

PRESENTATION OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA JOINT MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION FOR THE INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

According to Rio+20 “The future we want” document, paragraph 56, there are different visions, approaches, models and tools of countries to achieve sustainable development.

In this context, Bolivia has proposed to the COP 17 of Durban-South Africa the importance of advancing a Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the integral and sustainable management of forests. This Bolivian proposal was included in paragraph 67 of the COP17 decision as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.

During the COP18 that was held in Doha, Bolivia proposed to consider the methodological development of joint mitigation and adaptation approaches as part of the work of the SBSTA, requesting to the SBSTA at its thirty eighth session to consider how non-market-based approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches could be developed since they are important to support the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16. This workshop is the result of such SBSTA decision.

IPCC insights

Recently two reports for Policymakers on Adaptation and Mitigation has been approved by the IPCC. The conclusions of both reports support the proposal of a joint mitigation and adaptation approach on forests.

The SPM conclusions on adaptation are the following:

- a) Climate-resilient pathways are sustainable-development trajectories that combine adaptation and mitigation to reduce climate change and its impacts.
- b) Significant co-benefits, synergies, and tradeoffs exist between mitigation and adaptation and among different adaptation responses. Examples of actions with co-benefits include sustainable forestry.
- c) Indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices, including indigenous peoples’ holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts.

The SPM conclusions on mitigation are the following:

- a) The most cost-effective mitigation options in forestry are afforestation, sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation.
- b) Policies governing agricultural practices and forest conservation and management are more effective when involving both mitigation and adaptation.

Comparison between REDD+ and JMA

There are important differences between the REDD+ and the joint mitigation and adaptation approach.

- a) REDD+ is related to mitigation and therefore is carbon centered (carbon and non-carbon benefits). The JMA is based in the understanding of the multiple functions of forests, landscape approach, and that the environmental functions of the forests must not be converted into commodities.
- b) REDD+ is based on the quantification of carbon and if possible non-carbon benefits (which is very difficult to measure). In the JMA is recognized that forests have a dual role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Higher outcomes on adaptation imply the establishment of better conditions for adaptation and the most effective the adaptation the higher the mitigation process to climate change.
- c) REDD+ is based in the idea of Payment for Ecosystem Services-PES (ex post based payments). The JMA should be based on sustained public financing according to a mix of performance-based approach and a needs-based approach during a long period of time considering a composite of ex ante financing and ex post financing.

What does it mean a non-market-based approach?

What does it mean a non-market-based approach in the context of REDD+? A mix approach in which the theory and methodology is based on a market-based structure defining precise amounts of tons of CO₂ (rational utility theory and payments for ecosystem services) but mitigation outcomes (tons of carbon) are not integrated into offsets schemes (or could be depending on new requirements).

What does it mean a non-market-based approach in the context of the JMA? An instrument based on the international cooperation of Parties, according to article 4.7, that establishes the provision of finance, transference of technology and capacity building by developed countries to developing countries for the achievement of the sustainable management of forests considering jointly mitigation and adaptation.

JMA as an alternative approach to REDD+

The COP19 held in Warsaw, Poland has recognized approaches that are results-based based payments (such as those of REDD +) and "alternative approaches" such as JMA for the integral and sustainable management of forests.

Therefore, new methodological guidance is needed for the establishment of the JMA because of the following:

1. The need to include the linkages and synergies to support jointly mitigation and adaptation on forests;
2. In a non-market-based approaches there is no need to demonstrate that a "ton is a ton", because tons of carbon are not to be trade, and a general approximation is more than enough.
3. It is an alternative to results-based payments and based on a composite of ex ante and ex post financing for mitigation performance and adaptation needs on forests.

International technical expert meeting in Bolivia for the discussion of the design and implementation of the JMA in the context of the UNFCCC

An international workshop of experts was held in Bolivia hosted by the Bolivian government in the last month of April 2014. Main conclusions of this group are the following:

Experts have agreed regarding the context of the approach that: There is still few understanding about adaptation to climate change; there are different priorities and agendas on M&A; and that there are high interest to integrate M&A but limited actions.

