

Technical expert dialogue on Article 6, paragraph 4, of the PA and Hybrid Workshops relating to Article 6.2 of the PA



Coalition for Rainforest Nations

*Consideration of Emission avoidance and conservation
enhancement activities*

October 26-28, 2023

Bonn

Decision 7/CMA.4, paragraph 9 (a)

- 9. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to **continue its consideration of**, and to develop, **on the basis of the rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism** and elaboration thereon, recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session (November–December 2023) on:
 - (a) Consideration of whether Article 6, paragraph 4, activities could include **emission avoidance and conservation enhancement activities**;



Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement

- 2. Parties are encouraged to take action **to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to REDUCING EMISSIONS from DEFORESTATION and FOREST DEGRADATION and the role of CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST CARBON STOCKS in developing countries; and.....**

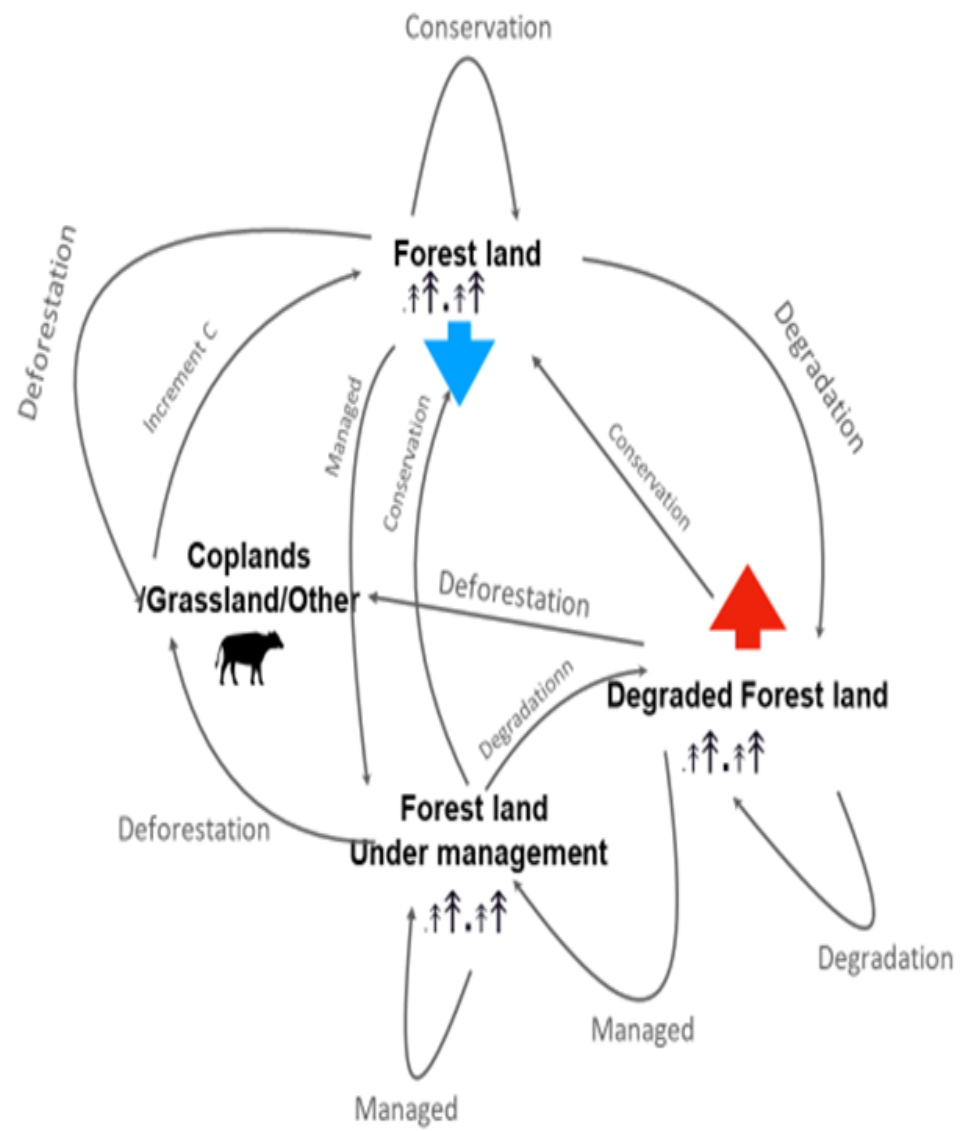


REDD+ Full Set of Decisions



1. [Decision 1/CP.13, Bali Action Plan](#)
2. [Decision 2/CP.13, Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action](#)
3. [Decision 2/CP.15, Copenhagen Accord](#)
4. **[Decision 4/CP.15, Methodological Guidance for REDD+](#)**
5. **[Decision 1/CP.16, The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. NRF should use historical data](#)**
6. [Decision 2/CP.17, Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention](#)
7. **[Decision 12/CP.17, Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16 should be consistent with GHG inventory & tCO₂e unit. \(MRV, NFMS & GHGI\)](#)**
8. [Decision 16/CP.17, Research dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention](#)
9. [Decision 1/CP.18, Agreed outcome pursuant to the Bali Action Plan](#)
10. [Decision 9/CP.19, Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70](#)
11. [Decision 10/CP.19, Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements](#)
12. **[Decision 11/CP.19, Modalities for national forest monitoring systems \(MRV, NFMS & GHGI\)](#)**
13. [Decision 12/CP.19, The timing and the frequency of presentations of the summary of information on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected](#)
14. **[Decision 13/CP.19, Guidelines and procedures for the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels](#)**
15. **[Decision 14/CP.19, Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying. \(MRV, NFMS & GHGI\)](#)**
