

REDD-plus briefing paper Doha Climate Change Conference

November 2012

The purpose of this briefing paper is to assist developing country negotiators and others involved in the negotiations on REDD-plus. FIELD provides this information on a neutral basis. This paper is available in English.

Further background information can be found in an updated version of FIELD's Guide for REDD-plus negotiators, which is available on the FIELD website (www.field.org.uk) in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

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The Doha Climate Change Conference

The bodies listed below will be meeting in Doha from 26 November – 7 December 2012. The main bodies for the REDD-plus negotiations are the AWG-LCA and SBSTA, but negotiations on other issues in other bodies are also relevant to REDD-plus.

- The eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP18)
- The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8)
- The thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 37)
- The thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 37)
- The fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (second part) (AWG-LCA 15-2)
- The seventeenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (second part) (AWG-KP 17-2)
- The first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (second part) (ADP 1-2)

First this paper provides a brief overview of REDD-plus and related issues in the AWG-LCA and SBSTA. Then it highlights some REDD-plus related issues in the other bodies.

The Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

At the Durban Climate Change Conference in 2011 the COP decided that the AWG-LCA would continue for one year and then be terminated (see [decision 1/CP.17](#)). It is not yet clear in which bodies REDD-plus issues will be taken forward if the AWG-LCA is terminated in Doha.

The [AWG-LCA's agenda](#) includes item 3 (b)(iii) on REDD-plus. Financing of results-based REDD-plus actions will be an important issue, based on [decision 16/CP.1](#), in which the COP requested the AWG-LCA to consider financing options for the full implementation of results-based REDD-plus actions (paragraph 77).

In follow-up of [decision 2/CP.17](#) (see paragraphs 63-73) from COP 16 in Durban the secretariat prepared a technical paper on "[Financing options for the full implementation of results-based actions relating to the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, including related modalities and procedures](#)" (FCCC/TP/2012/3). The paper provides an overview of views submitted by Parties and observer organizations.

The AWG-LCA documentation also includes a [report from a workshop on financing](#) (FCCC/AWG-LCA/2012/INF.8), which was held in Bangkok in August.

At the informal AWG-LCA session in Bangkok the facilitator of the REDD-plus discussions provided informal notes dated [31 August](#) and [4 September](#), which identify questions and elements and options for a decision on REDD-plus in Doha.

A [table of information](#) from Bangkok provides a helpful overview of REDD-plus issues in the negotiations since COP 13 in Bali.

Several other items on the AWG-LCA's agenda have links with the REDD-plus negotiations. These include:

- Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner (agenda item 3(b)(ii)).

It is not yet completely clear how REDD-plus actions should relate to Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). For example, in the past some Parties have been of the view that REDD-plus actions should not be considered to be NAMAs, but should be treated separately. Some Parties have submitted information on forest-related activities as information on NAMAs, while COP 16 in Cancun requested SBSTA to develop modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) REDD-plus that would be consistent with any guidance on MRV of developing country NAMAs (see [decision 16/CP.1](#) Appendix II, paragraph (c)).

- Various approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries (agenda item 3(b)(v)).

Parties have increasingly recognized the links between this agenda item and the REDD-plus negotiations. It includes for example negotiations about a new market mechanism (NMM) and relationships among different market mechanisms. Questions that have arisen include for example if sub-national REDD-plus credits could be recognized under a Framework for Various Approaches (FVA). A [technical paper](#) (FCCC/TP/2012/4) by the secretariat provides an overview of the issues.

In [decision 2/CP.17](#) the COP considered that appropriate market-based approaches could be developed by the COP to support results-based actions (paragraph 66) and noted that non-market-based approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches, could be developed (paragraph 67).

- Adaptation-related agenda items.

Some Parties, such as Bolivia, have emphasized the links between adaptation and REDD-plus (see paragraph 67 of decision [2/CP.17](#)) and REDD-plus related issues could arise under adaptation-related agenda items.

