

## **Concept Note**

### **First UNFCCC Focal Point and Stakeholder Meeting on the Establishment of the Southern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance**

**Dates 18 -19 December 2024**

**Venue – Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Zimbabwe.**

#### **Background**

The 2023 Global Stocktake reaffirmed the need to include market-based emission reduction activities in the global effort reach the Paris Agreement 1.5-degree Celsius goal. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement encourages a market-based approach through voluntary cooperation of parties as they strive to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions, Long Term Low Emission Development Strategies and the other climate change mitigation targets. The new market mechanism seeks to ensure that the challenges encountered by the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation under the Kyoto Protocol are not repeated under the Paris Agreement implementation arrangements. Article 6 requires the active participation of host parties, requires them to set up the relevant institutions and requires new infrastructure to ensure integrity of the units produced. It also mandates measurement of sustainable development benefits of projects and programmes in the host country.

African countries have lived similar experiences with regards to market participation under the Kyoto Protocol and are likely to face the same challenges and be presented with the same opportunities under the new market mechanism. Past challenges include limited technical expertise in the development of project and programmes, limited policy and political awareness, lack of the necessary policy and regulatory frameworks to encourage market participation and lack of dedicated institutions for engagement with stakeholders in the market space. As these challenges are regional in nature, stakeholders are creating regional groupings to tackle matters related to capacity building, share experiences and make efficient use of resources available for enhanced market participation. This has seen the formation of the West Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance and the East Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance through which development partners and the UNFCCC have been channelling financial and technical assistance. This has seen increasing calls for the formation of the Southern Africa Alliance to cover countries within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region not catered for by the other organisations.

## **Objectives of the Workshop**

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- i. Provide a platform for UNFCCC focal points and technical experts from the southern African region to discuss the formation of the Southern Africa Alliance and provide it with strategic orientation.
- ii. Discuss potential institutional and governance arrangement best suited for such an alliance and its working modalities.
- iii. Consider a draft constitution for the Alliance.

## **Expected deliverable**

The workshop is expected to come up with comprehensive documentation on the formation of the Southern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance. The documentation will include the vision and strategic goals of the Alliance, proposed institutional and governance arrangement, proposed working modalities and proposed constitution. The purpose of the documentation will be to solicit participation of stakeholders including in the provision of financial support and technical expertise.

## **Participants**

The following participants are expected to participate in the workshop:

- National focal points from the SADC region: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (*Tanzania excluded as it is already part of East Africa Alliance*).
- Article 6 technical experts from Southern Africa Region plus relevant facilitators from the West and East African Alliances.
- Development Partners and Regional Development Banks.
- UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres

## Proposed Programme

Day 1

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Facilitator
0830-0900	Arrival and Registration		
0900-0920	Welcome and Introduction	Facilitator	N. Samu – AGN Article 6 Negotiator
0920-0930	Remarks by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Dr. James Murombedzi	
0930-0945	Official Opening Remarks	W. Zhakata – A/Permanent Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife & Zimbabwe National Focal Point	
0945-0950	Objectives of the workshop		
0950-1020	Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and Current state of the Global Carbon Market	El Hadji Mbaye Diagne – AGN Article 6 Lead Negotiator and Member of the A6.4 Supervisory Body	
1020-1030	Discussions	All	
1030-1100	BREAK	All	
1100-1200	Presentations from the West/East Africa Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision of the Alliance</li> <li>- Institutional arrangements</li> <li>- Governance instrument</li> <li>- Financial arrangements</li> <li>- Programming including programmes currently being supported</li> </ul>	Representatives of the West and East African Alliances	
1200-1230	Discussions	All	
1230-1245	Rationale for the Formation of Southern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance and possible strategic goals of the Alliance	T. Muhwati – AGN Article 6 Negotiator and Member of the A6.4 Supervisory Body	
1245-1300	Discussions	All	
1300-1400	LUNCH	All	
1400-1600	Discussion on the Overview of Proposed Alliance Scope and Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on the West African Alliance Document</li> </ul>	B. Gopolang – National Focal Point Botswana	

Day 2

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
0900-1030	Consideration of Proposed Rules of Procedure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion based on the West Africa Alliance Document</li> </ul>	T. Muhwati - AGN Article 6 Negotiator and Member of the A6.4 Supervisory Body	
1030-1100	Break	All	
1100-1300	Consideration of the Draft Membership Agreement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion based on the West Africa Alliance Document</li> </ul>	P. Muteyaule – National Focal Point for Namibia	
1300-1400	Lunch	All	
1400-1530	Way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The process of Alliance formation.</li> <li>- Agreement on Interim Chairperson and Secretariat.</li> <li>- Submission of Membership Form.</li> <li>- Tentative Deadlines.</li> <li>- Possible priority areas of work in the short term to medium term.</li> <li>- Tentative dates of next meeting.</li> </ul>	E. Shitima – National Focal Point for Zambia	
1530-1600	Concluding Remarks	W. Zhakata – A/Permanent Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife & Zimbabwe National Focal Point	
	END OF PROGRAMME		