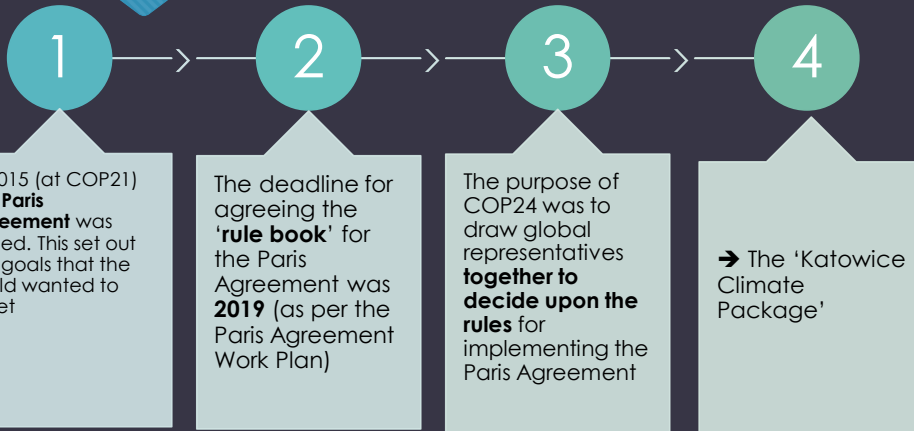


UNFCCC Developments between COP24 and COP25

An overview of development and how it affects Liberia

Prepared by Clara Gallagher, cgallagher@epa.gov.lr

What was the aim of the COP24?



COP 25 will build on the progress at these meetings and the intersessional meetings

What were the major outcomes of COP24?

- The 'rule book' was mostly worked out at COP 24, apart from Article 6 (Cooperative Carbon Mechanisms)
- **Mitigation:** NDCs revision needs to happen by the end of 2020. Should developing and developed countries be held to the same requirements?
- **Adaptation:** communications optional, no obligation to fund non-Annex 1 countries, but need to support non-Annex 1 countries acknowledged
- **Finance:** an online portal for submissions/reporting beginning 2020, reporting every 2 years, secretariat mandated to prepare a synthesis and completion report then a high level dialogue at COP 25.
- **Transparency:** Previously, only developed countries had biannual reporting requirements: now reporting for all parties will begin by 2024
- **Stocktake:** the CMA will undertake the first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter
- **Gender:** Included more than in the Paris Agreement – included in many workstreams
- **Indigenous peoples:** decision to include their knowledge through the LCIP Platform
- **Agriculture:** Agriculture is gaining importance but worry of it being captured by developed countries and not focusing enough on adaptation

There were other parts to it too (eg technology, capacity development) but these are just the major points

What were the major struggles of COP24?



IPCC 1.5 Report: the big 4 oil countries (US, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait) refused to 'welcome' the report



Article 6: cooperative carbon mechanisms. Brazil and other countries heavily invested in the CDM were pushing for rules that would allow them to double count emission reductions

This was quite a big deal

- the disagreement about the 1.5 report is essentially about who will accept the science and therefore take some blame for the issue, or some blame for continually extracting fossil fuels (around which their economies are built).
- The article 6 disagreements are also about financial losses for those who have got a lot of CDM credits left unsold. If these become null and void those countries lose money. BUT the credits aren't deemed to be trust worthy enough to roll into any new arrangement (i.e. they are bad for the planet because there is low trust that a credit actually represents a tonne of carbon sequestered).

COP 24: Links

- FULL text: [UNFCCC](#), explainer from Carbon Brief [here](#) and Carbon Tracker [here](#)
- Mitigation: APA, Agenda Item 3; Final Decision: [FCCC/CP/2018/L.22](#)
- Adaptation: APA, Agenda Item 4; Final Decision: [FCCC/CP/2018/L.21](#)
- ITMOs (part of Article 6): SBSTA, Agenda Item 11; Final Decision: [FCCC/CP/2018/L.28](#)
- Agriculture: SBSTA/SBI, Agenda Item 8; Final Decision: [FCCC/SB/2018/L.7](#)
- Participation and rights: SBSTA, Agenda Item 7; Final Decision: [FCCC/SBSTA/2018/L.18](#)
- Technology and finance: COP, Agenda Item 8(b); Final Decision: [cp24_aqv_tmfm](#)
- Technology mechanism: COP, Agenda item 8; Final Decision: [cp24_aqv_sbsta5b_sbi14b](#)
- Transparency; COP, CMA, Agenda items 3&4; Final Decision: [FCCC/CP/2018/L.23](#)
- Overview of gender outcomes: [WEDO](#)

The article from Carbon Brief is really good

What has happened in 2019? (1)

