POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022 MID-YEAR UN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS (SB 56)

Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 56)
Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 56)
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At the last session of UN climate negotiations in Glasgow at COP 26, countries issued a strong signal on the importance of accelerating climate action through protecting, conserving and restoring natural ecosystems, and of enhancing social and environmental safeguards. Countries also celebrated a major achievement by reaching agreement on the rules for international cooperation through market and non-market mechanisms (known as Article 6), thus completing the Paris Agreement ‘Rulebook’ and paving the way for increased climate action and finance flows to mitigation actions, including natural climate solutions. At COP 26, countries established a new annual dialogue on ocean-based actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and made positive advancements on issues related to agriculture, adaptation and inclusive participation, especially for Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Urgent, transformational efforts by governments are needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, and countries must make progress at the 2022 mid-year negotiations (SB 56) to deliver upon the vision for 2030 outlined at COP 26. Several discussions at SB 56 will advance essential components of this vision for nature-based climate action – the launch of the Ocean-Climate Dialogue, advancements on a renewed workplan for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform, the operationalization of Article 6 rules, the start of a new work programme on adaptation, the finalization of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, and the evaluation of progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement during the Technical Assessment phase of the Global Stocktake process. For each of these priority issues, countries must ensure to fully capture the potential of nature-based climate action to jointly address mitigation needs and help people adapt to climate change, which are both critical to the success of the Paris Agreement.

Conservation International recognizes that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to present challenges for SB 56, including plans for delegates to participate in-person. While being sensitive to these challenges, countries should advance key negotiation items needed to facilitate ambitious climate action.

Key Recommendations

Conservation International proposes the following policy recommendations for SBI/SBSTA 56:

Increase efficiency of delivering climate goals and finance through cooperative mechanisms

- Negotiations should focus on major outstanding issues for the operationalization of Article 6 and ensure the work programme on emissions avoidance under Article 6.2 and 6.4 maintains a narrow scope in line with its mandate. Discussions on emissions avoidance must not impact areas already agreed upon by Parties, as this would create an unhelpful distraction from urgent work needed to operationalize Article 6.
• To incentivize ambitious mitigation action, market-based approaches under Articles 6.2 or 6.4 and non-market approaches under Article 6.8 should accelerate natural climate solutions with rigorous environmental and social integrity. Countries should also deliver clear pathways for non-market cooperation through nature-based mitigation and adaptation in the work programme for the framework of Article 6.8.

Call for accelerated climate action in the agriculture sector as a conclusion of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)

• Countries should deliver an outcome recognizing how the KJWA has advanced agriculture discussions under the UNFCCC, clarified national-level needs, and identified international mechanisms’ role in supporting action.
• Countries should call on UNFCCC mechanisms to facilitate ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation in agriculture, especially through national-level action that promotes improved land management through nature-based solutions.

Ensure inclusive participation through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform (LCIPP)

• The LCIPP should advance the new three-year work plan to ensure full and inclusive participation of all relevant actors and regions in climate policy and action whose involvement is key to achieving agreed global goals.
• Indigenous peoples and local communities should proactively engage in discussions on the linkages between Article 6 operationalization and the LCIPP’s work, such as by creating an independent grievance mechanism under Article 6.4 and defining Article 6.8 activities.

Continue building and enhancing urgent action on the ocean-climate nexus under UNFCCC mandates and national climate plans

• Countries should use the 2022 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue to develop concrete steps to strengthen ocean-climate action and incorporate ocean-climate issues into scientific processes under the UNFCCC.
• Countries should advance ocean-climate issues in existing agenda items to establish stronger pathways for the conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems in addressing climate change and request the relevant Constituted Bodies to the UNFCCC incorporate and act on ocean-related issues in their respective mandates.

Ensure the Global Stocktake fully reflects the critical role of nature in realizing the goals of the Paris Agreement

• Countries should ensure the Global Stocktake’s Technical Assessment considers input about nature-based solutions from both Party and non-Party stakeholders to strengthen the ambition of nature-based national commitments and their effective implementation.

