

**Summary report on the workshop on opportunities for
mitigation and adaptation related to land use
ADP 2, part 1
Bonn, Germany, 1 May 2013**

Note by the facilitator

23 May 2013

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. In its conclusions agreed at the second part of its first session, held in Doha, Qatar, from 27 November to 7 December 2012, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) decided to hold in-session round tables and workshops in 2013 under the two workstreams initiated in 2012,¹ and invited the Co-Chairs of the ADP to set out focused questions for those round tables and workshops, taking into account the relevant submissions from Parties and accredited observer organizations.²
2. In response to that decision, the Co-Chairs of the ADP made arrangements for two workshops under workstream 2, one addressing low-emission development opportunities and the other opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use, and set out focused questions for the workshops in an informal note on the second session of the ADP.³
3. This note summarizes the discussion that took place during the workshop on opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use, which was held on 1 May 2013 at the World Conference Center Bonn in Bonn, Germany, during the first part of the second session of the ADP.

B. General objectives of and approach to the workshop

4. In the informal note referred to in paragraph 2 above, the Co-Chairs of the ADP formulated the goals for the first part of its second session and invited Parties to build on the broad, conceptual discussions carried out in 2012 by engaging in a more practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition. In accordance with that note, the workshop was designed to explore the opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use, bearing in mind
 - (a) The role of national action in increasing ambition;
 - (b) The role of international cooperative initiatives in strengthening national action;
 - (c) The role of means of implementation in facilitating an increase in ambition.
5. In addition, the workshop was aimed at defining the next steps necessary to increase the level of ambition under workstream 2 of the ADP.

¹ FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 28 and 30. Workstream 1 relates to a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention (the 2015 agreement) and workstream 2 relates to pre-2020 ambition.

² FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 30–32.

³ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/adp2/eng/1infnot.pdf>>.

II. Summary of the proceedings

6. The workshop was opened by the Co-Chairs of the ADP, Mr. Jayant Moreshver Mauskar (India) and Mr. Harald Dovland (Norway). They requested Mr. Gary Cowan (Australia) to facilitate the workshop. The Co-Chairs encouraged the workshop participants to maintain a strategic overview of the opportunities related to land use rather than engaging in a discussion at the technical level. The facilitator outlined the objectives of the workshop and the organization of the work for the workshop. He emphasized that the aim of the workshop was to identify concrete and practical actions which could represent feasible options for facilitating an increase in pre-2020 ambition. He encouraged Parties to share ideas, experiences, challenges and solutions in relation to opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use.

7. The workshop was divided into three parts. Part I provided an overview of the scientific perspective of carbon conservation and sequestration in managing land use and forests, and also addressed the challenges and opportunities in the area of land use and climate change, including examples of experiences on the ground. Mr. Riccardo Valentini (Global Carbon Project) gave the first presentation, entitled “Managing Land-Use and Forests – A scientific perspective on carbon conservation and sequestration”, and Ms. María Sanz-Sanchez (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) gave the second presentation, entitled “Overview of experience on the ground in the area of land use and climate change: Challenges and opportunities”.⁴

8. Part II included a panel discussion, with the panel comprising Mr. Adriano Santhiago de Oliveira (Brazil), Dr. Yetti Rusli (Indonesia), Ambassador Jo Tyndall (New Zealand), Mr. Freddy Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Rene Orellana (Plurinational State of Bolivia), as well as Ms. Sanz-Sanchez, representing the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme). The panel elaborated on their experiences in raising the level of ambition in the area of land use, building on the opening presentations.⁵

9. Part III of the workshop consisted of a general discussion open to all participants, building on the presentations and the panel discussion. The facilitator highlighted the following questions to focus the discussion:

- (a) What are the top two opportunities in your country to further accelerate mitigation from the land? What are the top two barriers?
- (b) What advancements have you seen in your country in technology, monitoring to make the role of land in mitigation and adaptation more feasible?
- (c) How significant an opportunity is reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and why?
- (d) What role might the ADP play in getting the most out of land?

10. Twenty-one Parties, two of whom spoke on behalf of groups of Parties, and one observer organization took the floor to share their experiences on mitigation and adaptation opportunities related to land-use, including opportunities and barriers encountered.

⁴ The presentations are available at the workshop page of the UNFCCC website:
<<http://unfccc.int/7490>>

⁵ Some panel interventions have been provided in electronic format and are available at the workshop webpage (footnote 4).

