

# Thirteenth Meeting of the SBSTA Research Dialogue

## Note by the Chair of the SBSTA

25 May 2020

### I. Introduction

1. The research dialogue provides a forum between the scientific community, Parties and non-Party stakeholders to exchange knowledge on the latest scientific information and identify gaps and needs related to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Themes for each meeting of the dialogue are guided by submissions, as well as the mandates and ongoing work under the UNFCCC.
2. I invited Parties and observers to submit their views on possible topics and considerations for the meeting of the research dialogue to be held in June 2021 and future meetings, taking into account previous suggested themes and presentations and the outcomes of previous research dialogue meetings by 30 April 2021.<sup>1</sup>
3. Addressing climate change requires understanding of the interconnectedness between all parts of the Earth's system – climate system (ocean, atmosphere, land), nature and people. The thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue will explore some of the latest knowledge on climate system dynamics, the role of nature, and building understand of climate change impacts and risks and implications for decision making.

### II. Approach

4. The twelfth meeting of the research dialogue, 24–25 November 2020,<sup>2</sup> focused on science for net-zero and building resilience within this context. The summary report includes key messages from this event.<sup>3</sup>
5. To reach net zero, understanding the dynamic nature of the climate system and incorporating the latest knowledge on risks into decision making on mitigation and adaptation are vital.
6. Furthermore, protecting and restoring nature is fundamental for resilience to climate change and to pathways that limit warming to 1.5 degrees while providing co-benefits for ecosystem health, community resilience, and biodiversity. A number of activities under the Convention are increasing a focus on this topic including the SBSTA Land<sup>4</sup> and Ocean<sup>5</sup> Dialogues, Nairobi work programme (NWP)<sup>6</sup> focus on oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems and on biodiversity and climate change adaptation; the planned Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) forum on nature-based solutions<sup>7</sup> and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) work on nature-based solutions in coastal zones.<sup>8</sup> Science is advancing on

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<sup>1</sup> Submissions were received from Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, Japan, Portugal and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member states, Bhutan on behalf of the least developed countries group, United States of America, the University of Maryland, and the World Adaptation Science Programme. See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>. (in search, type in “voluntary submissions 2021” or research dialogue). The submissions are also available from the research dialogue 13 webpage, available at <https://unfccc.int/event/thirteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/research-dialogue/twelfth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ResearchDialogue12.SummaryReport.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/events-meetings/national-adaptation-plans/dialogue-on-the-relationship-between-land-and-climate-change-adaptation-related-matters>.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue>.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.unfccc.int/nwp>.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.unfccc.int/node/231652>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/coastalzones/>.

understanding the relationship between nature and climate and how building resilience for and by nature can support adaptation and mitigation.

## 1. Themes and guiding questions

7. The themes of the research dialogue are based on submissions whilst also considering ongoing activities under the Convention and Paris Agreement.
8. The thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue (2021) will explore two themes.
  - Theme 1. **Climate system dynamics and modelling: New knowledge and its implications for decision making.**
  - Theme 2. **Resilience for and by nature: Building knowledge and understanding to weave the protection and restoration of nature into decision making on mitigation and adaptation.**
9. Based on the mandates for the research dialogue, the guiding questions are:
  - a) What are the latest climate research findings and implications for decision making?
  - b) What are the views on needs and priorities for research, research capacity building, knowledge sharing and communication moving forward?
  - c) What is needed to strengthen scientific support for decision-making?

## 2. Indicative Agenda

10. The indicative agenda of the event follows below. A detailed agenda will be made available on the event webpage.

1 June 2021	<b>Theme 1</b> Climate system dynamics and modelling: New knowledge and its implications for decision making
16.30 – 17.30 (CEST)	<b>Virtual drop in Q&amp;A with poster experts</b> <i>In the poster exhibition space</i> <i>Posters will be available online throughout the session</i>
17.30 – 19.30 (CEST)	<b>Dialogue</b> (Chair: SBSTA Chair) Opening remarks by the SBSTA Chair Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on climate system dynamics, risks and climate services, (presenter tbc), World Climate Research Programme</li> <li>• Updates on modelling outputs and insights, Keywan Riahi, Integrated assessment modelling community</li> <li>• Updates on interpreting climate risks to understand impacts on livelihoods and sustainable development in the most vulnerable countries, (presenter tbc), World Adaptation Science Programme</li> <li>• New ideas for framing of risk to support decision making, Ted Shepherd, University of Reading</li> </ul> Discussion
	Poster titles and presenters TBC

2 June 2021	<b>Theme 2</b> Resilience for and by nature: Building knowledge and understanding to weave the protection and restoration of nature into decision making on mitigation and adaptation
16.30 – 17.30 (CEST)	<b>Virtual drop in Q&amp;A with poster experts</b> <i>In the poster exhibition space</i> <i>Posters will be available online throughout the session</i>
17.30 – 19.30 (CEST)	<b>Dialogue</b> (Chair: SBSTA Chair) Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current and projected relationships between climate change and biodiversity, Hans-Otto Pörtner, IPCC</li><li>• Nature based solutions – options and scope, Stewart Maginnis, International Union for Conservation of Nature</li><li>• Potential synergies between mitigation and adaptation for the land sink and how to evaluate opportunities and tradeoffs, Philippe Ciais, Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace</li><li>• Potential synergies between mitigation and adaptation for the ocean sink and how to evaluate opportunities and tradeoffs, Minhan Dai, Xiamen University</li><li>• Going beyond what works in climate: Science and data for decision making and being future-fit, Jyotsna Puri, International Fund for Agricultural Development</li></ul> Discussion Closing remarks by the SBSTA Chair
	Poster titles and presenters TBC

### 3. Virtual participation

11. The UNFCCC national focal points will be invited to nominate participants for this virtual event and the nominated participants will be requested to register before the meeting. Observer constituencies will be invited to nominate their representatives. The participation of representatives from observer organizations will be in line with current practice. Registered participants will also be able to visit the virtual poster session.

12. Unregistered participants will be able to watch the event via a live streaming. For unregistered participants, the posters will be available from the webpage.

### III. Next steps

13. Information on the dialogue including a detailed programme will be posted online at <https://unfccc.int/event/thirteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

14. I will prepare an informal summary report of the thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue, which will be made available before the next session of the SBSTA (November 2021).