Deliver support for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) through the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation

• Countries should ensure the work programme includes a focus on advancing climate action through EbA and its role in accelerating progress toward the global goal.
Voluntary Cooperation on NDCs through the Transfer of International Mitigation Outcomes

SBSTA, Agenda Items 12, 13, 14

Relevant Documents: Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement; Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement; Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement establishes a broad framework for voluntary cooperation among Parties in delivering climate action by setting out three approaches through which Parties can cooperate: (1) bilateral or regional cooperation via internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), (2) a centrally-governed UNFCCC mechanism for carbon trading to contribute to mitigation and support sustainable development, and (3) non-market approaches. Encouraging the transfer of high-quality emission reductions generated in all sectors, including the land sector, can drive needed flows of finance to climate actions addressing both sources and sinks, and generate opportunities for increased ambition particularly in developing countries.

At COP 26, Parties finalized the guidance for how cooperative approaches will be implemented, governed and counted, and the Article 6 outcome was a win for nature. By keeping international carbon markets open to high-quality credits across all sectors, Article 6 will help unlock an important source of investment into natural climate solutions. Though the main rules have been decided, further technical work is needed during SB 56 and beyond to define the details for implementation of each cooperative approach, as agreed at COP 26. It is critical that these negotiations ensure that natural climate solutions are prioritized under both market and non-market approaches to secure climate finance for nature. To advance the negotiations at SB 56, Conservation International encourages Parties to:

- Focus negotiations on priority outstanding issues for the operationalization of Article 6 and ensure the work programme on emissions avoidance under Article 6.2 and 6.4 maintains a narrow scope in line with its mandate. As agreed at COP 26, two work programmes related to emissions avoidance were established: one under Article 6.2 to consider whether ITMOs will include emissions avoidance, and one under Article 6.4 to consider whether activities will include emissions avoidance and conservation enhancement activities. The reference to “emissions avoidance” is not officially defined under the UNFCCC. However, it is generally understood that emissions avoidance refers to a scenario where there is no current emissions source, but a mitigation intervention is needed to avoid (or prevent) the release of a stored carbon stock. Some examples of emissions avoidance include the intention to prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel extraction (e.g., the Yasuni-ITT Initiative), as well as the emissions avoidance methodologies generated under the Clean Development Mechanism.

While the term “emissions avoidance” has been used informally by some to refer to a large swathe of mitigation activities, the introduction of the term “emissions avoidance” in the Article 6 context has a very specific and narrowly understood meaning, as described above. Therefore, discussions on the work programme on emissions avoidance should be limited to this scope and should not encompass activities that reduce emissions or enhance removals. For example, mitigation activities under REDD+ (e.g., “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation”) represent emission reductions or removals and are governed by 16 UNFCCC decisions agreed over 10 years known as the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

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1 Paris Agreement, Article 6, Paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, respectively.
Decisions 2/CP.17\(^3\) and 14/CP.19\(^4\) of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, countries agreed that results-based payments for REDD+ may come in the form of market and non-market approaches, providing the foundation for REDD+ activities to be included in market mechanisms, including under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. **It is imperative that the discussions on emissions avoidance do not touch on areas already agreed by Parties or deviate from the narrow mandate of the work programme, as this would create an unhelpful distraction from urgent work to operationalize Article 6.**

- To incentivize the full suite of ambitious mitigation actions in countries’ efforts to urgently address climate change, it is essential that market-based approaches under Article 6.2 or Article 6.4 and non-market approaches under Article 6.8 accelerate natural climate solutions while ensuring their environmental and social integrity. **Under the work programme on the framework for non-market approaches under Article 6.8, countries should deliver clear pathways for non-market cooperation through nature-based mitigation and adaptation approaches.**

**Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture**

**SBSTA, Agenda Item 4**
**SBI, Agenda Item 9**

Relevant Documents: [KJWA Draft text elements on the report on the intersessional workshop](#); Reports on the last intersessional workshop: Part 1 (FCCC/SB/2021/3); Part 2 (FCCC/SB/2021/3/Add.1)

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) concluded its Roadmap to support climate action in agriculture prior COP 26, where Parties were presented with three mandates: (1) consideration of workshop reports, (2) a report to the COP on the outcomes of the KJWA Roadmap, and (3) a decision on the future of KJWA. At SB 56, Parties will finalize their consideration of the workshop reports and begin discussions on the remaining two mandates. In their negotiations at SB 56, Parties will need to bridge their diverging views on the future of agriculture under the UNFCCC – issues such as how to accelerate means of implementation for agriculture-based climate action, whether to request a new dedicated body to continue the work of KJWA, and how to balance mitigation and adaptation priorities. To advance the negotiations at SB 56, Conservation International encourages Parties to:

- **Focus on areas of agreement to prepare for a COP 27 outcome that recognizes how the KJWA has advanced the discussions related to agriculture under the UNFCCC,** reflecting that countries now have a better understanding of the technical knowledge and best practices to deliver climate mitigation and adaption in the agriculture sector, the variety needs to accelerate action, and the role of the UNFCCC to support technical and financial means of implementation.