11. The facilitator concluded the workshop by thanking all participants for their rich contributions and active participation. He informed them that a report of the workshop would be prepared and made available on the UNFCCC website.⁶

III. Summary of the workshop discussion

A. Presentations and panellists' reflections

12. Mr. Valentini presented the current status of scientific findings on the global annual carbon sequestration potential in the land-use sector, which ranges between 1.3 and 4.2 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide (Gt CO₂) for forestry and between 1.1 and 4.3 Gt CO₂ for agriculture. The main net carbon forest sink lies in boreal and temperate forest regions, but carbon sequestration capacity could be higher in the tropics if emissions from land-use change were reduced. It was noted that carbon sinks are vulnerable to climate extremes and biotic triggers; while the increased frequency of storms, drought, wildfires, pests and diseases poses a potential risk to reaching the full carbon sequestration potential of forestry and agriculture.

13. In her presentation, Ms. Sanz-Sanchez gave an overview of the role of FAO in addressing climate change, namely by providing assistance on technical matters as well as by helping countries to share knowledge and experience. FAO aims to achieve food security and the abatement of climate change impacts on the ground. The presenter emphasized that, according to the experience of FAO, climate change adaptation must be incorporated into national development strategies in order to facilitate increased mitigation potential, the enhancement of carbon sinks and supplementary financing for developing countries.

14. In its panel intervention, Brazil presented the results of several successful land-use policies, including the plan to prevent and control deforestation in the Amazon, which achieved an 83 per cent reduction in deforestation in the Amazon from 2004 to 2012. This outcome was achieved through improvements in territorial planning, the setting up of robust monitoring and control, the promotion of sustainable development and the involvement of local communities. Brazil is implementing a national plan on mitigation and adaptation in agriculture, aimed at improving agricultural productivity. The plan has led to an increase in agricultural production by 28 per cent and an increase in agricultural land area by only 5 per cent. International cooperation was recognized as an important factor in achieving such results.

15. Indonesia presented its efforts to decrease deforestation and highlighted its best practices in sustainable forestry to scale up climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. It outlined some best practices, including combating illegal logging, replanting programmes, cooperation and knowledge-sharing with other forested countries and improving governance and regulations. Cognizant of its increasing population, Indonesia emphasized the important linkage between forestry and agriculture by highlighting its Carbon Efficient Farming policy, which increases productivity in a sustainable manner, increases resilience to climate variability and change, reduces greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing national food security, and alleviates poverty.

⁶ In addition, the facilitator has summarized his take home points from the workshop, <http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/adp2_worskteam2_land_use_facilitator.pdf>, which have been made available at the workshop webpage (see footnote 4).

16. New Zealand focused on its experience in the implementation of its emissions trading scheme, which covers all gases and all sectors, with the forestry sector being the first to enter the scheme in 2008. Since then, deforestation has been reversed and improvements in land-use efficiency have brought about multiple benefits for the economy and the environment. Agricultural emissions in New Zealand have increased by 12 per cent since 1990, but emissions per unit of production in agriculture have decreased by approximately 30 per cent. New Zealand highlighted a number of lessons learned, including that addressing emissions from the land-use sector fulfils many sustainable development objectives, that containing emissions while at the same time increasing food production is a significant challenge, and that engaging the private sector is an important tool to drive action.

17. The United Republic of Tanzania explained the benefits of partnerships between governments and local communities in forest management. The successful community pilot projects were replicated in different parts of the country to demonstrate improvements in forestry practices through local engagement and the integration of mitigation and adaptation priorities.

18. The Plurinational State of Bolivia presented the joint mitigation and adaptation mechanism for the integral and sustainable management of forests. The mechanism, based on public funding, involves the private sector and local communities and addresses the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

19. The representative of the UN-REDD Programme acknowledged the importance of creating an enabling environment, involving stakeholder groups and ensuring country ownership and leadership for the success of national action.

B. Discussion

1. Options for increasing ambition through national action

20. The workshop participants supported the presentations and panel interventions by sharing their experiences with land-use activities. Parties acknowledged that a number of mitigation and adaptation actions are taking place at all levels in the land-use sector and that ample opportunities exist to scale up such actions. Parties exchanged views on the implementation of national climate change strategies and the inclusion of climate change considerations into policies addressing sustainable management of natural resources, territorial planning, forest monitoring and agricultural production.

21. Some Parties noted that, because emissions from land use constitute a large portion of their national emissions, they focus their efforts on curbing the increase in emissions from land use. A few Parties highlighted their success in decoupling emission trends from economic growth pathways through improvements in land-use efficiency and productivity. Parties also highlighted how they promote innovation and improvements in productivity in land use at the national level through various best practice approaches. It was noted that emission reduction in the land-use sector is not necessarily achieved at a lower cost than in other sectors.

22. In addition, participants pointed out some of the challenges faced in the implementation of enhanced national action. One challenge expressed was that of maintaining the low level of deforestation after successfully achieving the target rate. Another challenge highlighted was related to increasing food production without increasing emissions and endangering environmental conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources.

