

ERCST “Informal Forum on Implementation
of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement” by



Coalition for Rainforest Nations

Position about emission avoidance and removal activities

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Paris, France

Contentious Topics...

...after the recommendations were provided by Article 6.4 supervisory body

- (a) the inclusion of emission avoidance and removals activities
- (b) lack of common understanding on the definition of removals and what each category entails
- (c) environmental integrity and social safeguarding issues
- (d) MRV, permanence, reversals, accounting and its accuracy

TRANSPARENCY

ACCURACY

COMPARABILITY

CONSISTENCY

COMPLETENESS

Key Discussions:



What could be the potential definition of removals?



What are the activities that can be considered removals under Article 6 ?



What is the eligibility criteria for these activities to qualify as removals?



Potential Definition (Interpretation) of Removals in 6.4?

- **Forest Sector does not need a definition of removal in 6.4.**
- The removal of CO2 from the atmosphere is not the result of a mitigation activity per se, **unless the removed carbon is stored.**
- **Increasing carbon stock indicates that the removed carbon (the removal) has been stored,** and thus mitigation has occurred.
- **Each net increase in forest carbon stocks corresponds to a mitigation activity** because it results from the **net** removal of CO2 from the atmosphere and its storage.
- This means that increasing removals over time are not a prerequisite for identifying and quantifying mitigation, despite being desirable in light of the climate crisis and the lack of global emission reductions.
- Therefore, the removal definition must include an increase of Carbon Stock over the time to ensure that mitigation activity is **real, verified and additional. Carbon Stock also refers to the net balance between CO2 removals from the atmosphere and CO2 emissions.**



Activities that can be Considered Removals Under Article 6

Removal as a Quantity Removed

IN_A6.4-SB004-AA-A04_P12. Used as a countable noun, often in the plural, 'removals' refers to the physical quantities of GHGs removed from the atmosphere. The quantities can be expressed in tonnes of the respective GHGs removed or in equivalent tonnes of CO₂ (i.e. tCO₂e) calculated on the basis of the 100-year global warming potential (GWP100) values of the respective GHGs. **Tonnes of removals in the case of land-based activities are also referred to as carbon stocks, expressed commonly in units or tCO₂ or tCO₂e, but also in units of tC.**

This concept is very clear under REDD+ (Article 5.2). Activities describe in P70, Decision 1/CP16 must not be included in 6.4

Only land-based activities that do not fall under P70 Decision 1/CP16, could be eligible for consideration such as meeting the aforementioned discussed definition: *Revegetation; Wetland restoration; Urban forestry; Soil carbon sequestration in croplands; (vi Soil carbon sequestration in grasslands;*

There are numerous other possibilities for the sequestration of gases that involve technological endeavors could be considered if there is an increase in carbon stock.



Eligibility Criteria for Activities to Qualify as Removals

Decisions 4/CP.15 (REDD+) and 1/CP.21 are clear: Parties must follow the most recent guidance and guidelines issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Decision 4/CP15

- To identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation resulting in emissions and also the means to address these;
 - To identify activities within the country that result in reduced emissions and increased removals, and stabilization of forest carbon stocks;
 - To use the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines
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- ITMOs are directly associated with the IPCC guidelines, per Decision 2/CMA.3 (Annex_I1c).
 - Methodological guidance provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines is the basis to quantify and account for net CO2 removals -i.e. net removals meaning the net balance between CO2 removals from the atmosphere and CO2 emissions to the atmosphere occurring within a year from the activity, or from the land, across which anthropogenic emissions and removals are counted.
 - In addition, net removal is permanent insofar, as the national greenhouse gas inventory, where it is counted, keeps tracking and reporting across time the removal activity in which the carbon stock increase occurred (MRV). IPCC guidelines deal with MRV, permanence, reversals, accounting and its accuracy.
 - **Baselines must be at the national scale.**

Conservation and Removals

- Conservation refers to **carbon stocks** and thus to the **net removal** of CO2 that those stocks have generated.
- It is well understood that **conservation is the common and inalienable thread** that integrates all eligible REDD+ activities as contained in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70. This implies that the conservation and increase of carbon stocks cannot be considered outside the ambit of the REDD+ (Art 5.2) for mitigation under the Paris Agreement.
- Both **conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks are already included under the REDD+ mechanism** and fall under the mitigation definition just presented.
- **Therefore, there is no need to discuss Conservation under 6.4**



Emission Avoidance & Removals Activities

- Avoidance is the terminology used for REDD+ projects under certain voluntary carbon standards, **where a project protects a small portion of the land against deforestation and forest degradation based on hypothesis that the land was under threat** and that it would have been deforested or degraded without the project.
- This hypothesis is **built on fictive predictions** of what could have happened in the future and not based on past and present real emissions.
- **The avoidance concept has no place under the Paris Agreement where real GHG emissions reductions and increase of carbon stock** must be demonstrated to contribute to achieving its long-term global goal.
- Avoidance of emissions in the **forestry sector** is a language that is not **contemplated in any prior COP decision, nor in the Paris Agreement and neither in the IPCC Guidelines** .
- **The Paris Agreement**, as well as **all previous COP decisions on REDD+**, focus on reducing emissions and **increasing carbon stocks**; they make no reference to avoidance.
- As a result, the concept of emissions avoidance does not meet the criteria for any A6.4 action and **none of the REDD+ activities can be associated with emissions avoidance**.



Thank You!



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