions accounting, crediting, social and environmental safeguards and the verification process.
- Navigating voluntary carbon markets and understanding pricing.
- Consulting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and establishing benefits sharing and grievance redress mechanisms.
- Interpreting the legal and forward-looking commercial terms of ERPAs and understanding the different LEAF transaction pathways.

As illustrated in the figure below, the UK Technical Assistance Programme for LEAF will work with selected governments to identify their specific challenges and the types of support they require. We will then deliver bespoke packages of technical assistance to address these challenges. We expect to deliver technical assistance in five major thematic areas – REDD+ Policy, Emissions Accounting, Finance, Safeguards and Legal/Contractual – as detailed on the following page.

PHASE 1

Country Engagement

We will engage with jurisdictional governments to determine their needs for technical assistance and capacity strengthening.

PHASE 2

Bespoke Technical Assistance

We will delivery bespoke technical assistance and capacity building programmes aimed at advancing jurisdictions in ART/TREES requirements and the LEAF negotiation process.

OUTCOMES

Jurisdictions meet the ART/TREES requirements, sign ERPAs and receive payments from the LEAF Coalition.

Enhanced J-REDD+ programmes with social and environmental safeguards.

Scaling up the investment needed to end tropical forest loss and raise global climate ambition.

TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE



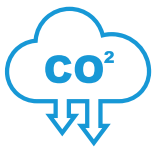
Emissions Accounting

- Mapping of deforestation, degradation and regeneration of forests
- National Forest Monitoring Systems
- Forest Reference Emission Levels
- Calculating crediting levels under ART TREES



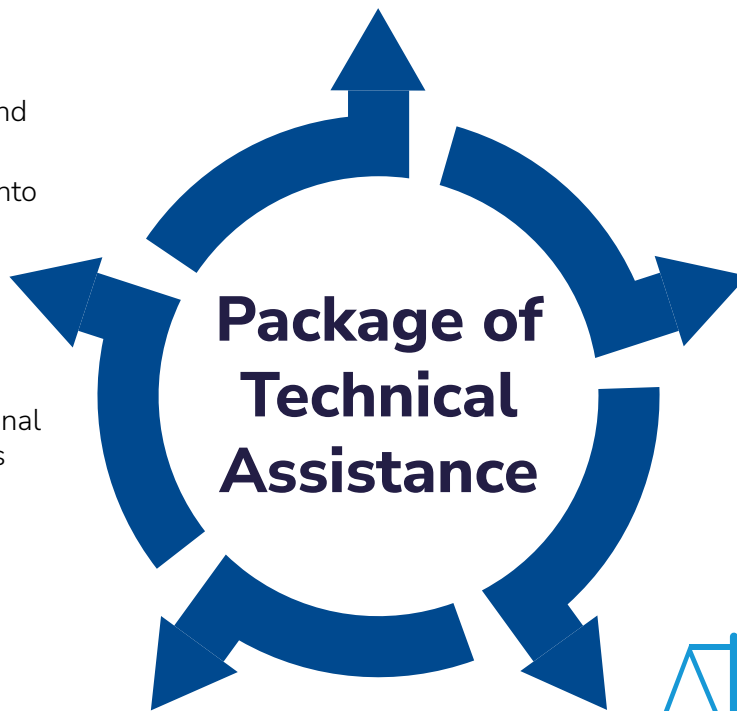
Finance

- Navigate voluntary carbon markets and understand pricing
- Choosing LEAF Transaction Pathways
- REDD+ financing plans
- Benefits sharing plans and systems
- Engaging financial intermediaries for LEAF transactions



REDD+ Policy

- REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans
- Integrating REDD+ into other sector policies
- Institutional frameworks for implementation
- Nesting of REDD+ projects in Jurisdictional REDD+ Programmes



Package of Technical Assistance



Safeguards

- Safeguard Information Systems
- Summary of Information on Safeguards
- Stakeholder consultations and participation (e.g. with IPLCs)
- Grievance Redress Mechanisms



Legal/Contractual

- Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements
- Land tenure and Emission Reduction title transfer
- Corresponding adjustments to NDCs and Article 6
- Development of a carbon registry

CONSORTIUM

The programme will be delivered by specialists from Ricardo, its partners, Winrock International and Climate Law & Policy. The Consortium is supported by over 120 National Experts, who speak over 24 languages and have expertise in J-REDD+, emissions accounting and monitoring, finance, ERPA's and safeguard frameworks.



Ricardo plc is leading on delivering the UK Technical Assistance Programme for LEAF. Ricardo is a strategic supplier for DESNZ and has a strong track record of leading large international programmes. Ricardo is a global provider of TA on NDCs, carbon accounting and carbon markets, including via the World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.



Winrock International has nearly two decades of experience in J-REDD+, particularly related to forestry inventories and MRV. Winrock has provided TA to Guyana for developing their J-REDD+ Programme, the first to be issued with TREES credits. Winrock leads on U.S. Department of State funded ONE-SL project supporting countries and building tools to facilitate J-REDD+. Staff have served as part of Technical Advisory Panel for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.



Climate Law & Policy (CLP) has nearly two decades of experience in J-REDD+, focusing on safeguards and benefits sharing. Provided TA to Guyana for developing their J-REDD+ Programme. CLP pioneered policy guidance and approaches to implementing safeguards for REDD+. CLP is a lead contributor to the development of the safeguard requirements of TREES.

STAY IN TOUCH

For any queries about the UK TA LEAF programme, please contact UK-TA-LEAF@ricardo.com

Working with



Funded by

