

10th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X)

Theme: *Just Transitions in Africa: Transforming Dialogue into Action*

Windhoek, Namibia 24 - 28 October 2022

Event Title	Implications of Article 6 on the REDD+ implementation in Africa
Event Date & Time	TBC
Room	TBC
Online Link	TBC
Event Sponsor	ACSEA/PACJA, MPIDO
Event Partners	
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Summary

One of the main lessons learnt during the implementation phase was that early stakeholder participation and engagement is critical to the development of viable REDD+ strategies and implementation frameworks. In light of this, it has been considered important to promote informed and meaningful involvement of stakeholders in the REDD+ implementation at the various levels. National and international CSOs benefited from capacity building interventions that was rolled out in the first two phase but given new emerging concepts in the global climate change discourse, it is absolutely necessary to sustain the learning momentum among the CSOs and local communities especially on the new development in the climate change negotiations around article 6 of the Paris agreement. This event will therefore

Introduction

Africa's rapid deforestation is threatening the flow of key environmental goods and services at the local, national and global levels. Forests cover 675 million hectares accounting for 23% of Africa's land area. Humid forests are particularly important in Central Africa, the Congo Basin being the second largest forest in the world. At the same time, dry forests are important in the Sahel, southeast and north Africa and represent 42% of the tropical forest area in the continent. Forests provide crucial environmental goods such as wood, bush meat and wild fruits, and services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, soil conservation and watershed protection. More than half of the continent's population rely directly or indirectly on forests for their livelihoods, however, over recent decades, Africa has been the continent experiencing the highest rate of deforestation, 0.49% per year. This represents some 3.4 million hectares lost annually. Small-scale agriculture and fuel wood collection are the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. In this regard, measures to control deforestation must be employed by all means and REDD+ presents a good opportunity for Africa to protect its forests. However, in Africa, REDD+ goals frequently suffer at the hands of other development aims, with the agriculture, mining, energy and forestry sectors all driving deforestation. In Ghana, for example, the promise of greater foreign income from high-yield sun cocoa and the expansion of mineral extraction into forest reserves both contribute to deforestation.

Dense forests are giving way to international industrial demand. In recent years, about 70 million hectares in middle and low-income African countries have been grabbed in unsustainable land deals, resulting in widespread deforestation and loss of benefits for the poor. At the local level, the promotion of forest protection to meet REDD+ targets must compete with the realities of poverty in rural communities, where people rely on activities such as shifting cultivation and resource extraction to survive. One reason for this is that rural people living in poverty have to weigh carbon prices against the opportunity costs associated with avoiding deforestation, e.g., forfeiting resource extraction that supports their livelihoods. If sufficient incentives are not provided to maintain forest cover, poor communities revert to more urgent livelihood concerns, such as collecting firewood or clearing forests for farming, to the detriment of REDD+ goals. These underlying issues surrounding REDD+ underscore the need for involvement of all stakeholders, and especially local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs), for REDD+ implementation in Africa to succeed.

Effective involvement of stakeholders in REDD+ must be seen to work at all levels including in the global decision making Fora including the UNFCCC conference of parties. In the last COPs decisions which have implications on REDD+ have been made with the most recent one being COP 26.

Although COP 26 did not yield much, at least there was completion of the Paris Rulebook, following consensus on several previously unresolved issues. There was Agreement on Article 6, to operationalize use of international carbon markets in the context of the Paris Agreement. This consists of: (1) the guidance for voluntary cooperation through Article 6.2 cooperative approaches, including internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs); (2) the rules, modalities and procedures that will govern the Article 6.4 mechanism established under the UNFCCC; and (3) further work on non-market approaches. There has been a debate on the implication of the progress on this article on REDD+ infrastructure, it is crucial for stakeholders in the sector especially the communities living around the forest ecosystems to be sensitized on the new dynamic even as African countries move from readiness to implementation stage of REDD+.

Justification

African forests are under continuous threat from deforestation and degradation. This is because Africa is home to the largest proportion of forest-dependent subsistence households in the world. Consequently, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Africa are mainly subsistence livelihood-related national and local scale drivers. This situation is likely to be worsened by the Covid 19- pandemic which has exerted a lot of pressure to the economies world over and more so in Africa. Many people lost their jobs and their livelihoods and the rural poor communities in Africa are barely struggling to survive. There is a likelihood that the forests in Africa will experience increased pressure from communities seeking survival in the midst of Covid -19 thereby watering down the gains made so far through REDD+. The challenge to the African governments in management of the forest sector is how to reduce the fast rate of forest depletion, and at the same time manage forests and woodlands to provide sustainable livelihoods to communities revenged by Covid- 19 pandemic. These underlying issues surround REDD+ underscore the need for involvement of all stakeholders, and especially local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs), for REDD+ implementation in Africa to succeed.

