POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
BONN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 50),
Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 50),
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
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At the UN climate negotiations in December 2018, countries finalized most of the rules, procedures, and guidelines needed to make the Paris Agreement operational. This “Rulebook” included implementation guidance related to mitigation, adaptation, finance mechanisms, reporting, tracking progress, and capacity building. During 2019, countries still need to agree on the rules for international cooperation through market and non-market mechanisms to achieve the global climate goals, as well as advance important discussions related to agriculture and inclusive participation.

2019 is an important year for countries to raise the ambition of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) before they begin implementation in 2020. Natural climate solutions – the mitigation and adaptation benefits that come from nature – are essential for achieving the agreed global goals on climate change and must be implemented as part of countries’ NDCs. Conservation International believes that harnessing the full potential of nature to mitigate and help people adapt to climate change is critical to the success of the Paris Agreement.

Key Recommendations
Conservation International proposes the following specific policy recommendations for SBI/SBSTA 50:

Harness the role of nature to deliver national climate action
- Countries should aim to include climate action across all sectors in their revised NDCs, particularly natural climate solutions which address forests, wetlands and peatlands, coastal carbon management, ecosystem-based adaptation, REDD+ and climate-resilient agriculture, among others.

Increase efficiency for delivering climate goals
- Parties should facilitate the generation and robust accounting of emission reduction transfers across all sectors and enhance the potential for removals by sinks;
- Any emissions reductions transferred from outside the scope of a country’s NDC should demonstrate robust baselines, monitoring, reporting and verification, and be subject to the same corresponding adjustment as other transfers; and
• Parties should prepare guidance and the necessary systems to facilitate the acquisition of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes by Party and non-Party actors (such as the International Civil Aviation Organization’s market-based measure) in a way that ensures the avoidance of double counting.

Consider critical issues of agriculture
• Countries should link the Koronivia workshop topics with national-level policies and interventions that can be integrated into countries’ NDC revisions, including an explanation of the technical and financial support needed;
• Smallholder farmers should be considered as a key actor in advancing action on these topics, specifically related to their inclusion in assessing adaptation outcomes as well as their importance for promoting integrated practices such as agroforestry for improved soil fertility.

Ensure full and effective participation
• The LCIP Platform (LCIPP) should prioritize the creation of the local communities’ constituency. The LCIPP should be accompanied by a fully funded program with the Facilitative Working Group serving as a hub for coordination and collaboration among relevant organizations and supporting the capacity building of existing local and indigenous customary institutions.

Voluntary Cooperation on NDCs through the Transfer of International Mitigation Outcomes

SBSTA, Agenda Item 11
Relevant Documents: FCCC/PA/CMA/2018/3/Add.1, Article 6.2 Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.4 Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.8 Draft SBSTA Text, The Katowice Texts: Proposal by the President

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement establishes a broad framework for voluntary cooperation among Parties in delivering climate action. The Article sets out three approaches through which Parties may interact: 1) bilateral or regional cooperative approaches via internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs); 2) a centrally-governed UNFCCC mechanism 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, particularly in developing countries.

Guidance on Article 6.2 should ensure the environmental integrity of all emission reduction transfers, while promoting flexibility and higher ambition for meeting the global mitigation goals. Conservation International encourages Parties to consider the following technical elements when developing aspects of Article 6.2 guidance:

• Parties should facilitate the generation and robust accounting of emission reduction transfers across all sectors and enhance the potential for removals by sinks. While specific

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1 Paris Agreement, Article 6, Paragraphs 2, 4, and 8, respectively.
sectors (such as the land sector) do not need to be explicitly referenced in Article 6 guidance, the COP 24 SBSTA and Presidency Texts include language that could limit or ban the international transfer of mitigation outcomes from forests and the land sector and these references must be removed or replaced. See specific recommendations included in the box below.

- Any emissions reductions transferred from outside the scope of a country's NDC should demonstrate robust baselines, monitoring, reporting and verification, and be subject to the same corresponding adjustment as other transfers; and

- Parties should prepare guidance and the necessary systems to facilitate the acquisition of ITMOs by Party and non-Party actors (such as the International Civil Aviation Organization's market-based measure) in a way that ensures the avoidance of double counting. As agreed at COP 24, Paragraph 77(d) of the Transparency Framework applies high-level reporting requirements for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes used toward an NDC or used for international mitigation purposes other than achievement of its NDC, which would include transfers to international airlines under the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). This language in Paragraph 77(d) is an important foundation for ensuring no double counting; however, Parties should maintain and strengthen this provision in the more detailed Article 6 guidance.

**Specific text recommendations to support Article 6 transfers across all sectors**

**Remove references prohibiting activities from Article 5 (the “Forest Article”)**
Under Article 6.4, remove “and shall not include actions referred to in Article 5.” Engaging in a sector-by-sector discussion in the context of Article 6 is harmful in securing optimal guidance for cooperative approaches that ensures consistency and high environmental integrity. Limiting the sectors from which a country may transfer could undermine their national prerogative to voluntarily engage in cooperative approaches for emission reductions that meet the criteria of Article 6.