Please see the section below on SBSTA regarding follow-up to COP [decision 12/CP.17](#) from Durban.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

Item 5 of [SBSTA's agenda](#) addresses methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD-plus. In follow-up of [decision 1/CP.16](#), which set out a SBSTA work programme on REDD-plus (see appendix II) SBSTA will aim to

complete its work on methodological guidance relating to modalities for a national forest monitoring system and for MRV and forward a draft resolution to COP 18 for adoption. SBSTA's work will be based on annex I of the [report of SBSTA 36](#) (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/2), which took place in Bonn in May 2012. The annex contains elements for a possible draft decision.

SBSTA will also continue to consider issues relating to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as requested in the COP decision above.

In follow-up of COP [decision 12/CP.17](#) SBSTA will continue considering the timing and frequency of the summary information that Parties will provide on how the safeguards referred to in appendix 1 to decision 1/CP.16 from Cancun are being addressed and respected and also the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in the presentation of this information. SBSTA will aim to finish this work by SBSTA 39.

SBSTA will begin work on an important issue in follow-up of [decision 12/CP.17](#): developing guidance for the technical assessment of proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, which developing country Parties have been invited to submit on a voluntary basis. SBSTA will aim to report to COP 18 and COP 19 on progress, including any recommendations.

Other issues on SBSTA's agenda which may be relevant for REDD-plus include item 12 (b), which addresses land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) under Article 3.3 and 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism (CDM). This includes:

- Exploring more comprehensive LULUCF accounting, including through a more inclusive activity-based approach or a land-based approach
- Considering possible additional LULUCF activities under the CDM
- Alternative approaches to addressing the risk of non-permanence under the CDM
- Modalities and procedures for applying the concept of additionality

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Issues on [SBI's agenda](#) with links to REDD-plus include item 5, which addresses NAMAs. This will include consideration of the prototype registry for NAMAs.

REDD-plus related issue could also arise in connection with agenda item 6 on finance and potentially adaptation-related agenda items.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol

The main issue on the [AWG-KP's agenda](#) in Doha concerns the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, which is meant to begin in January 2013.

Potential REDD-plus related questions that may arise include if Parties with emission reduction commitments in the second commitment period might be allowed to use units generated from market-based mechanisms under the UNFCCC to achieve their Kyoto Protocol commitments.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform

Negotiations in the ADP aim to develop "a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties" (see [decision 1/CP.17](#) and [ADP agenda](#)). The ADP negotiations are at a very early stage, so it is not clear yet how REDD-plus might fit in, but many Parties can be expected to see a role for REDD-plus.

For example, the European Union (EU) has mentioned enhancing action on REDD-plus as one of the options for increasing the level of ambition while Norway has highlighted the mitigation potential of REDD-plus in the near term in submissions related to "[Views on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition](#)" (FCCC/ADP/2012MISC.1).

The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

In addition to considering reports of the subsidiary bodies, the COP is expected to terminate the AWG-LCA. As mentioned above COP 17 in Durban decided that the AWG-LCA would continue for one year and then be terminated (see [decision 1/CP.17](#)).

If the COP terminates the AWG-LCA in Doha REDD-plus issues will need to be considered in other UNFCCC bodies. The [oral report of the REDD-plus facilitator](#) at the AWG-LCA session in Bonn in May 2012 noted views expressed by Parties that issues related to implementation should be taken over by SBI and other issues potentially considered by the ADP.

Under item 11 of the [COP's agenda](#) the COP will consider matters relating to finance, which could include REDD-plus related issues. For example it includes the report of the Green Climate Fund and guidance to the Green Climate Fund (item 11(c)). Proposals from Parties have included creating a REDD-plus window under the Green Climate Fund.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Based on the work of the AWG-KP the CMP in Doha is expected to adopt amendments to the Kyoto Protocol and related decisions to enable the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol to begin.

The extent to which Annex I countries will be able to rely on LULUCF to reach their emission reduction commitments in the second commitment period has been an important issue in the negotiations. The LULUCF negotiations have also influenced the REDD-plus negotiations.

In Durban the CMP adopted [decision 2/CMP.7](#) which contains LULUCF rules for the second commitment period.

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