



Submission on the progress and outcomes of the first phase of implementing the Article 6.8 work programme activities, and views on improving and recommending the schedule for implementing the work programme activities for the second phase

Prioritising Readiness of National Focal Points

On behalf of the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, and CGIAR

August 2024

Introduction

This submission is made in response to the invitation to observers to submit views and information on the progress and outcomes of the first phase of implementing the Article 6.8 work programme activities (See **Annex 1**), and views on improving and recommending the schedule for implementing the work programme activities for the second phase¹.

We understand that this request for submissions is to inform the “*expedited and simple assessment*”² of the progress and outcomes of the first phase of implementing the work programme activities at the 6th meeting of the Glasgow Committee on Non-Market Approaches (GCNMA), as agreed at COP 26. And that the “*expedited and simple assessment*” would take place in November 2024 (at COP29). The second phase of Article 6.8 implementation will take place during 2025–2026, focusing on fully implementing the work programme activities following a learning-by-doing approach and drawing on inputs from the first phase.

During the first phase, it was agreed that UNFCCC National Focal Points (NFPs) will have responsibility for Article 6.8 activities, with several roles for NFPs now identified throughout decisions made since 2021. These roles and responsibilities include being able to identify Non-Market Approaches (NMAs), engagement with the Article 6.8 web platform, coordination with NFPs in other countries, ensuring participation of stakeholders, as well as other important roles, such as to ensure NMAs respect human rights, avoid negative impacts and promote synergies between mitigation and adaptation, and contribute to implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Hence, the expertise and capacity of NFPs is an extremely important consideration, requiring readiness support to enable the improved implementation of the work program during the second phase.

¹ Conclusions concerning the Work Programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6 paragraph 8 of the Paris Agreement, and decision 4/CMA.3, as included in the Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on its 60th session held in Bonn from 3 – 13 June 2024 (SBSTA 60 Conclusions). See paragraph 159 of the Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its 60th session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024, here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/640211>

² See paragraph 158 of the Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its 60th session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024, here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/640211>

Whilst Phase 1 has provided the NFP Web Platform User Manual³, there is more that is needed to support NFPs to undertake their role effectively. Currently, the decisions related to Article 6.8 do not provide a clear mandate or guidance for the financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC to support NFP readiness. Given its extensive experience through its own readiness program and support for National Designated Authorities (NDAs), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will need to play an important role going forward.

Enhanced emphasis on capacity building during Phase 2, will be important to improve the implementation of the work program during this second phase. Capacity building for NFPs should be made a priority, including through GCF readiness and the broader capacity-building programme related to Article 6⁴.

In this submission, we analyse decisions made to date by the GCNMA and identify the areas of expertise and capacities that an NFP should provide. We identify several categorisations of capacity building, aligned with the expectations on NFPs, which may be of assistance to the expedited and simple assessment, and recommendations, including related to: synergistic mitigation adaptation approaches; implementation of country NDCs; quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions; consistency with the 11th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement; ensuring the NMA does not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes; full and effective participation of stakeholders; enhanced multi-level coordination; mainstreaming of gender considerations; support for national institutions; and effective communication strategies. In addition, we also recommend that the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) should commence work on enhanced support for NMAs under Article 6.8, to make recommendations for guidance to the UNFCCC financial mechanisms in support of readiness.

The important role of National Focal Points

To identify what is needed for Phase 2, it is necessary to review the decisions made during Phase 1. In Phase 1, it was agreed that UNFCCC National Focal Points (NFPs)⁵ will be responsible for a range of matters related to the implementation of Article 6.8 activities. Hence, it follows that improvements for the implementation of the work programme activities for the second phase will be highly dependent on the capacity of NFPs to implement their functions, and the necessary support provided to do so.

Since 2021, several decisions have been made under the CMA⁶, as well as the publication of a “User Manual for National Focal Points”, which provide insight to the extent to which NFPs are required to support the implementation of the work programme, including to put in place measures:

- (a) That ensure the NMA involves more than one Party⁷;
- (b) To facilitate a party driven process to match and identify NMAs⁸;
- (c) To promote mitigation and adaptation ambition⁹, including linkages and synergies between, mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation¹⁰, and ensure the NMA facilitates the implementation of NDCs of host Parties in a way that contributes to achieving the long-term

³ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

⁴ See paragraph 160(c) of the Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its 60th session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024, here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/640211>

⁵ At 2 August 2024, there are 57 National Focal Points listed on the Article 6.8 website. See here for the updated list of National Focal Points: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nma-platform/list-of-NFPs-A6-8>

⁶ Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties of the Paris Agreement

⁷ See paragraph 3(b) of decision 4/CMA.3

⁸ See also Paragraph 3(a) of decision 4/CMA.3 requires that each NMA facilitated under the framework is identified by the participating Parties on a voluntary basis

⁹ See paragraph 2(a)(i) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3 and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁰ One of the Principles of NMAs, see para 1(a)(iii) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3. See also the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

temperature goal of the Paris Agreement¹¹, sustainable development,¹² and poverty eradication¹³;