*Current locations in 6.4 Texts:*
- [Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.4 Annex, paragraph 31, bullet (a)](#)
- [The Katowice Texts, Article 6.4 Annex, paragraph 31, bullet (a)](#)

**Remove limits on sectors with “high uncertainty”**
Remove language proposing limits on sectors with “high uncertainty.” The definition of ITMOs already references IPCC methodologies and metrics, which includes calculations and guidance for addressing uncertainty, so this proposed “safeguard” is not necessary and could be used to limit ITMOs from the land sector.

*Current locations in 6.2 Texts:*
- [Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.2 Draft decision, paragraph 2, bullet (g), sub-bullet (viii)](#)
- [The Katowice Texts, Article 6.2 Draft decision, paragraph 2, bullet (h), sub-bullet (viii)](#)

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2 Engaging in a sector-by-sector discussion in the context of Article 6 would be, at best, a distraction from the key issues and, at worst, harmful in securing optimal guidance for cooperative approaches that ensures consistency and high environmental integrity. Limiting the sectors from which a country may transfer could undermine their national prerogative to voluntarily engage in cooperative approaches for emission reductions that meet the criteria of Article 6.

3 Current language locations are provided for the two sets of Article 6 texts that were identified in the COP 24 outcomes as the starting point for negotiations at SB 50. These texts will likely change rapidly or be replaced, which would likely render these current text locations inaccurate.
Current locations in 6.4 Texts:
- Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.4 Draft decision, paragraph 7, bullet (q), sub-bullet (i)
- The Katowice Texts, Article 6.4 Draft decision, paragraph 7, bullet (q), sub-bullet (i)

Adjust references to “permanence”
Replace the word “permanent” with language that is inclusive of all sectors, such as “having a system to ensure permanence, including to address reversals.” This positive language is already reflected in Article 6.2 Draft SBSTA Text, Annex, para 28, bullet (h), sub-bullet (iv) and should replace the references outlined below:

Current locations in 6.2 Texts:
- Draft SBSTA Text, Article 6.2 Annex, paragraph 1, bullet (a), sub-bullet (i)
- The Katowice Texts, Article 6.2 Annex, paragraph 1, bullet (a), sub-bullet (i)

Adjust language on compensation for reversals
Adjust the reference to, “ensuring compensation of any material reversals.” “Ensuring compensation” is unclear in this context and should be replaced by “account for” or “address.” Alternatively, the language, “having a system to ensure permanence, including to address reversals,” is stronger and clearer.

Current location in 6.2 Texts:
- The Katowice Texts, Article 6.2 Annex, paragraph 24, bullet (b)

Keep references to “emission removals by sinks”
Keep all references to “emission removals,” as this language was already agreed in paragraph 36 of 1/CP.21.

Current location in 6.4 Texts:
- The Katowice Texts, Article 6.4 Annex, paragraph 31, bullet (a)

Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

SBSTA-SBI, Agenda Item 5
Relevant Documents: FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4

Agriculture is both vulnerable to climate change as well as a sector that can deliver significant mitigation and adaptation benefits. To achieve the transformative response needed, farmers and agricultural systems will require additional methods, tools and technologies.

Parties agreed to address issues associated with agriculture and climate change through the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA). The KJWA is implemented jointly by the SBSTA and the SBI, with the objective of supporting farmers to navigate the challenges of adapting to climate change and minimizing emissions by providing increased knowledge and tools focused on five initial topics.4

During SB 50, Parties will hold a workshop addressing two technical topics: “Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience,” and “Improved soil carbon, soil health

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4 These topics are: 1) evaluating adaptation and mitigation outcomes; 2) increasing soil carbon and water management; 3) improving nutrient management; 4) improving livestock production; 5) understanding the socioeconomic and food security implications of climate change on agriculture.
and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management.” During the workshop, Parties should:

- Link the workshop topics with national-level policies and interventions that can be integrated into countries’ NDC revisions, including an explanation of the technical and financial support needed;
- Discuss the role of smallholder farmers in advancing action on these topics, specifically related to their inclusion in assessing adaptation outcomes as well as their importance for promoting integrated practices such as agroforestry for improved soil fertility;
- Consider the use of nature-based indicators to track adaptation outcomes in the agriculture sector.

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform

Meeting of the Facilitative Working Group
Relevant Documents: FCCC/SBSTA/2017/L.29, FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1; FCCC/CP/2018/10/Add.1

The Paris Agreement explicitly recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of climate action. Parties agreed to develop a knowledge platform with local communities and indigenous peoples (LCIP) as a first step to formally recognizing their contributions to addressing climate change.

At COP 24, countries agreed on the structure of a Facilitative Working Group to undertake the work of the LCIP Platform (LCIPP) with representation from countries, indigenous peoples and representatives of local communities, upon recognition of the local communities’ constituency. The first meeting of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) (14-16 June 2019) will be in conjunction with SB 50 in Bonn, Germany. At this meeting the FWG will discuss, inter alia, the initial two-year work plan for implementing the functions of the LCIP Platform for consideration at COP 25.

In finalizing the 2020-2021 work plan, the LCIPP should prioritize the creation of the local communities’ constituency. The LCIPP should be accompanied by a fully funded program with the FWG serving as a hub for coordination and collaboration among relevant organizations as well as supporting the capacity building of existing local and indigenous customary institutions. One ultimate aim of this work is to prioritize the creation of formal opportunities for LCIPs’ full and effective participation in climate-related processes at the national level, such as the update of NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).