2. Mitigation and adaptation benefits of national action to increase ambition

23. The workshop participants highlighted multiple benefits which represent major driving forces behind national action in relation to land use in the areas of food security, sustainable livelihoods, economic and productivity gains, biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

24. Parties discussed ways to enhance mitigation opportunities and maximize such mitigation benefits by enhancing institutional capacity, anchoring mitigation and adaptation in the broader national development agenda and promoting the broad participation of civil society and local communities.

25. Some participants expressed the view that, traditionally, the challenge for sustainable forest management is the lack of market incentives, and that the involvement of the private sector and new market mechanisms would be needed to ensure sufficient funding. In addition, participants cautioned against prejudging the use of carbon markets to incentivize the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (REDD-plus⁷ activities), and against mixing anthropogenic and natural causes.

26. Furthermore, opportunities for an integrated approach to adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, based on organic farming, to support small farmer households and ensure food security for a growing population were discussed.

3. Barriers to enhancing the ambition of national action

27. Limited access to financial resources and the lack of long-term international funding were highlighted as the key barriers for developing countries. Constrained access to low-cost effective technologies and limited capacity at the national level often prevent the successful scaling up of pilot activities and best practices. Parties discussed the challenges of scaling down and integrating work at different levels, from global, national and subnational to landscape, community and household level. Many of the identified challenges also relate to the complexity of land use, including the risk of reversal (e.g. wildfires and drought).

28. A few Parties recognized the important role of enabling environments and institutional readiness for enhanced action at the national level to implement efficient land-use policies and initiatives.

29. An additional barrier identified related to the monitoring, reporting and accounting of emissions from land use. Parties highlighted that it is a learning process to find a balance between the reporting burden and the need for accuracy. It was suggested that a holistic approach to global accounting is necessary to avoid double counting and carbon leakage. Some Parties highlighted that the scale of research and the quality of monitoring systems and data on land use has advanced substantially in the last 10–15 years. On-going improvements in data and methodologies, including for quantification and monitoring, enhance the capacity to estimate the potential for reducing emissions from land

⁷ Decision 1/CP.16 encourages developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks"

30. Furthermore, it was stated that the limited opportunity for the participation of countries without forests in current land-use mitigation actions should be addressed. It was suggested that new ideas such as blue carbon⁸ could be considered in the discussions.

4. The role of means of implementation (finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building) in facilitating an increase in ambition

31. It was generally agreed that many countries could undertake enhanced action related to land use, if adequate, predictable and sufficient international resources were available. Scaled-up financing and enhanced ways to share best practices in the forestry sector would produce many mitigation benefits.

32. There was a view that financial sources for implementation should not be based on the conditions of the carbon markets, since markets follow their own rules, which results in unpredictable and unsustainable carbon prices.

33. Parties emphasized the importance of enhancing national capacity to implement and understand how to combine adaptation and mitigation practices. Reference was made to the findings of *The Emissions Gap Report* of the United Nations Environment Programme, which suggested using a percentage of the global gross domestic product for that purpose. The key challenge, however, is gaining access to such financing channels. The importance of on-going national and international research and information-sharing initiatives to address technology development and deployment was also emphasized.

5. The role of international action and international cooperative initiatives in supporting national action

34. Parties shared views on the importance of facilitating international cooperation beyond the UNFCCC process and the potential involvement of other international organizations and partnerships, such as FAO, the UN-REDD Programme and the REDD+ Partnership.

35. The representative of the UN-REDD Programme acknowledged the positive experiences highlighted by the workshop participants and also those from the activities of the UN-REDD Programme. She explained the importance of enhancing synergies by linking experiences and learning from them on different scales and across countries.

36. A number of Parties highlighted the role of the UNFCCC in relation to advancing climate action in the land-use sector and the progress in on-going negotiations under the permanent subsidiary bodies and the Conference of the Parties (COP).

C. Next steps under the ADP

37. There was broad agreement among the workshop participants that it is important to carefully examine how the mitigation potential of land use can be incorporated into the solution to closing the emissions gap.

38. Some Parties were of the opinion that agriculture and forestry should be discussed holistically together under the ADP, while others expressed the view that this was not appropriate, or that the ADP should completely avoid focusing on sectors. A few Parties were open to discussing how the ADP could strengthen discussions, in particular on REDD-plus activities. Other Parties mentioned a need to discuss land-use reporting and

⁸ Blue carbon refers to carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal vegetation e.g. mangroves, sea grasses and salt marshes

accounting rules under the ADP, in order to make them more comprehensive and applicable to all Parties.

39. It was suggested that Parties would benefit from greater exchange of information on monitoring, reporting and verification for the land sector. Some Parties expressed the view that this could be facilitated by a decision at COP19. Such an exchange could help improve the contribution of the land sector in the period up to 2020 and beyond.