Introduction to Version 3.0 of the TREES Validation and Verification Standard

September 2026

Webinar Logistics

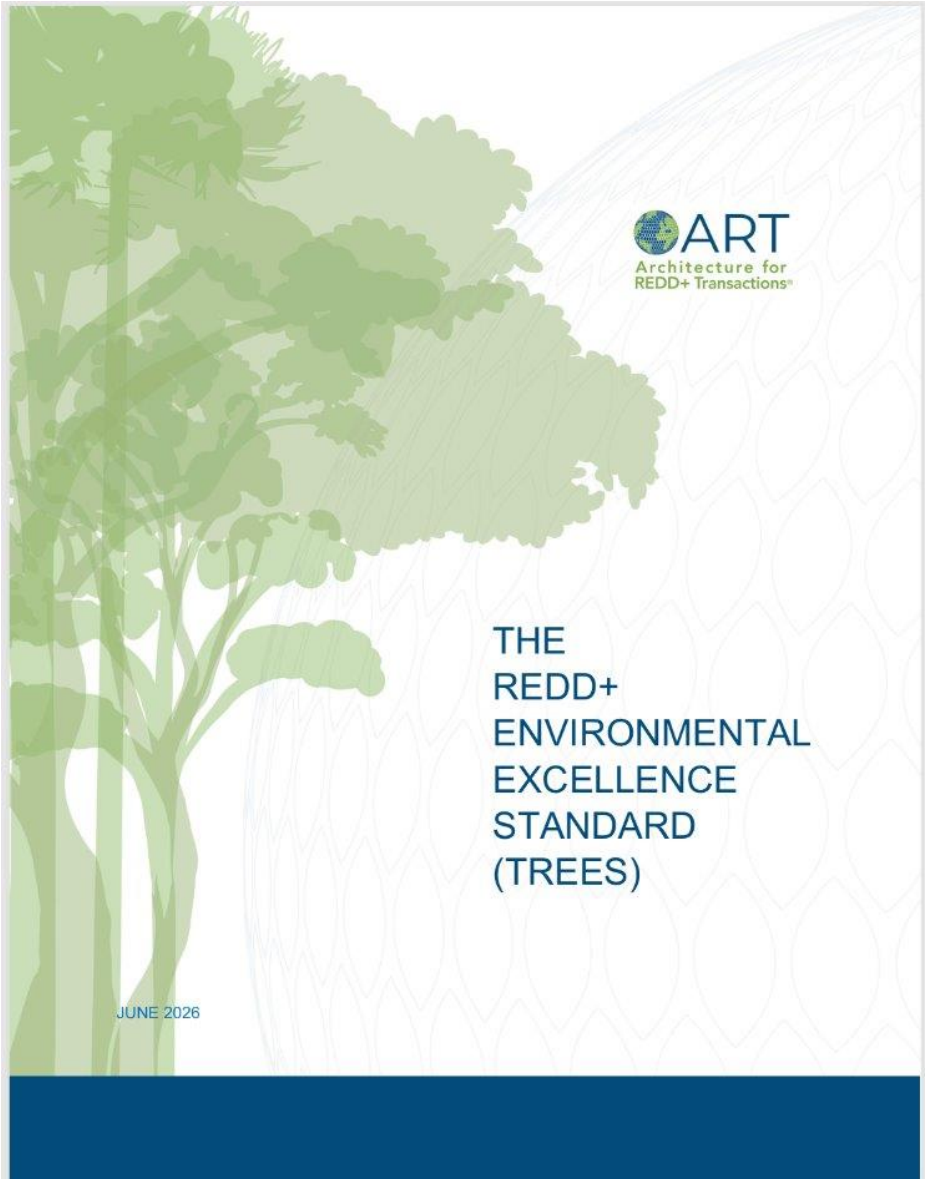
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ART Overview

- A global voluntary carbon program (architecture) to register, verify and issue high-quality REDD+ emissions reduction and removals credits to countries and jurisdictions to attract REDD+ finance at scale
- ART aims to promote national ambition and contribute to Paris Agreement goals
- Governed and managed by globally recognized, independent, objective experts

The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES)

Version 3.0 of TREES was released in June 2026



TREES Validation & Verification Standard (TVVS)

- Describes the requirements for ART's Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)
- Approved by the ART Board
- Reviewed at least every three years

ART Participants

Jurisdictional REDD+ Programs Listed with ART



Review Process

- Identifying elements of the TVVS that may benefit from updates based on ART's experiences and feedback received
  - Feedback from ART Participants, technical assistance providers, VVBs, and other interested parties
  - Public comments on TREES 3.0
- Incorporating new elements from TREES 3.0
- Iterating information and drafts with the ART Board
- Publishing TVVS v3.0 as approved by the ART Board