Regarding the scope the experts recommended that: It must be aligned to the paradigm of the Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth; the proposal must not only be related to forest but include a territorial/landscape approach; it must recognize explicitly the vision of indigenous peoples.

Regarding the issue of indicators the experts manifested the following: there are difficulties to propose joint mitigation and adaptation indicators for monitoring; good to use of proxies for monitoring mitigation; and the need of standards for monitoring adaptation (i.e. CCB) or general criteria or guidelines.

Methodological framework of the JMA

The framework considers the revision of five steps needed to enforce adaptation process in the context of the UNFCCC: observation, assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

The framework takes into consideration two processes to be undertaken: 1) preparation for JMA, and 2) implementation for JMA.

In the process of preparation, three aspects are considered:

- a) General evaluation of the mitigation potential of forests. It refers to find out in a quick and easy way the potential role of forests for mitigation. Since we need to use proxies for measuring mitigation there is not the need to develop forest inventories, and only random samples of forests to find out the general potential for absorbing CO₂ of a given regional forest.
- b) Preparatory elements for adaptation. We use the recommendations of the National Adaptation Planes (NAPs) in consideration, including: i) assessment of vulnerability to climate change at the forest sector level and territorial level, ranking climate change risks and vulnerabilities; ii) identification and categorization of adaptation options at multiple scales to address priority vulnerabilities focus on paragraph; and iii) identification of financial needs to address adaptation options in the context of JMA.
- c) Complementary agreements with Mother Earth. Is the agreement between the UNFCCC, through the GCF, and the national entity regarding the goals to be achieved (including the whole activities of paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16) and

the commitments (provision of finance, transference of technology and capacity building) from the international level to the national entity, who is responsible of developing a process of adscription of national, subnational and local initiatives of sustainable forest management.

The preparation process is funded through ex ante finance, allowing the development of the preparatory actions.

The achievement of mitigation outcomes is supported through both ex ante and ex post finance considering proxies for monitoring tons of carbon absorbed or emitted by forests considering a performance-based approach.

The achievement of adaptation outcomes is supported considering a needs-based approach and monitoring using general criteria of reduction of vulnerability.

Mitigation and adaptation monitoring

At the center of the process is the fulfillment of the activities established in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16.

Regarding monitoring: No. of hectares of land use change are a proxy of CO2 from deforestation; No. of hectares of control of forest fires are a proxy of CO2 from forest degradation; No. of hectares of areas under protection a proxy of CO2 from conservation; No. of hectares of forest plan areas a proxy for CO2 from sustainable forest management, and so on.

Regarding adaptation. Following the NAPs general criteria is established in order to follow up to what extent through the activities of paragraph 70 we are promoting well-being of communities, conservation of the forests, increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability.

AT THE END WE HAVE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH, MORE EASILY TO FINANCE AND IMPLEMENT, MORE EASILY TO MONITOR, AND MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE GROUND.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SBSTA 40

Decides to adopt general methodological guidelines for the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Approaches (JMA) for the integral and sustainable management of forests for approval in the COP20, as follows:

- The JMA is undertaken in two phases: preparatory and implementation phases.
- The preparatory phase includes: the evaluation of general potential of the forests, the preparatory elements for adaptation, and the agreement for the provision of finance and technology transfer based on the identification of financial needs to address joint mitigation and adaptation.

- The implementation phase considers the financial support for activities of paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 according to national circumstances and priorities for enhancing mitigation and adaptation on forests.
- The monitoring and evaluation is developed through proxies for measuring mitigation outcomes based on a performance-based approach, and general criteria for measuring adaptation outcomes based on a needs-based approach.
- The JMA financing is disbursed considering a composite of ex ante and ex post finance. Ex ante finance is disbursed for the preparatory phase and adaptation according to a needs-based approach; and ex ante and ex post finance is disbursed for mitigation through a performance-based approach.

Decides to develop further specific methodological guidance for approval at COP21.

Decides also to develop guidelines to establish a process of migration of projects from the REDD+ Warsaw Platform to the JMA.