



## **SUBMISSION BY IRELAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES.**

**This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.**

Dublin, 27 May 2013

**Subject:** The content of the workshop on technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs not covered by other agenda items under the Convention, such as coastal marine ecosystems, in the context of wider mitigation and adaptation efforts. (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25, paragraph 16)

### **1. Introduction and General Comments**

The European Union and its 27 Member States (EU) consider that the Research Workshop is a modality that can provide a useful forum to facilitate more in-depth consideration of issues raised during the Research Dialogue which has been a highly effective vehicle for facilitating dialogue between research programmes and policy makers. The EU appreciated the participation of the research community in the workshop in conjunction with SBSTA34, and the information on work being carried out under regional and international climate change research programmes and by Parties.

### **2. The Research by SBSTA 39**

The SBSTA at its thirty-seventh sessions identified that a workshop to be held by SBSTA 39 would address “the technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs not covered by other agenda items under the Convention, such as coastal marine ecosystems, in the context of wider mitigation and adaptation efforts”. The SBSTA also invited Parties to submit their views on the Workshop.

The EU recognises the importance of protecting ecosystems with high carbon content and considers that it is important that this context for the workshop is well established. It would therefore need to be informed by the outcome of the Research Dialogue in SBSTA 38. There would be merit in a comprehensive focus on all high carbon content ecosystems, i.e., both those that are covered by existing agenda items as well as those considered to be not covered by these agenda items. This should include analysis of estimates around carbon storage, sequestration and emissions, and their associated uncertainties, current work being carried out to reduce these uncertainties and the anticipated progress in this work. The Workshop should also review the current understanding of the potential for management of these ecosystems in the context of mitigation and adaptation efforts, including potential for enhanced sequestration and emissions potential from their degradation or removal. This should contribute to building an understanding of the of the contribution that ecosystems with a high carbon content may play in achieving the below 2°C goal.



The potential for reduced carbon uptake and future enhanced releases of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is of concern and may have consequences for efforts under the UNFCCC to insure that the global temperature increase is kept below 2 degree Celsius relative to preindustrial temperatures. It is also noted that IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR5) is likely to contain an authoritative assessment of these issues. The IPCC's revised guidelines 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands" will be completed in September 2013 and may also provide a useful input.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion the EU considers that the workshop should:

- Establish a context for this topic by providing an assessment of all ecosystems with high carbon content including estimates around carbon storage, sequestration, and emissions potential from their degradation or removal and the associated uncertainties.
- Review the current understanding of the potential for management of these ecosystems in the context of mitigation and adaptation efforts.

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