16. [Decision 15/CP.19, Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation](#)
17. [Decision 1/CP.20, Lima Call for Climate Action](#)
18. **[Decision 1/CP.21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement](#)**
19. [Decision 16/CP.21, Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests](#)
20. [Decision 17/CP.21, Further guidance on ensuring transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected](#)
21. [Decision 18/CP.21, Methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70](#)

Consideration from PA Article 5.2 perspective



- Forest Sector does not need a definition and should not be considered as a removal activity in 6.4.

REDD+ Activities

DECISION 1/CP.16, PARA 70

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- Sustainable management of forests;
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;



Some Conservation Definitions already defined by Parties according to their national circumstances

- Conservation of carbon stocks: GHG emissions and CO2 removals in forest lands that remain as such caused by a set of human activities whose purpose is to guarantee the integrity of a forest ecosystem, as well as its environmental goods and services through the preservation of the natural resources present.
- Forest conservation has, historically, been a major priority for XXX. This is evidenced by the country's extensive protected areas system. The Protected Areas of XXX have evolved over the last few decades from being considered primarily as a resource bank, typically for forestry, **to become a complex network of large and small "enclaves" having a diversity of purposes and under a variety of management regimes**, some more effective than others, **reflecting changing conservation attitudes**, as has the scope and direction of the various agencies responsible for their administration

Conservation and Removals

- Conservation refers to **carbon stocks** and thus to the **net removal** of CO2 that those stocks have generated.
- It is well understood that **conservation is the common and inalienable thread** that integrates all eligible REDD+ activities as contained in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70. This implies that the conservation and increase of carbon stocks cannot be considered outside the ambit of the REDD+ (Art 5.2) for mitigation under the Paris Agreement.
- Both **conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks are already included under the REDD+ mechanism** and fall under the mitigation definition just presented.
- **Therefore, there is no need to discuss Conservation under 6.4**



