

**Submission by the Russian Federation  
on the role of forests and other ecosystems in the mechanisms under Article 6 of the  
Paris Agreement**

The Paris Agreement draws special attention to the role of forests and other ecosystems as greenhouse gases sinks and reservoirs in the mitigation of climate change.

Realistic estimations indicate that zero-emission technologies for a number of industrial processes and in transportation are infeasible or require decades to develop, adopt and ensure commercial viability. In order to overcome this obstacle and reach the global goals of the Paris Agreement, an increase in removals by ecosystems that would offset the remaining emissions is essential.

If removals potential is not enhanced, the goals of the Agreement would remain effectively unattainable. It means that all the necessary incentives should be ensured for emissions removal projects. According to national inventories published on the UNFCCC portal, removals on managed land account for over 6 bn tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year, which is equal to 11% of global emissions.

Furthermore, natural sinks can provide adaptation co-benefits in large urban agglomerations as well as in rural areas.

Article 5 of the Paris Agreement calls for the Parties to take action to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs. The Russian Federation considers it expedient to apply international cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement along with other tools to this end as well. Notably, in some countries, especially developing ones, emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) outweigh relevant removals even with significant phytomass volumes. This fact highlights the urge for efforts to increase removals in this sector.

LULUCF projects have a history under Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, under both the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. This experience provides us with a methodological basis for the implementation of removals projects and expertise in terms of infrastructural requirements for such types of projects. We can build upon this foundation in our approaches to removals projects under the 6.4 mechanism.

Due regard for the provisions to implement projects in forestry under the mechanisms of Article 6 would enable proper use of the removals potential for the objectives of Article 6 and the Paris Agreement as a whole, aiming to achieve balance between global emissions and removals and to ensure overall mitigation with environmental integrity preserved. Clear, transparent and fair rules for the mechanisms under Article 6 that would take into account specific features of forestry projects, can help attract a wide range of stakeholders to the nascent markets as well as create incentives for high quality, verifiable removals.

Removals projects, especially those in forestry, cannot fit into the same methodological frames as other types of projects. Baselines should be set according to net anthropogenic removals on a given territory that would be achieved without project activity. Safeguards against leakages and reversals should be introduced as well.

When working out the parameters, we should take into account particularities of all the types of removals-related activities. It is primarily relevant to the crediting periods, which can differ by decades for various types of activities or for the same activities in various geographical zones. According to the *Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry* Special Report by the IPCC, carbon stocks in boreal forest ecosystems are almost twice as high as in tropical ones, but boreal forests absorb carbon at rates at least ten times lower than in tropical forests. The rules for the mechanisms under Article 6 should provide for longer crediting periods for the projects in forestry than for other types of projects, with due regard to geographical differences.

The parameters of the projects should take into account the difference in absorption capacity of various ecosystems, including the changes occurring throughout their lifecycle or due to geographical, meteorological and other conditions.

Disregard to all the elements mentioned above would significantly demotivate stakeholders to implement removals projects, which, in turn, would hamper the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals by many Parties and would essentially unjustifiably increase their burden. The rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism under Article 6 should ensure opportunities for all the Parties to fully employ their removals potential.