- **Prepare a draft decision for COP 27 with a call for the UNFCCC mechanisms to facilitate ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation action in the agriculture sector, especially through harnessing nature-based solutions for improved land management.** This draft decision should ensure that the knowledge generated through the KJWA workshops is distilled into recommendations for countries to incorporate into national climate action plans, policies and interventions for the agriculture sector, as well as for increasing access to the technical and

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\(^3\) COP Decision 2/CP.17, Paragraph 66 states in full: “Considers that, in the light of the experience gained from current and future demonstration activities, **appropriate market-based approaches could be developed** by the Conference of the Parties to support the results-based actions by developing country Parties referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73, **ensuring that environmental integrity is preserved** that the provisions of decision 1/CP.16, appendices I and II, are fully respected, and should be consistent with the relevant provisions of decisions 1/CP.16 and 12/CP.17 and any future decision by the Conference of the Parties on these matters.”

\(^4\) COP Decision 14/CP.19, Paragraph 15 states in full: “Also agrees that **results-based actions that may be eligible to appropriate market-based approaches** that could be developed by the Conference of the Parties, as per decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 66, may be subject to any further specific modalities for verification consistent with any relevant decision of the Conference of the Parties.”

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financial support needed for implementation. Any recommendations should: 1) underscore how robust national institutions and processes are necessary to incentivize a climate resilient food system ensuring diversified, sustainable landscapes and livelihoods for all; and 2) recognize the importance of including smallholder farmers, Indigenous peoples and local communities in national planning efforts to ensure the protection of their rights and food security along with conservation of forest cover in productive landscapes.

- Discuss options and topics for any needed future work on agriculture, including how to advance the application of safeguards in the agriculture sector and how to prioritize and ensure the full and inclusive involvement of key actors.

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform

7th Meeting of the Facilitative Working Group
Relevant Documents: Report of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (FCCC/SBSTA/2021/1)

The Paris Agreement explicitly recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the context of climate action, and Parties developed the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhanced engagement on key issues. Countries established a Facilitative Working Group (FWG) to undertake the work of the LCIPP with representation from Parties, Indigenous peoples and representatives of local communities, upon recognition of the local communities’ constituency.

At COP 26, the FWG prepared a three-year workplan for activities between 2022-2024, extended the mandate of the FWG with its current composition (seven representatives each from Indigenous peoples and Parties), and considered the potential addition of three representatives from both local communities and Parties. At SB 56, the LCIPP will hold the 7th meeting of the Facilitative Working Group, a youth roundtable, an Indigenous curricula dialogue, and a training workshop for Parties and stakeholders.

The vital role of Indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ culture and knowledge in effective action on climate change was recognized in the overall outcome from COP 26. Further, in the guidance on carbon trading under Article 6, Parties agreed that human rights and the rights of IPLCs must be respected, promoted and considered in all cooperative approaches. To advance discussions at SB 56, Conservation International encourages IPLC representatives to proactively engage in discussions on the linkages between Article 6 operationalization and the work of the LCIPP, including the establishment of an independent grievance mechanism under Article 6.4 and defining the activities under Article 6.8.

Ocean-Climate Nexus

Annual ocean and climate change dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action
Relevant Documents: Glasgow Climate Pact, COP Decision 1/CP.26

At COP 26, Parties called on the relevant bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing work and agreed to establish an annual dialogue on the importance of ocean-climate action to promote the ocean’s role at the national level and across the UNFCCC. These annual dialogues, the first of which will be held at SB 56, will provide a space to develop concrete steps for Parties to act within existing UN infrastructure, build capacity, and strengthen the ocean-climate nexus under the UNFCCC and other UN bodies. To advance discussions at SB 56, Conservation International encourages Parties to:
• Use the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue to develop concrete steps Parties will take to strengthen finance for ocean-climate action and incorporate ocean-climate issues into scientific processes under the UNFCCC, among other areas of action needed to fill gaps, build capacity and strengthen the ocean-climate nexus.