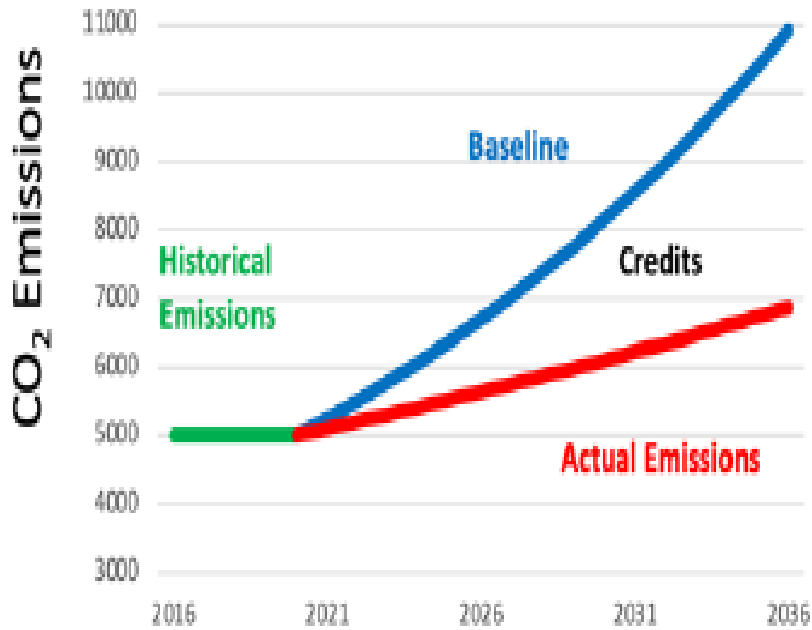
Emission Avoidance & Removals Activities

- Avoidance is the terminology used for REDD projects under certain voluntary carbon standards, **where a project protects a small portion of the land against deforestation and forest degradation based on hypothesis that the land was under threat** and that it would have been deforested or degraded without the project.
- This hypothesis is **built on fictive predictions** of what could have happened in the future and not based on past and present real emissions.
- **The avoidance concept has no place under the Paris Agreement where real GHG emissions reductions and increases of carbon stock** must be demonstrated to contribute to achieving its long-term global goal.
- Avoidance of emissions in the **forestry sector** is a language that is not **contemplated in any prior COP decision, nor in the Paris Agreement or in the IPCC Guidelines.**
- **The Paris Agreement, as well as all previous COP decisions on REDD+, focus on reducing emissions and increasing carbon stocks;** they make no reference to **avoidance.**
- As a result, the concept of emissions avoidance does not meet the criteria for any A6.4 action and **none of the REDD+ activities can be associated with emissions avoidance.**