- (d) To enable opportunities through the NMA for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements¹⁴;
- (e) To ensure the NMA does not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes¹⁵;
- (f) To ensure the NMA is conducted in a manner that respects, promotes, and considers respective obligations of Parties on human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity¹⁶, and minimizes and, where possible, avoids negative environmental, economic, and social impacts¹⁷;
- (g) To put in place measures that ensure the participation of public and private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of NDCs¹⁸;
- (h) To understand the support needed, and assess quantitative and qualitative outcomes, best practices and lessons learned, and how to possibly scale up or replicate, given local, national, or regional contexts¹⁹;
- (i) To submit and record information on NMAs to the web platform, including a description of the NMA²⁰ and the implementing entities; information on how the NMA addresses the criteria referred to above²¹ (**See also Annex 2 below**); updates to the information already provided on the NMA, including any available reporting on progress in implementing the NMA or any lessons learned or case studies relating to the NMA; and a description of the financial, technology and capacity-building support needed to identify, develop and implement the NMA.

The required expertise of an NFP is significant. An NFP should hold expertise and detailed understanding of NMAs, how they can promote mitigation and adaptation and the implementation of NDCs in an integrated, holistic, and balanced manner, including through mitigation, adaptation, and through contributing to sustainable development, poverty eradication, and to achieving the long-term temperature goal of the PA. An NFP must know how to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions reductions from an NMA and ensure the NMA does not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes. They must also know how the NMA is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the 11th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement,²² and the relevance of international instruments and institutional arrangements. The NFP must also hold expertise in stakeholder consultation, to ensure participation of the public, private sector, and civil society organisations.

The role of the GCF

¹¹ See paragraph 3(d) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3, and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹² See also the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹³ One of the Principles of NMAs, see para 1(a)(ii) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3

¹⁴ See paragraph 2(a)(iii) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3 the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁵ See paragraph 3(c) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3 and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁶ See paragraph 3(e) of the Annex to decision 4/CMA.3 and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁷ See paragraph 3(f) of decision 4/CMA.3 and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁸ See paragraph 2(a)(ii) of decision 4/CMA.3 and the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

¹⁹ See the User Manual for National Focal Points dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

²⁰ See the User Manual for National Focal Points Dated May 2024: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/Article-6-8/nma-platform/main/information-hub>

²¹ Specifically see paragraphs 2–3 of the annex to decision 4/CMA.3

²² The 11th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement states that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,

The GCF plays an important role in the next phase of implementing Article 6.8 NMAs. As the GCF continues to expand its support for climate action, its readiness programs²³ provide essential resources that can enhance the capacity of NFPs to carry out their roles in implementing NMAs. The GCF's experience in supporting its own National Designated Authorities (NDAs) through tailored readiness programs can be leveraged to support NFPs, ensuring that they are well-equipped to address the complexities of NMAs, including integrating mitigation and adaptation strategies, fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, and ensuring alignment with national and international climate goals.

For example, GCF funded readiness in Kenya²⁴ has supported enhanced capacity for effective implementation of climate change adaptation, including through trainings for technical staff, conducting National Adaptation Plan sensitization workshops and establishing a regional adaptation knowledge hub, creating local networks of private companies integrating climate change adaptation into their core operations, and developing guidelines for gender-responsive budgeting and training officers on their use. In Colombia²⁵, GCF Readiness projects have supported the implementation of environmental and social safeguards and gender policies, enhancing institutional capacities to support implementation of GCF funded projects, strengthening governance frameworks of national institutions, and support for the development of financial products that contribute to the transition to a low carbon economy. In Peru²⁶, GCF Readiness has supported enhanced understanding of carbon MRV systems, alignment of activities with national climate objectives, and transparency and 'tagging systems' for tracking climate investments, capacity-building workshops for government officials and financial institutions to enhance understanding and implementation of sustainable finance principles, supporting public-private partnerships and creating policy frameworks to integrate environmental and social governance. A good example of the GCF supporting readiness related to an area of work within the UNFCCC negotiations can be found in Vietnam²⁷, where the GCF has provided readiness support for the development of Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture priorities and investment plans through participatory assessments, regional multistakeholder consultations, capacity building workshops and support for the development of GCF concept notes.

These examples highlight the strong rationale for similar readiness support the GCF could provide for the implementation of NMAs under Article 6.8.

Moreover, the GCF's role in facilitating capacity building for NFPs can be expanded to include the development of communication strategies and engagement with stakeholders, which are crucial for the successful implementation of NMAs. The creation of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, a key component of many GCF-funded projects, can be adapted to track the progress and impacts of NMAs. This would ensure that NMAs are not only aligned with national and international climate objectives but are also transparent and accountable, fostering greater stakeholder trust and participation.

