

CLARA TALANOA DIALOGUE SUBMISSION - Question 2

Question 2:

Vision of the future for your organization and/or sector in terms of its possible role in achieving the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and a net-zero emission world by this mid-century [Maximum 300 words]

CLARA -- the Climate, Land, Ambition and Rights Alliance – is pleased to submit this response to Talanoa Dialogue Question #2. CLARA as a diverse network came together due to a shared concern that the mitigation potential of pro-poor, ecosystem-based responses to the climate crisis were not well represented in the scientific debate; that the mitigation potential from natural and managed lands had been poorly quantified; and that the importance of intact ecosystems for resilience was not well modelled. CLARA members were concerned that the science had been tilted toward a different vision of the future – one based on carbon-commodified landscapes producing energy crops area for Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) – a carbon-removal response that members of CLARA regard as unproven, unworkable, and harmful to food security and intact landscapes.

This month (October 2018), CLARA published a major report, based on peer-reviewed science, that addresses land and agriculture sectors' role in responding to three overlapping crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and the growing land and other rights abuses against Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are on the frontline of the climate and biodiversity crises. Please find the full 'Missing Pathways' report, and an Executive Summary, at www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/report. The Executive Summary is available in multiple languages.

The report shows the importance of ecosystem and rights-based solutions to lower atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ and re-stabilise the biosphere. It proposes transformational changes to address agricultural expansion that degrades natural ecosystems, and to mitigate the pressures that drive indigenous and local communities from their lands. **The report shows how ecosystem-based approaches in the land sector and agroecological system changes in food production and consumption could deliver over 13 Gt CO₂eq/year in avoided emissions, and almost 10 Gt CO₂eq/year in carbon sequestered into the biosphere by 2050.**

(294 words)

Possible and potential new commitments and pledges of to achieve the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and a net-zero emission world by this mid-century [Maximum 300 words]

CLARA notes the important conclusion of Hansen et al, (2017) that “if rapid emission reductions are initiated soon,...it is still possible that at least a large fraction of required CO₂ extraction can be achieved via relatively natural agricultural and forestry practices with other benefits.” CLARA supports full implementation of the existing global pledges focusing on securing community rights, ending deforestation, and restoring ecosystems.

In CLARA's report “Missing Pathways” (www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/report), we go further to show ample room for countries to deepen their land-use sector mitigation pledges in Nationally Determined Contributions, to be submitted before the first Global Stocktake. Preventing emissions and increasing removals from ecosystems- could deliver the missing ambition needed for 1.5°C and 2°C pathways, if coupled with rapid reductions in fossil and industrial CO₂ emissions.

Specifically:

- Several CLARA members are working to implement the ‘Lands Rights Now’ pledge, which aims to double the land area recognised as held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Doing so would help protect lands that store <300 Gt carbon in forests and forest soils.
- CLARA quantified the potential of restoring one-quarter of the world’s natural forests, as well as interventions to protect biodiverse grassland and coastal ecosystems. These interventions would result in 6.1 Gt CO₂eq per year in avoided emissions, and 8.7 Gt CO₂eq per year in carbon sequestered by 2050. We build on the ‘Bonn Challenge’, AFR100, and the New York Declaration on Forests in setting this level of ambition.
- CLARA showed that another 7.5 Gt CO₂eq of emissions can be avoided annually by 2050 by transforming agricultural practices and policies to eliminate overproduction and reduce global consumption of meat and dairy (with much greater reductions in some regions), changing diets in line with health recommendations, and avoiding food waste. Agroecological approaches such as agroforestry could sequester 1.04 Gt CO₂eq annually by 2030.

(300 words)

Foreseen positive impact of these commitments once they are realized, including contributions to the sustainable development agenda [Maximum 300 words]

In its just-released report [‘Missing Pathways’](#), CLARA poses a vision of our future that is most in line with the multiple goals of the Paris Agreement – that is, climate change mitigation and adaptation, based on sustainable development, equitable burden-sharing, and the eradication of poverty. Our vision is that these goals will be achieved through support for human rights and indigenous land rights; through healthy and people-centred food systems; and through programs that conserve biodiversity and advance ecosystem health.

CLARA’s constituent groups – with social justice, conservation, food and land rights, and anti-poverty mandates – all embrace the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their work. Starting from that basis – different from the usual approach to ‘climate ambition’, which tends to put mitigation concerns above all other goals – we have found, in fact, that pathways based on rights, restoration, and food sovereignty, deliver the necessary level of ‘ambition’ for climate-change mitigation, with multiple benefits.’

CLARA calls for greater long-term public investment to encourage robust private investment in ecosystem-based solutions. The necessary ramp-up of public goods provision and investment support aligns temporally with the decade or decades-long (2020-2040) increase in additional sequestration potential needed to ameliorate the worst consequences of temperature rise. CLARA also recommends greater coherence and coordination between various international treaties, objectives and political goals.

We close by reiterating two key points. First, as the CLARA report makes clear, the most important climate action remains the minimization of GHG emissions from fossil sources –far easier and cheaper than removing those emissions from the atmosphere. And second –that major shifts in land use and land management represent ‘missing pathways’ toward the 1.5°C temperature limit goal, which reduce or eliminate the need for reliance on geoengineering approaches such as BECCS.

(285 words)