

# ART Board Meeting Minutes

17 September 2023

**ART Board members:** F. Seymour, R. F. Adjei, W. Bumpers, L. Ruiz, C. Nobre, P. Umunay, J. Verdieck  
C. Voigt attended as an observer  
Absent: P. D. Sherpa

**ART Secretariat:** M. Grady, C. Magerkurth, F. Paniagua, A. Takimoto, P. Piffer, J. Paltseva

ART Board members held an annual in-person meeting in September 2023. Topics discussed included review of previous meeting minutes, ART Participant updates, ART operations, ICVCM program level application, Beyond Carbon co-certification, challenges in the market, TREES revision process and Board meeting schedule.

## 1. Welcome and Agenda

### INFORMATION

The Board Chair welcomed the Board members and the Secretariat to the meeting. The Board Chair welcomed new Board member Christina Voigt, who observed the meeting and whose term begins Oct 1, and new Secretariat staff.

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

### INFORMATION

The Secretariat shared draft meeting minutes from the 9 March 2023 and 5 May 2023 ART Board meetings.

### DISCUSSION

- The Board requested attendance be corrected.

### DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

**Action Items:** The ART Secretariat will revise Board attendance. The Board approved the meeting minutes with the requested update.

## 3. ART Participant Updates

### INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented a comprehensive summary of ART Participant updates in the Board Book and highlighted a few during the meeting. This included discussions regarding recent updates on Guyana and Costa Rica.

The Secretariat also presented on the pipeline of Programs registered under ART. While specific timelines are not required, the Secretariat shared updates on progress from different countries. This included updates on validations and verifications occurring in 2023. The Secretariat presented on Participant experiences with validation and verification, including the clarification of roles and appropriate process and review timelines.

The Secretariat also provided an update on the Appeal submitted by the APA regarding the Complaint review. The Secretariat clarified that the ART Board holds no formal role in the appeals process.

#### **DISCUSSION**

- The Board asked clarifying questions about some of the Participant updates in the Board Book and in the presentation.
- The Board requested that the Secretariat consider upfront training to help address challenges that Participants and other stakeholders have faced with validation and verification.
- The Board requested periodic updates about Participants while VVB process is happening, including any findings and their justification.
- The Board discussed current trends in discussions with Participants, including how ongoing ERPA negotiations may impact the ART submission process and the need for technical support and funding for jurisdictions from outside sources, including clearly mapping such sources.
- The Board discussed the need for a strategy to support jurisdictions proceeding through the ART process.

#### **DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Items:** The Secretariat will consider potential improvements to the Validation and Verification process including upfront training to Participants, key stakeholders in country, and the VVB prior to future validation and verification visits.

**Action Items:** The Board will remind jurisdictions to reach out to ART for in-depth conversations regarding their participation and emphasized the importance of peer-to-peer (gov-to-gov) training.

### **4. ART Operation Updates**

#### **INFORMATION**

The Secretariat provided information to the Board regarding updates on market trends such as the ICVCM, developing an ART co-benefits certification, the upcoming process for the review of TREES, and other operations.

#### **DISCUSSION**

- The Board discussed ICAO's approval of ART to issue credits during the first compliance period.
- The Board discussed the program-level requirements listed by the ICVCM in the Assessment Framework. The Board discussed the importance of removals and HFLD activities for the climate and encouraged these to be emphasized during category-level discussions if ART and experts from forest countries participate in deep dive MSWGs.
- The Board discussed the future iterations of sustainable development attributes in the Assessment Framework in the context of ART's Beyond Carbon co-certification.
- The Board discussed market trends around REDD+ credits and IPLC engagement with carbon markets.
- The Board discussed media critiques and pressures in the marketplace on Standards and those working in the space.
- The Board discussed new communications materials and website content, including translated Safeguards Guidance and TREES Executive Summaries.
- The Secretariat provided an update on the development of the Beyond Carbon co-certification and its three modules. The Board asked whether representatives from LCs, not just IPs, were also

participating in the committees. The Board asked whether the development of the certification would change the validation and verification guidelines.

- The Secretariat presented on challenges jurisdictions are having with aligning credit accounting with project-scale activities.
- The Secretariat presented initial work evaluating a potential crediting approach for forests remaining forests.
- The Board discussed the plan to begin reviewing TREES in 2024 as required.
- The Board discussed other operations and provided information on upcoming in-person meetings.

#### **DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Items:** The Board directed the Secretariat to compile a program-level application to the ICVCM.

**Action Items:** The Board directed the Secretariat to continue to support the ICVCM process through the CIWPs and MSWGs if selected to participate.

## **5. Board Recruitment and Committees**

### **INFORMATION**

The Secretariat presented the process to ensure a pipeline of new Board Members and Officers.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- The Board discussed the timing of terms of current Board Members.
- The Board discussed a new nominee for role of Vice-Chair as the current Vice-Chair indicated desire to step down from role and remain as general member.
- The Board discussed the formation of two committees (environmental integrity and social integrity) to take the lead in reviewing documents related to TREES, issuances, and variance requests.
- The Board discussed potential dates for the next Board meeting.

#### **DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Action Items:** The Board agreed to share suggested names of future nominees with Board Chair and Secretariat.

**Decision:** The Board unanimously re-elected Frances Seymour as Chairperson and John Verdieck as the new Vice-Chair.