

Charting our Carbon Future: Opportunities for Action

A series of online interactive sessions

During the 'Virtual Workshop' participants working on climate and sustainability from various businesses will meet with each other, and selected experts, to collaborate in:

- 1) Exploring the best knowledge and ideas for investments in nature-based solutions to help achieve ambitious mitigation goals
- 2) Comparing and developing strategic plans based on best practices/actions to achieve carbon commitments.

This 'Virtual Workshop' will involve both a series of online interactive sessions through Webex with recognized experts and speakers. Each of the online interactive sessions will build on the insights and outcomes of the former one, so we invite you to be part of the whole cumulative process.

Each of these sessions will involve:

- Presentations and
- Participant interaction (such as polling, small group work, Q&A, whole-group discussion).

21 April - Session 1:

Setting the Stage: nature-based solutions – what to expect? – Introduction to the series (90 minutes)

The session will have two parts:

The first will introduce the content and structure of the series with a summary description of main topics to be covered in each session.

The second part will discuss the likely impact of Covid-19 on the nature agenda for 2020 and 2021. There will be a panel with renowned speakers to discuss what to expect in terms of political will, public pressure for climate change action and COP-26 (now delayed to 2021). An interactive discussion will follow.

Presenters:

UN-REDD; Nigel Topping; Chris Buss; John Atkinson; David Nabarro; Heidi Huusko; Mette Wilkie.

28 April – Session 2:

Opportunities for Investments in Nature-Based Solutions - (90 minutes)

The session will present an overview of existing and emerging opportunities (types and profile of investments) with an emphasis on “Green” (forest conservation; forest ecosystem restoration) but also “Brown” projects (low carbon agriculture). The session will provide a review of the current situation and opportunities in voluntary carbon markets and REDD+ programs (national and sub-national). We will then dive deeper into specific examples including forest ecosystem restoration and agriculture. The session will highlight challenges and opportunities from different types of investments and opportunities for financing mitigation in supply chains.

Presenters:

Stephen Donofrio (Forest Trends); Tim Christophersen (UNEP); Simon Whitehouse (World Bank); James Lomax (UNEP).

5 May – Session 3:

Accounting and reporting emission reductions in a Paris-era world – (90 minutes)

The session will explore key issues on accounting and reporting of carbon reductions post 2020. The session will benefit from the presence of recognized experts to discuss carbon accounting and reporting taking into account the current situation of Nationally Determined Contributions, carbon ownership and corporate reporting under the Science-Based Target Initiative and Carbon Disclosure Project.

Presenters:

Leticia Guimaraes (UNDP); Alberto Carrillo (SBTI/CDP); Francesca Felicani (FAO)

12 May – Session 4:

Validation, verification and benefits (90 minutes)

The session will first present an overview of “best-in-class” standards for validation and verification of emission reductions applicable to forest ecosystems. We will then take a deeper dive into a jurisdictional standard that applies exclusively to REDD+. However, because the conservation and restoration of forests also depends on activities that take place around them, the session will present and discuss concrete actions by the corporate sector to mitigate emissions in supply chains. For the interactive Q&A, the session will also count with experts in the topic of benefits beyond carbon.

Presenters: Mary Grady (Winrock); Thiago Chagas (Climate Focus) and Flore Auge (Danone)

19 May – Session 5:
Pricing of emission reductions (90 minutes)

This session will provide an overview of current and expected costs and prices of emission reductions in the forestry and agricultural sectors and the effect of uncertainty and buffers on net flows reaching stakeholders on the ground. The overview will include opportunity and implementation costs in REDD+ interventions. The session will discuss the effect of prices on sustainability of interventions, incentives, "fair pricing" and reputational risks. The session will count with a unique mix of views and perspectives from top experts and field practitioners.

Presenters: Jeff Swartz (South Pole); Moon Herrick (Emergent Climate), TBC; Paul Chatterton (WWF Landscape Finance Lab) and INDIGO Ag, TBC.

26 May – Session 6:
Where do we go from here? Increasing ambitions - acting now (90 minutes)

This session will present plans and goals from the private sector committed to ambitious mitigation targets. We will share and discuss concrete and inspirational actions aimed at unleashing the full mitigation potential of nature. The interactive session will count with key speakers from the private sector and discuss actions to reduce emissions that are direct, indirect or stem from the value chain (Scopes 1 - 3).

Presenters (TBC): Microsoft; Salesforce; Ark2030; Natura; Kering