

UNFCCC COP26

Glasgow, UK

Outcome Document

“Future Labs at COP26: Reimagining Carbon Removals”

Leads/supporting organizations

Valence Solutions

Rethinking Removals

Microsoft

Dalberg Group

Mission Innovation

Climate Action Platform - Africa

Tuesday, 9 November 2021

16:30-18:00

“Marrakech Partnership Future Labs at COP26: Reimagining Carbon Removals”

Key Messages:

We understand that, to keep 1.5C alive, it is necessary to rapidly reduce emissions as well as remove carbon from our atmosphere. Three fault lines that hamper the effective use (and growth) of direct carbon removals have been identified: Developing country vs developed country (climate equity); Nature vs Tech (durability and scalability); Reductions vs Removals (the moral hazard). To overcome these fault lines we must move beyond a ‘either, or’ mindset and towards a ‘both, and’ mindset.

In order to ensure that removals are done in an effective, just and affordable way it is important that the following occurs: developing countries benefits socially and economically from both nature-based and engineered carbon removals with the support from the developed countries , removals take an holistic approach that includes a combination of natural, technical and hybrid solutions and that removals occur in parallel to rapid emissions reductions such that they are truly complementary and not a distraction from our net zero targets.

Outcomes:

1. *Explored bold, imaginative ideas for systems change aimed at accelerating climate action and catalysing the transition to a regenerative and just world.*

The Futures Lab explored what the world will look like when a functioning removals ecosystem is working effectively, in parallel with rapid reductions, to have taken enough CO₂ out of the air to ensure we have reached our climate goals. In this future, developing countries (and Africa in particular) is a hub for carbon removals, operating in an economy of abundance. Some examples of this include; regenerative farming that produces healthy food and provides livelihoods to communities as well as storing carbon in soils, and innovative technology (such as carbon capture, storage and utilization) has been used to create building materials that durably locks carbon away to build sustainable cities and make low lying areas more resilient to sea level rise and extreme weather events.

2. *Span intellectual, demographic, cultural, geographic and gender boundaries; creating space for voices often excluded from decision making.*

All efforts were made to ensure a diverse array of speakers by including an almost equal split across male and female speakers, representation from youth and 7 nationalities (Including, Chile, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, North America, UK, China).

3. *Demonstrate ‘pockets of the future in the present’ where ambitious and just systems transformation (aligned with MPGCA 1.5, resilient pathways) is already underway.*

Many of the technologies described are already in existence (such as carbon, capture and storage as well as engineered solutions for direct carbon removal). Furthermore, while nature-based solutions do not require ‘technological advancements’, technology can help to track and monitor the effectiveness of restoration or regeneration efforts (one of the obstacles identified to achieve this future). This technology is already in development, with one such solution described in the panel.