Date	Event
7-8 February	World summit on "leaving no one behind" in Geneva, Switzerland
13-15 February	World symposium on climate change and tourism in Bariloche, Argentina
18-22 March	Africa climate week in Accra, Ghana
20-22 March	Second UN high-level conference on south-south cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina (aka BAPA+40)
8-12 May	49th session of the IPCC in Kyoto, Japan. 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
17-27 June	UNFCCC intersessional in Bonn, Germany (the "49th session of the subsidiary bodies")

1. "leaving no one behind" – Water and Sanitation focus, SDGs.
2. Tourism - the "Handbook of Climate Change and Tourism: Implementing Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Measures in the Tourism Sector" will be published

3. Africa climate week:

Thematic sessions: Energy Transition, Nature-Based Solutions, and Cities and Local Action

4. South-south cooperation

South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance (ODA) and stressed that it is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation

5. IPCC Kyoto

GHG inventory guidelines updated to reflect modern science

6. Bonn intersessional (SBI50 + SBSTA 50)

the focus was primarily on hammering out a handful of contentious issues and laying the groundwork for COP25.

progress was slow in devising a system for trading carbon credits internationally, and many observers expressed concerns that the wealthiest nations were not taking their responsibilities to set more ambitious targets and provide climate finance seriously. Did not manage to agree on a full text for ministers for COP25; no clear ToR for loss and damage discussions at COP25; no common timeframes for nations' climate pledges covering the same lengths of time from 2031 onwards; Koronivia (Agriculture) is split on Annex 1 country provision of adaptation financing to non-Annex 1 countries

Did agree on how to respond to the IPCC 1.5 report being "the best available science", and no longer emphasised "uncertainties", but also removed any formal inclusion of its findings in future UN negotiations. – not ambitious enough

What has happened in 2019? (2)

Date	Event
6-8 July	23rd meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
16 August	IPCC special report on climate change and land
24-26 August	G7 summit in Biarritz, France
20 September	IPCC special report on ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate
23 September	UN 2019 climate summit in New York, US

7. CGF meeting – reviewed funding proposals, policy decisions to further streamline GCF’s allocation of climate finance in developing countries, consider accrediting four organisations to become GCF funding partners, first replenishment process.

8. IPCC report on land – see slide 12

9. G7

10. IPCC oceans report – see slide 12

11. Climate summit in NY – not amazing results – little actual action. Russia finally joined the paris agreement, but the EU, China, and India made no big moves. The U.S., Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil said nothing at all.

What has happened in 2019? (3)

Date	Event
24-25 September	UN high-level political forum on sustainable development in New York, US
26 September	UN high-level dialogue on financing for development in New York, US
23-26 October	International Renewable Energy Conference in Seoul, Korea
4-8 November	31st meeting of parties to Montreal Protocol
8-10 October	Pre-COP in Costa Rica
2-13 December	COP25 in Chile

Montreal protocol – the one for substances that deplete the ozone layer. The ozone layer protects earth by absorbing the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays.

Pre-COP. Costa Rica wants it to be more about climate action than just preparing for the negotiations (unusual). The Conferences will facilitate the exchange of best practices on how to construct improve NDCs and long term strategies including considerations in thematic areas of interest related to cities, sustainable mobility, nature based solutions, oceans, gender, human rights and funding

Climate Action Week pledge list

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/10/02/world-promised-un-climate-action-summit/>

Website screenshot >>

- Fiji committed to plant 1 million new trees and said it was exploring planting 31 million more.
- Barbados pledged to plant one million trees by end of 2020 (on 166 square miles of land) and called on all Bajans around the world to come and help.

Oceania

- New Zealand has committed to plant one billion trees by 2028 and to make the country “the most sustainable food producer in the world”.

Africa

- Sierra Leone committed to planting 2 million trees by 2023.
- Nigeria said it would employ youth to plant 25 million trees.
- Kenya promised to plant 2 billion trees by 2022.
- Ethiopia reaffirmed its commitment to planting 4 billion new trees a year.
- Congo DRC committed to stabilize its forest cover at 60%.
- South Africa pledged to finalise a just transition plan compatible with the 1.5C target and a climate change bill to provide the legislative basis for updating its climate plan, allocate sectoral emissions targets, and regulate large emitters. It also vowed to develop a programme to enhance the land's net emissions sink capacity by restoring subtropical thicket and grasslands, expanding forestry and reduce tillage.
- Morocco promised to produce 52% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030.

Have a look at the link – there are all the financial pledges, the emissions pledges, etc
It will maybe tell you who is interested in funding what

What has happened to the environment since?

