Charting our Carbon Future: Opportunities for Action

A series of online interactive events and activities starting April 21st 2020

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 Zoom with recognized experts and speakers. These events will be complemented by an online workspace in Slack, to share background documents and provide space for follow up discussions. 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.

Online interactive sessions, 16:30 CEST (10:30 EST)

Each of these sessions will involve:

● Pre-work, such as something to read,
● 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 go over the range of validation and verification schemes using REDD+ as a model but also including applications to “brown” interventions. The session will include a discussion on key issues related to the application of different schemes in national and subnational jurisdictions, including benefits beyond carbon.

Presenters:
TBC (Verra; American Carbon Registry; Winrock; Gold Standard; WCMC; UN-REDD)
19 May – Session 5:
**Pricing of emission reductions (90 minutes)**
This session will provide an overview of current and expected price of offsets in voluntary and formal markets and the effect of uncertainty and buffers on net prices. The session will include a review of opportunity and implementation costs in REDD+ interventions and their significance for “fair” prices.
**Presenters:** TBC

26 May – Session 6:
**Where do We Go from Here? Increasing ambitions - developing Strategic Carbon Plans (90 minutes)**
Based on the results of a survey sent to participants before the event, this session will facilitate a discussion to explore the question: “How do we companies can develop/refine their strategic frameworks to guide corporate investments in offsetting/insetting opportunities”? The session will present 2-3 speakers from private sector presenting plans to reduce Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions followed by a plenary discussion.
**Facilitators:**
UNEP; Kering