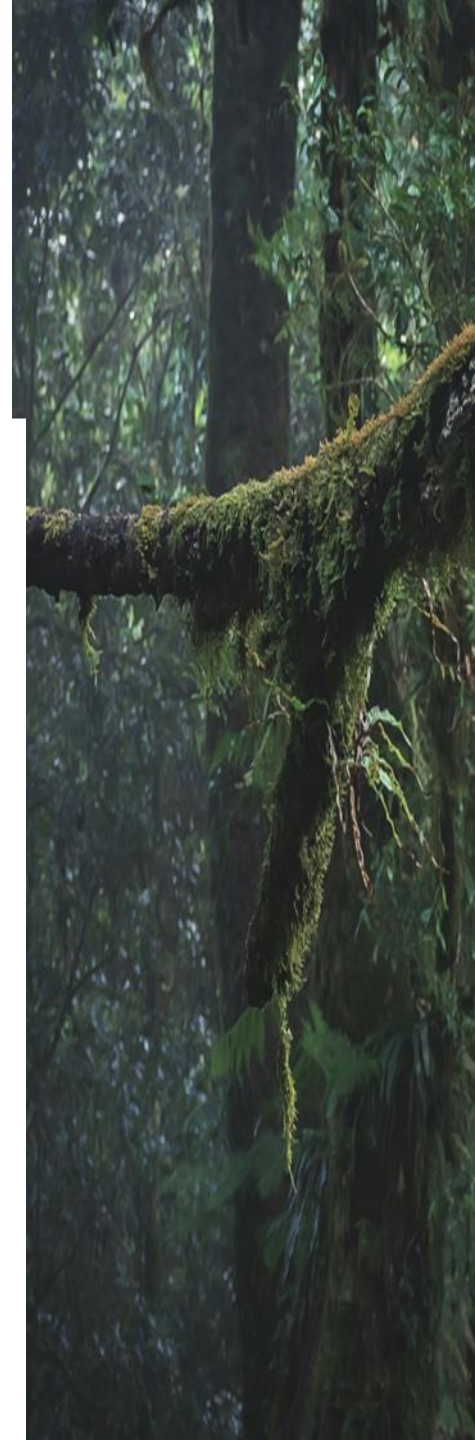
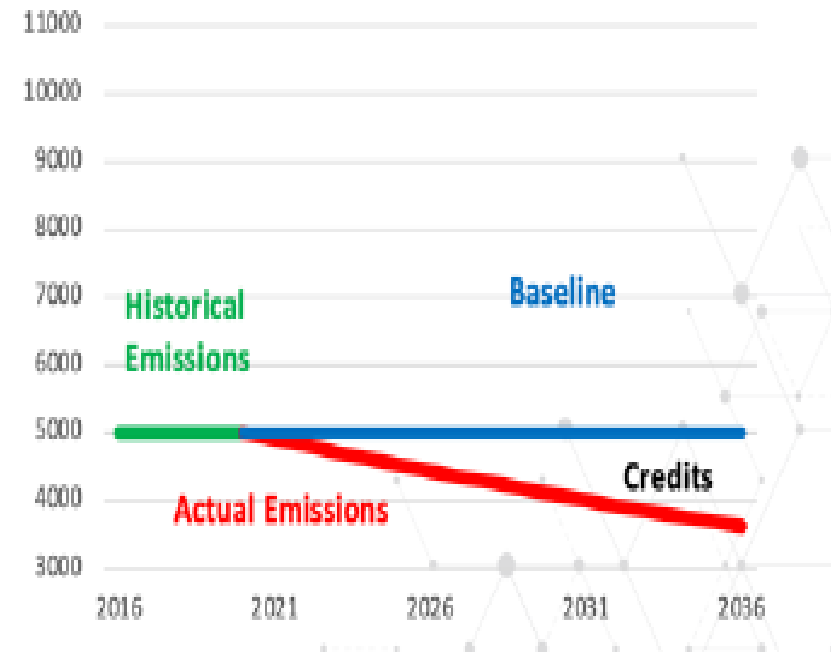


The difference between avoidance and reduction can be illustrated by looking at how baselines are calculated

Avoidance: Counterfactual Reference Level



Reductions: Historical Reference Level



Global Carbon Budget

Avoidance = Climate Disaster

Remaining
Carbon
Budget
380 Gt

Carbon in
Land and
Forests
900 Gt

Carbon in
Proven
Fossil Fuel
Reserves
2,800 Gt

Probable
Fossil
Fuel Reserves
12,000 Gt

Sovereign REDD+ Has Proven Results over Voluntary Carbon Projects

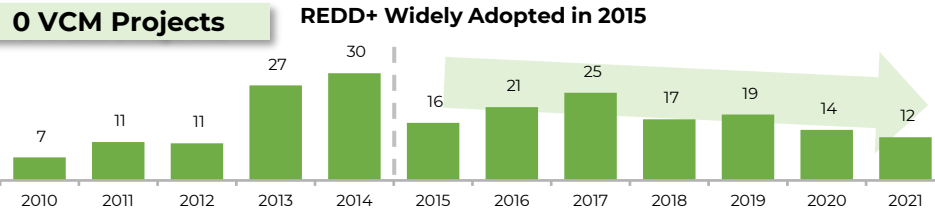
The REDD+ Mechanism Has Substantially Larger Impact on Forest-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Key Points

