



FOREST SOLUTIONS DIALOGUE

Designing Cooperative Approaches for Climate Action

The Forest Solutions Dialogue: Designing Cooperative Approaches for Climate Action

Indicative 2020 Overview (as of June 1, 2020)

The **Forest Solutions Dialogue** (“the Dialogue”), **focused on designing cooperative approaches for climate action**, is a new project of Climate Advisers Trust in partnership with Environmental Defense Fund.¹ Responding to the call for enhanced cooperation to accelerate action on nature-based climate solutions (NBS),² the Dialogue aims to develop models of cooperative approaches for forests under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and provide participating countries with the technical and policy assistance to pursue such partnerships. Cooperative approaches, such as those envisaged under Article 6.2 involving international transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), can help unlock the mitigation potential of forests and NBS - which can contribute 30% of the mitigation needed by 2030³ to limit warming to two degrees Celsius.

Through a series of virtual and/or in-person meetings and a supporting research agenda, the Dialogue will:

- Describe various types of Article 6 arrangements and explore their strengths and weaknesses
- Identify and facilitate exchange of best practices related to the policy, legal, and technical requirements to participate in these arrangements
- Build confidence in forest and climate partnership arrangements that can enable action at scale

The Dialogue provides participating governments with a collaborative, supportive, practical problem-solving forum in which to explore and resolve technical and policy challenges in the design of such partnerships. It is also unique in its focus on the forest sector and on implementation (not negotiation) of cooperative approaches, complementing other efforts focusing on carbon pricing, capacity-building, and NDC development. Participants include invited countries seeking progress on this topic; those who have expressed interest in participating in the Dialogue include Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Suriname, Switzerland, and the U.K. The research agenda and support provided to participants will spur the development of best practices to share with the international community and build confidence in partnership models that provide the necessary support and/or incentives for NBS.

¹ The Dialogue is supported by civil society funding provided through Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)

² “[NBS for Climate Manifesto](https://www.unenvironment.org/engaging-nature-based-solutions-coalition-climate-action-summit)” announced at the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit 2019, available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/engaging-nature-based-solutions-coalition-climate-action-summit>

³ Griscom et al, 2017. Natural Climate Solutions. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Available at: <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645/tab-article-info>

The next phase of the Dialogue (2021-2025), subject to new funding, will build on the success of the pilot year, support participating countries as they move from design to implementation and offer hands-on assistance to interested governments. The overarching goal, by the end of the 5 years, is to have promoted numerous cooperative approaches for forests that contribute to halting deforestation and achieving Paris goals.

To learn more or join the Dialogue, please contact Diana Movius, Director of Global Forest Policy at Climate Advisers Trust at movius@ca-trust.org. The 2020 meeting and research agenda is below.

2020 Meeting and Research Overview (version April 1, 2020)
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This agenda may change over the course of the Dialogue in response to participants' suggestions and interests. Climate Advisers Trust welcomes additional contributions from participants and collaboration on research and analyses. To offer feedback or to join the research agenda, please contact Diana Movius at movius@ca-trust.org.

Note: This version of the workplan takes into account the evolving COVID-19 pandemic as of April 1, 2020. More changes to the Forest Solutions Dialogue schedule and agenda will likely be needed as the pandemic unfolds. Such adjustments will be communicated to you in a timely manner.

I. Dialogue Meeting I: Wednesday, May 13, (Europe, Africa, Americas) and Tuesday, May 12 (Asia-Pacific), 2020 by Zoom web-conference

May 27: Asia-Pacific Meeting (1.5 hours): 2PM Wellington, 9AM Jakarta, 11 AM Tokyo/Seoul; 9PM DC

May 13: Americas/Europe/Africa Meeting (1.5 hours): 10AM DC/Santiago; 9AM Lima/Bogota; 8AM San Jose; 3pm London/Kinshasa/Lagos; 4pm Paris/Oslo/Berlin

- a. Dialogue Overview
- b. What do we know already about Article 6 and forests?
 - i. Preparatory Brief: Relationship between Articles 5 and 6 and current REDD+ programs
- c. Discussion

II. Dialogue Meeting II: June – August 2020

Series of three short virtual sessions covering the following topics

- a. Follow-up on Dialogue Meeting I
 - i. Country interest in dialogue and key topics identified in Meeting I
- b. Focus: How to structure Article 6 Agreements: Role(s) of the national government
SUGGESTED FOR WEDS, JUNE 10 AND WEDS, JUNE 24
 - i. Preparatory Brief: Emerging options for institutional arrangements between countries to enable cooperative approaches
 - ii. Preparatory Brief: From “recognition-only” to ITMOs: A phased approach
 - iii. Preparatory Brief/Schematic: Federal facilitation of subnational engagement in ITMOs
 - iv. Case study: Climate Teams (Environmental Defense Fund)
- c. Article 6 and forests in the context of NDCs and NDC updates
 - i. Preparatory short paper: Options for countries to integrate REDD+ and Article 6 into NDCs and increasing ambition
 - ii. Rotating Focus Groups: How are countries considering including REDD+ and Article 6 in their NDC update process?
 - iii. Presentations/Interventions from Dialogue countries

III. Dialogue Meeting III: Fall 2020

2-3 sessions for developing countries only

- a. Follow-up on Dialogue Meeting II
 - i. Recap of discussion and key topics identified by countries
- b. Focus area: Navigating Forest Carbon Finance options in developing countries
 - i. Preparatory Brief: Landscape of all forest carbon finance options: How do ITMOs fit in?
 - ii. Discussion: How will national governments decide on the best or most appropriate finance arrangements?
 - iii. Focus groups: How will national governments decide whether to retain or transfer reductions?
- c. Country technical and capacity needs for Art 6.2 arrangements
 - i. Background Paper: “Nesting” projects: How can countries nest projects or programs within their national REDD+ strategy as part of preparing for cooperative approaches?
 - ii. Paper/Brief: forest country-level accounting and preparedness for ITMOs: “Options on the table” in negotiations and relationship to existing country capacity
 - iii. Rotating Focus Groups: What are best practices to prepare for Art 6.2 from REDD+ country perspective? What are key needs identified by REDD+ countries?
 - iv. Follow-up Brief (after Dialogue): Best practices or key needs identified by “seller” countries.

IV. Dialogue Meeting V: Year 1 flagship event at UNFCCC Bonn conference (if held) or virtual event (October-November 2020)

- a. 2020 Dialogue summary of work
 - i. Launch of compilation of briefs, lessons-learned and best practices developed
 - ii. Announce scaled-up Dialogue for 2021 and next steps
- b. Country-specific updates and announcements

V. Topics for future consideration (2021)

- a. Content of Memoranda of Understanding and Article 6 contracts
- b. In-country frameworks to encourage private finance and involvement of project developers
- c. Managing existing forest/REDD+ programs (FCPF, GEF, GCF) and new programs involving ITMOs
- d. Relating REDD+ Article 6 arrangements with current ETS and carbon pricing
- e. Financing implementation of cooperative approaches
- f. Forests and corporate demand for units