Recommendations

Recommendations for improving the implementing of the work programme activities for the second phase should include:

²³ See here for more information on the GCF approach to Readiness

²⁴ See the full readiness proposal on Adaptation Planning support for Kenya through FAO here <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/adaptation-planning-support-kenya-through-fao>

²⁵ Advance the mobilisation of climate finance in Colombia's AFOLU sector through Direct Access Entity support and implementation of the countries green taxonomy for the agriculture and forestry sectors. See here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/advance-mobilization-climate-finance-colombia-s-afolu-sector-through-direct-access-entity>

²⁶ See Mobilizing International Climate Finance and Private Investments for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development in Peru, see here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/mobilizing-international-climate-finance-and-private-investments-low-carbon-and-climate>

²⁷ See the readiness proposal on Agriculture Sector Readiness for enhanced climate finance and implementation of Koronivia Joint work on Agriculture Priorities in SE Asia here <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/agriculture-sector-readiness-enhanced-climate-finance-and-implementation-koronivia-joint>

1. A program for capacity building for NFPs as a priority in the second phase, including through GCF readiness and the broader capacity-building programme under the UNFCCC related to Article 6²⁸ on the following topics:
 - a. Enhanced understanding of synergistic mitigation adaptation approaches, ensuring permanent emissions reductions, support for implementation of country NDCs and the achievement of *inter alia* the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.
 - b. Technical support concerning the quantification of GHG emissions reductions from the NMA, as well as reporting through the enhanced transparency framework.
 - c. Risk prevention and management for the purpose of ensuring NMAs are conducted in a manner that is consistent with the 11th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement.
 - d. Systems, methods, and mechanisms to ensure the NMAs do not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes.
 - e. Approaches to ensuring the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
 - f. Enhanced multi-level coordination at the national level, across sectors, and to enable opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements.
 - g. The integration and mainstreaming of gender considerations aligned with best practices.
 - h. Support for national institutions and strengthening institutional governance frameworks.
 - i. The development of effective communication strategies, which support the implementation of Article 6.8 NMAs in a participatory and transparent manner.

2. A request that the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance should commence work on enhanced support for NMAs under Article 6.8, including to make the subject a thematic area of focus, and hold a Forum on the subject as soon as possible to provide guidance to the financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC.

We look forward to participating in sessions held during COP29 and beyond, to identify ways to improve the implementation of the work programme activities for the second phase.

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²⁸ See paragraph 160(c) of the Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its 60th session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024, here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/640211>

ANNEX 1

Work programme activities²⁹

- (a) Identifying measures for enhancing existing linkages, creating synergies and facilitating coordination and implementation of NMAs:
1. Identification on NMAs
 - a. Identifying focus areas of the work programme activities;
 - b. Identifying existing NMAs under the framework that are in accordance with the provisions referred to in chapter II above (Non-market approaches under the framework);
 2. Identification of measures:
 - a. Identifying and evaluating positive and other experience of existing linkages, synergies, coordination and implementation in relation to NMAs;
 - b. Identifying measures for enhancing existing linkages, creating synergies and facilitating coordination and implementation of NMAs, including in the local, subnational, national and global context;
- (b) Implementing measures:
- (i) Developing and implementing tools, with the assistance of the secretariat, including a UNFCCC web-based platform for recording and exchanging information on NMAs, including information identified through the work programme, and supporting the identification of opportunities for participating Parties to identify, develop and implement NMAs;
 - (ii) Identifying and sharing information, best practices, lessons learned and case studies in relation to developing and implementing NMAs, including on how to:
 - a. Replicate successful NMAs, including in the local, subnational, national and global context;
 - b. Facilitate enabling environments and successful policy frameworks;
 - c. Enhance the engagement in NMAs by the private sector, civil society organizations and vulnerable and impacted sectors and communities;
 - d. Leverage and generate mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans that assist the implementation of NDCs;
 - e. Promote cooperation on NMAs between Parties that supports the implementation of ambitious NDCs contributing to the achievement of the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, including in relation to the development of NMAs;
 - f. Estimate and report the impacts of NMAs on mitigation and adaptation;
 - g. Establish guidelines, procedures and safeguards to facilitate NMAs;
3. Identifying initiatives, programmes and projects for facilitating NMAs that support the implementation of NDCs to allow for higher mitigation and adaptation ambition in NDCs by:

²⁹ Section IV of the Annex to Decision 4/CMA.3

- a. Establishing linkages with bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under or related to the Convention and the Paris Agreement in relation to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, as appropriate.
- b. Mapping the initiatives, programmes, and projects at the local, subnational, and national level, including those that support Parties in meeting the requirements for receiving support and provide capacity-building for the implementation of NMAs.

ANNEX 2

Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement

II. Non-market approaches under the framework

2. Each NMA facilitated under the framework, in the context of Article 6, paragraph 8:

(a) Aims to:

- (i) Promote mitigation and adaptation ambition;
- (ii) Enhance participation of public and private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of NDCs; and
- (iii) Enable opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements;

(b) Assists participating Parties in implementing their NDCs in an integrated, holistic and balanced manner, including through, inter alia:

- (i) Mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, as appropriate;
- (ii) Contribution to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

3. In addition, each NMA facilitated under the framework:

- (a) Is identified by the participating Parties on a voluntary basis;
- (b) Involves more than one participating Party;
- (c) Does not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes;
- (d) Facilitates the implementation of NDCs of host Parties and contributes to achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement;
- (e) Is conducted in a manner that respects, promotes and considers respective obligations of Parties on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, consistent with the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement;
- (f) Minimizes and, where possible, avoids negative environmental, economic and social impacts.