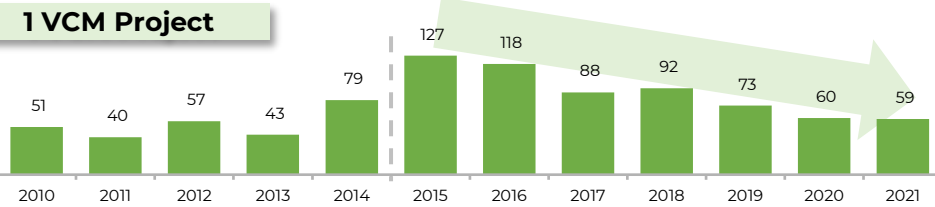
- Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) Projects have an inverse correlation with forest-related greenhouse gas emissions
- Governments focused on VCM projects assume their projects are reducing forest-related emissions and choose not to implement national forest programs
 - By avoiding national forest programs like REDD+ these countries have continued to increase emissions
- Countries prioritizing the REDD+ mechanism over VCM projects have meaningfully decreased their forest-related greenhouse gas emissions

Sovereign REDD+ Countries (Forest-Based GHG MtCO₂)

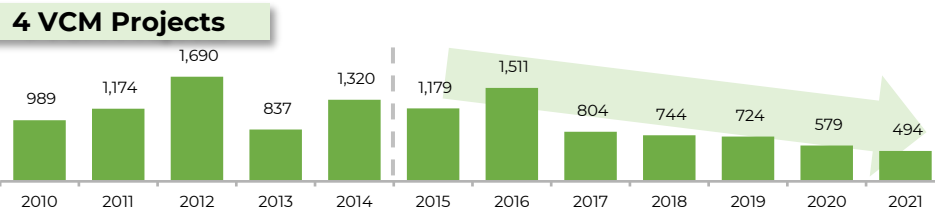
Gabon



Papua New Guinea

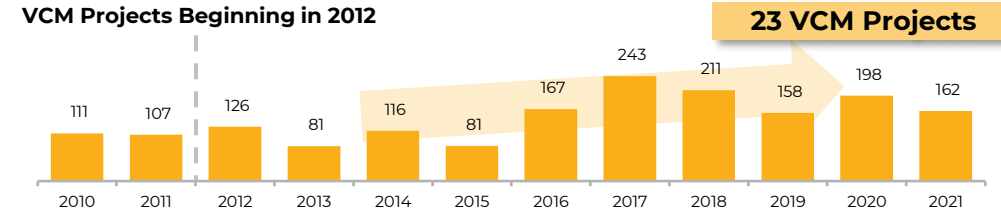


Indonesia

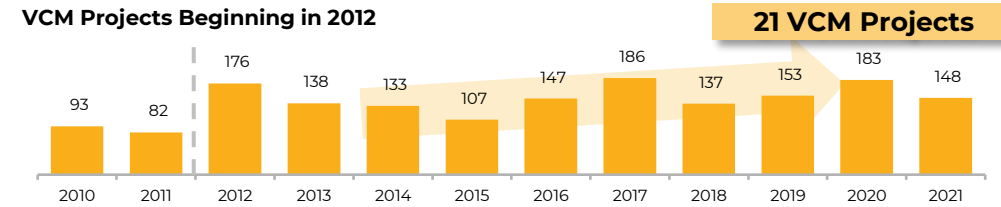


Countries Focused on VCM (Forest-Based GHG MtCO₂)

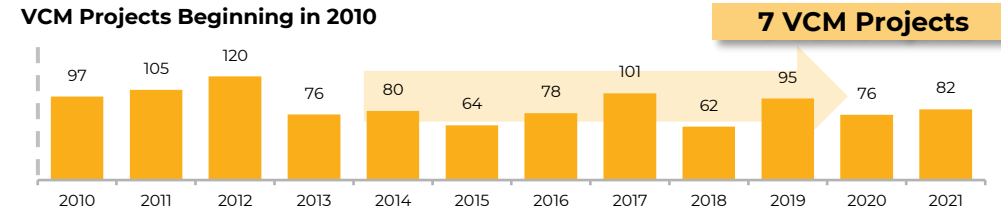
Colombia



Peru



Paraguay





Thank You!



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