TVVS v3.0

- Published August 27, 2026
- https://www.artredd.org/verification/
- Includes requirements for audits using either TREES 2.0 or TREES 3.0
- Applies to all new validations and verifications
  - Validations and verifications that kicked off prior to August 2026 may continue to use the previous version

Summary of Changes

2.1.2 VVB Competencies

- Provides more prescriptive requirements for prior experience with jurisdictional or national REDD+ programs, or other large-scale verifications
  - Provides objective criteria for evaluating potential VVBs
  - Serves as a road map for VVBs that do not have sufficient experience
- Specifies competencies required for remote sensing of forests, forestry, and safeguards (including FPIC and benefit sharing)
  - Per Section 3.8.2, the ART Secretariat also ensures the proposed audit team is appropriate for each validation/ verification
- Requires relevant language skills or access to professional translators

2.3 Training

- Specifies that training covers TREES requirements (including safeguards), the TVVS, and ART's expectations for validations and verifications
- Requires all attendees to pass an exam in order to complete the training
- New requirement for Lead Verifiers to attend a refresher training at least every 18 months

2.5 Monitoring of VVB Performance

- Codifies the ART Secretariat's oversight of the validation and verification process
  - Observe meetings, attend site visit, review documents
  - Ensures timely support on explaining requirements of TREES and the TVVS. Oversight will not undermine the objectiveness and independence of the VVB's process
- Specifies when escalation will occur in the event of poor performance
- Explicitly includes an option for ART to suspend a VVB for high severity issues

3.2 Validation and Verification Cycle

- Specifies that concurrent verifications are permitted with Secretariat approval
  - Request from some Participants looking to “catch up” on their reporting

3.3 TREES 2.0 Validation Scope
3.4 TREES 2.0 Verification Scope

- Clarifies the scope for specific topics that have caused confusion
  - Clarifies expectations on the review of the REDD+ Implementation Plan and implementation of activities
  - Ensures validation/ verification of the approach to set aside credits for which ownership is not obtained or for which credits have been issued from other programs
  - Adds detail related to review of the calculation of the Crediting Level and final Emission Reductions and Removals
  - Requires variance request approval documents to be included in report

3.5 TREES 3.0 Validation Scope
3.6 TREES 3.0 Verification Scope

- New sections detail requirements for validation/ verification under TREES 3.0
  - Organization and language reflect TREES 3.0 and associated templates
  - Includes more details based on experience to date

3.8.1 Contracting

- Clarifies that the Secretariat may answer Participant questions on timelines and the steps of the audit process to inform the procurement process
- Specifies that Participants and VVBs may negotiate the terms of their agreements as desired, including timelines for each step of the process and consequences if timelines are not met

3.8.2 Conflict of Interest

- Specifies that the Secretariat will review that the proposed audit team is appropriate for the validation/ verification
- Emphasizes that no activities may begin prior to the approval of the Conflict of Interest

3.8.3 Audit Process

Cross-cutting

- Requires the VVB to include the Secretariat in all communications, remote meetings, and site visits
- Requires the VVB to provide memorialization of next steps and timelines discussed during meetings
- Requires the VVB to provide summaries of any bilateral communications that occur to both the Secretariat and the Participant
- Enshrines the use of ART's VVB templates or equivalent documentation

3.8.3.2 Validation or Verification Plan

- Adds considerations for development of the plan
  - Balance of stakeholders to be included
  - Direct inclusions of IPLCs
  - More detailed requirements for field work for emissions factors and activity data

3.8.3.3 Audit

- Requires the use of professional translators
  - For Indigenous or local dialects, community translators can be used
- Requires stakeholder interviews to be in a neutral location free of government influence and following culturally appropriate processes

3.8.3.4 Findings

- Adds language to clarify what constitutes a major vs minor nonconformance for safeguards
- Clarifies that minor nonconformances can be closed during the audit
- Requires clarification requests to be included in the audit reports

3.8.3.5 Resolutions

- Explicitly states that finding resolutions may lead to new findings, clarification requests or additional interviews or site visits being required
- Requires VVB and Participant check-ins at least once a month during finding resolution steps

3.8.3.6 Internal Review

- Explicitly states that Internal reviews cannot occur prior to the closure of findings by the audit team
- Explicitly states that VVB Internal reviews may identify additional work or information required

3.12 Materiality

- Specifies materiality related to safeguards



Thank you

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