

The Article 6.4 Supervisory Body

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Email: A6.4mechanism-meth@unfccc.int

Subject: OSS Letter of Support – Article 6 Savanna Fire Management (SFM) Methodology

Dear Members of the Supervisory Body,

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) wish to express its strong support for the development of the Savanna Fire Management (SFM) Methodology under the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM).

OSS, as an intergovernmental organization with a continental mandate, plays a central role in supporting African countries to strengthen climate resilience, safeguard natural resources, and reduce disaster risks across vulnerable dryland and savanna regions. Wildfires, now intensified by climate change, advancing desertification, and unsustainable land-use pressures, are emerging as a major threat to populations, ecosystems, and national development gains. Their growing social, economic, and environmental toll underscores the urgent need for coordinated, science-based fire management solutions that can protect livelihoods, stabilize landscapes, and reinforce national preparedness and response capacities.

Advancing robust savanna fire management approaches is not only a technical priority but a political imperative for Africa's resilience agenda. Strengthened fire governance and early action directly contribute to achieving national climate commitments, implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and delivering on continental strategies such as Agenda 2063 and the Great Green Wall. In this context, a high-integrity SFM methodology under Article 6.4 would provide an important mechanism for countries to mobilize climate finance to scale up these interventions. This aligns closely with OSS's mandate to support its member states in championing solutions that reduce wildfire risk, enhance ecosystem stability, and secure sustainable development outcomes for current and future generations.

OSS recognises the significant mitigation potential of savanna fire management and its wide-ranging co-benefits, including improved ecosystem health, strengthened adaptation and resilience, and enhanced community engagement. An internationally recognised methodology consistent with the transparency, environmental integrity, and conservative accounting principles of Article 6.4 would be an invaluable enabling tool for many African countries.

In this regard, OSS welcomes and supports the proposed Article 6 SFM methodology, particularly its:

- use of historical baselines and conservative deductions to ensure high environmental integrity;
- focus on woody savanna ecosystems, in line with established scientific evidence and good international practice;
- exclusion of grasslands to maintain ecological and accounting rigour;
- adaptation of validated principles from the Australian SFM Method, which has undergone extensive scientific review and real-world operational testing.

These technical foundations reflect the best available science and are well aligned with international guidance on integrated fire management.

The urgency of advancing this methodology is further underscored by the recent **COP30 Leaders' Call to Action on Wildfire Resilience**, which highlights the need to strengthen and scale up effective fire management strategies globally. An approved SFM methodology under Article 6.4 would directly support countries in implementing this agenda and in accessing sustainable finance for high-quality fire management programmes.

For these reasons, OSS strongly supports the continued development of the Article 6 Savanna Fire Management Methodology and encourages the Supervisory Body to prioritize its further assessment and approval. OSS stands ready to collaborate with the Supervisory Body, Parties, and technical partners as this methodology progresses within the Article 6.4 mechanism, and as countries work to implement integrated fire management solutions on the ground.

Yours sincerely,

Nabil BEN KHATRA



Executive Secretary