• Advance ocean-climate issues in existing agenda items to establish stronger pathways for the conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems and strengthen recognition of their important role in addressing climate change. Existing agenda items relevant to the ocean-climate nexus include the Nairobi Work Programme and its Thematic Expert Group on Oceans, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), the Adaptation Fund, the Global Stocktake, and Research and Systematic Observation, among others.

• Request the relevant Constituted Bodies to the UNFCCC incorporate and act on ocean-related issues in their respective mandates, including the Paris Committee on Capacity building, Adaptation Committee, Executive Committee of the WIM, and the Technology Executive Committee, among others, and enhance coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations and processes. Countries should prioritize efforts to increase and accelerate climate finance flows to coastal and marine ecosystems through all sources – public and private, market and non-market. To this end, Parties should call on the relevant bodies, including the Standing Committee on Finance, to explore the extent of finance flows and gaps for coastal and marine nature-based solutions, as well as identify and agree on actionable opportunities to increase needed finance flows. Additionally, countries should prioritize ocean-related assessments as part of the Global Stocktake process and increase the development of relevant and actionable science on the ocean and climate through the work on Research and Systematic Observation.

For additional details and options on how Parties can strengthen ocean-climate action under the UNFCCC, please refer to an options paper prepared by Conservation International and partners detailing **options for strengthening action on the ocean under the UNFCCC**.

**The Global Stocktake**

**SBSTA, Agenda Item 7**  
**SBI, Agenda Item 7**

Relevant Documents: [Preparing for the Global Stocktake (Revised non-paper by the Chairs, Sept 2021)](https://www.conscience.org/govdocs/Global%20Stocktake%20-%20Revised%20Non-Paper%20-%20June%202021.pdf); **GST Technical Assessment Guiding Questions**

In the Glasgow Climate Pact, countries welcomed the start of the first Global Stocktake (GST), which will assess collective progress toward the Paris Agreement’s goals over two years and develop recommendations on enhanced national climate commitments and international cooperation. At COP 26, the GST’s Information Collection and Preparation component was launched, and at SB 56, the first joint SBI-SBSTA contact group will convene as part of the Technical Assessment process. The contact group will be supported by a technical expert dialogue, which will consider the inputs and information prepared to-date through Party and observer submissions on a set of GST Guiding Questions.

As a key part of the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle, countries have signaled for the GST process to be comprehensive, inclusive and consistent with existing guidance. If executed well, the GST can be a powerful propeller toward the transformative action needed by 2030. Conservation International believes that to **produce a robust and effective Global Stocktake, it is essential to fully consider the critical role of nature in ambitious climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement**, as well as to advance global goals on biodiversity, human health, and sustainable development.
Therefore, comprehensive and successful GST outcomes should produce **quantified goals for nature and include guidance for action in all natural ecosystems**. To advance the negotiations at SB 56 towards this end, Conservation International encourages Parties to ensure the GST Technical Assessment considers inputs and experiences about nature-based solutions from both Party and non-Party stakeholders.

**Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation**

**First in-session workshop**

Relevant Documents: [Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation](#)

At COP 26, countries initiated the comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, to be carried out jointly by SBSTA and SBI. The first workshop will be held at SB 56 to begin advancing the work programme’s mandates to enable more ambition and support to reach the global goal on adaptation.

Through discussions under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme, countries have the potential to significantly accelerate adaptation actions needed to address the urgent needs of billions of people who are vulnerable to a changing climate, especially the 70% of people in tropical countries who depend on nature to meet their basic needs. As our climate continues changing, these impacts are only predicted to increase in frequency and severity, but through implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), vulnerable communities can effectively increase their resilience to climate change. **EbA offers a diverse suite of nature-based pathways for reaching the Paris Agreements’ adaptation goals, but still needs international support to effectively implement at scale and measure results.** To advance the discussions at SB 56, Conservation International encourages Parties to ensure the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme includes a strong focus on how to advance climate action through ecosystem-based approaches.

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