



ART Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

ART Board members: B. Bumpers, C. Nobre, J. Verdieck, P. Dolma Sherpa, L. Ruiz Ostoic

Absent Board members: C. Voigt, P. Umunay, R. Fosuah Adjei

Note that an additional meeting covering these same topics was held on May 19th with C. Voigt, P. Umunay and R. Fosuah Adjei.

ART Secretariat Participants: C. Magerkurth, J. Bloom, M. Weisse

ART Board members held their second meeting to discuss revisions to the TREES 3.0 standard. The topics discussed included proposed changes to the standard's requirements on eligibility to claim removals and a discussion of the HFLD crediting approach. The Secretariat also shared an update from ART's Forest Remaining Forests Committee working group and previewed additional TREES 3.0 topics for possible future discussion.

1. Eligibility to use the TREES Removals Crediting Approach **INFORMATION**

The Secretariat provided background on the current requirements for eligibility to use the TREES Removals Crediting Approach and gave an overview of the inputs it has received on the topic from external stakeholders. The Secretariat also provided information on experiences of forest jurisdictions. The Secretariat then proposed options for revising the requirements under TREES 3.0, and the Board deliberated and voted on the proposed options.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the topic at length, providing the Secretariat with feedback on several areas.

The discussions built on previous technical discussions and included more in-depth discussions of:

- Stakeholder concerns on the current removals approach
- Role of removals in IPLC-led programs
- The importance of removals crediting in incentivizing the restoration of forests and the linked biodiversity and social benefits

The Board agreed to continue discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Action item: The Secretariat will adjust the options under consideration based on Board feedback for the next meeting.

3. HFLD Crediting Approach

INFORMATION

The Secretariat provided background on the current methodology for High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) jurisdictions, including:

- the development process used to reach the current approach
- stakeholder support and concerns raised since the approach was launched, and
- inputs from external stakeholders during the targeted TREES 3.0 dialogues.

The Board deliberated and voted on the next steps.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the topic at length, providing the Secretariat with feedback on several areas.

The discussions built on previous technical discussions and included more in-depth discussions of:

- Comments received previously
- The rigor of the current methodology and any scientific studies relating to HFLD conducted to date
- Intersection between HFLD crediting and IPLC involvement in carbon financing
- Corporate demand for HFLD Credits
- Voluntary and compliance market approvals of HFLD credits

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: The ART Board voted to not propose changes to the HFLD crediting level formula for TREES 3.0 based on the available science which continues to demonstrate that the HFLD approach is conservative.

4. Forest Remaining Forests

INFORMATION

The Secretariat provided an update from ART's Forest Remaining Forests Committee working group and presented the recommendations on accounting for these removals.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the inputs and recommendations from the Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

Action item: The ART Board voted to not include Forest Remaining Forests in TREES 3.0 but to continue to explore how an approach could be developed and to consider the committee's recommendation of pursuing additional research and/or a pilot in a jurisdictional context.

5. Additional TREES 3.0 Topics

INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented a broad overview of additional topics where minor changes are proposed for clarity or updates.

Action item: The ART Board will notify the Secretariat if they wish to explore these topics more deeply in a future Board meeting.

6. Wrap up and Adjourn

INFORMATION

The Board thanked the Secretariat for its continued work on the TREES 3.0 review process. The meeting was adjourned.