The UNFCCC COP 16 decision on REDD+ paved way for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and civil society, and the need to respect their traditional knowledge and rights. The decision recognized Indigenous People and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as key

stakeholders in forest management and in the overall REDD+ infrastructure. Despite the provisions of this decision the level of participation of IPs communities and CSOs in national REDD+ processes and international decision making has often been low due to limited knowledge of the issues, lack of resources to increase the level of awareness, poor policy frameworks for their engagement, weak communication between IPs and civil society representatives and national and international REDD+ functions and limited awareness of how climate change negotiations at the global level influence REDD+ at their level.

Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance was a key player in implementation of capacity building program for civil societies on REDD+ in Africa which was implemented in two phases and our engagement has seen participation of CSOs in REDD + in Africa grow over the last 10 years. Civil Societies and other partners have enjoyed wide acceptance of their governments and their role in REDD+ has become clearer over time. The majority of CSOs has played a leading role in capacity building and technical assistance to the government as they participate in various task forces and committees within the REDD+ infrastructure.

One of the main lessons learnt during the implementation phase was that early stakeholder participation and engagement is critical to the development of viable REDD+ strategies and implementation frameworks. In light of this, it has been considered important to promote informed and meaningful involvement of stakeholders in the REDD+ implementation at the various levels. National and international CSOs benefited from capacity building interventions that was rolled out in the first two phase but given new emerging concepts in the global climate change discourse, it is absolutely necessary to sustain the learning momentum among the CSOs and local communities especially on the new development in the climate change negotiations around article 6 of the Paris agreement.

Regional REDD+ workshop for CSOs at the sidelines of climate change and development for Africa Conference

CCDA which is the flagship event of ClimDev-Africa provides a forum where stakeholders such as policy makers, climate researchers, civil society, women and youth from across the continent engage on climate change issues. The event take cognizance of the fact that the end users of ClimDev-Africa results are rural and urban communities whose livelihoods, health and security are impacted by climate change. This conference is a key event in the Calendar of the civil societies in Africa under the umbrella of PACJA and it is in this forum where the civil societies convene and consolidate their voices in one statement on the future of a continent devastated by climate change; In order to provide a platform to confront the aforementioned issues and formulate actionable recommendations, PACJA and other ClimDev-Africa partners consisting of Africa Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with the Government of Namibia are convening the 10th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference in Kigali later in October 2022. PACJA intends to host another regional workshop for civil societies from the east African region including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. This regional convening will provide a platform for the civil societies in the eastern African region to engage, share experiences on REDD+ readiness and implementation in their countries as well as identify opportunities presented by Article 6 of the Paris agreement.

Target Audience: The workshops will target participants from all the 18 FCPF countries namely; Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. Other stakeholders such as key REDD+ focal points from selected countries, local and international agencies and policy makers taking part in COP 27 and CCDA will also be invited to participate and share their experiences.

Objectives

The main objective of this side event is to build technical capacities and direct engagement of communities in REDD+ activities in Africa

Specific objectives

- i) To raise awareness of civil societies and local communities on the implications of Article 6 on the REDD+ implementation in Africa
- ii) To provide a forum for cross learning between civil societies in African region on REDD+
- iii) To document lessons learnt by civil societies in REDD+ readiness and implementation

1. Expected Outputs

- i) A comprehensive reports on opportunities for CSOs engagement in REDD+ in the context of Article 6 of the Paris agreement
- ii) A documentation of civil society experiences in REDD+ process in the regions

Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
20 Minutes	Introduction- The status of REDD+ in Africa	Daniel Salau
20 Minutes	Presentation of overview of the CBP program	Charles Mwangi, Head of programs and research, PACJA
30 Minutes	The implications of Article 6 on REDD+ Implementation in Africa Q and A	Mbaye Diagne, Africa Group of Negotiators
40 Minutes	Panel discussions on country level experiences on REDD+ Panelists 1. Memen Aburazak , Togo 2. Stephen Nyirenda, Zambia 3. Cecil Djebet, Cameroon	Eugene Nforgwa, thematic lead



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	4. Joseph Ole Simel, Executive Director , MPIDO	
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