- [The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate](#) (IPCC, September 2019)
 - Warming of the ocean and the cryosphere – the frozen parts of the planet (i.e. includes mountains and glaciers) – will impact hydroelectricity provision, may cause more landslides, coastal cities and communities, extreme weather events, ocean acidification, marine heatwaves, sea life distribution, permafrost emissions etc.
 - sea level has risen globally by around 15 cm during the 20th century, it is currently rising more than twice as fast – 3.6 mm per year – and accelerating. Sea level could reach around 30-60 cm by 2100 even if greenhouse gas emissions are sharply reduced and global warming is limited to well below 2°C
- [Climate Change and Land](#) (IPCC, August 2019)
 - better land management can contribute to tackling climate change (for instance through the cultivation of energy crops and afforestation), but is not the only solution. It takes time for trees and soils to store carbon effectively. Bioenergy needs to be carefully managed to avoid risks to food security, biodiversity and land degradation.
 - Land must remain productive to maintain food security as the population increases and the negative impacts of climate change on vegetation increase
- [Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C](#) (IPCC, October 2018)
 - Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are "unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years". Without additional mitigation, warming poses a high risk of severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts globally by 2100.
 - Heat waves are likely to occur more often and last longer, and extreme precipitation events will become more intense and frequent. If temperatures were to rise above 4 degrees, risks include "substantial species extinction" as well as global and regional food insecurity. Climate change is expected to lead to increases in ill-health in many regions, especially in low-income developing countries.

These 3 papers are really critical and there are plenty of articles about them if you don't want to read the original documents

What is going to happen at COP 25?

- Meetings:
 - COP 25/CMP 15/ CMA 2 will take place from 2-13 December 2019.
 - SBSTA 51/ SBI 51 will take place 2-9 December 2019.
 - The pre-sessional period is from 25 - 30 November 2019
- Big topics:
 - 'Blue COP' – oceans and water
 - Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage: a really big split between developed and developing countries.
 - Article 6
 - Common timeframes (so that nations' climate pledges cover the same lengths of time from 2031 onwards)

So, like at COP24 there are 5 concurrent meetings

- Blue cop – oceans, mangroves, blue carbon. Read up on Liberia's own Blue Oceans Conference
- Loss and damage is a highly politicised issue that has hampered UN negotiations in the past. Though the formal review of the WIM is set to take place at COP25, a major division has emerged between developed and developing nations over what it will cover. Developed nations only want to consider past events, while developing nations want it to also look forward and identify ways to mobilise more support for loss and damage in the future.
- Article 6 – carbon cooperative mechanisms.

Mitigation developments

- Huge public protests in high emitting countries for them to reduce emissions
- 65 countries and major sub-national economies such as California committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, while 70 countries announced they will either boost their national action plans by 2020 or have started the process of doing so.
- 87 major companies commit to net zero emissions by 2050 (but in reality its not as ambitious as it sounds – no legal requirement they keep their pledge)
- Climate Action Summit focusing on raising ambition
- **Disappointing:** After initial optimism in July that EU leaders would agree to target net-zero emissions by 2050, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Poland blocked the deal

NDCs:

- Deadline for submission is 2020
- Not entirely comparable across countries because you can pick from a range of UNFCCC methodologies
- Countries pledge: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/CAS_closing_release.pdf
- Companies net zero: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/25/climate/nyt-newsletter-climate-strikes-protests.html>
- EU eastern block <https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-june-2019-un-climate-conference>

Finance – What has been pledged?

Pledges

12 countries made pledges at Climate Action Week

In addition to recent announcements from Norway, Germany, France and UK who have recently doubled their present contributions

25% EU budget will be devoted to climate related activities

Climate Investment Platform announced: mobilize US\$1tr in clean energy investment by 2025 in 20 LDCs in its first year

https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/CAS_closing_release.pdf

Market mechanism – What was decided at COP24?

- THERE WAS NO DECISION: the issue has been pushed for discussion at COP 25
- Why? Brazil were pushing for rules that would allow them to double count emission reductions (so really its better to push the decision to Cop 25 than agree to poor environmental integrity)
- This is what should govern carbon trading. Carbon trading can still happen before COP 25 but in the absence of COP guidance, parties must ensure no double counting takes place
- What is **Article 6**? A way that countries can cooperate to meet their mitigation goals as efficiently as possible, including through transferring emission reductions between countries. Parties can interact in 3 ways:
 - “bottom up,” bilateral or regional cooperative approaches via internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) (Article 6.2)
 - a centrally-governed UNFCCC mechanism to contribute to mitigation and support sustainable development (Article 6.4) – this would replace the Kyoto Protocol (its still unknown if credits from the KP can be transferred into the new arrangement)
 - non-market approaches (Article 6.8)

This is what happened in COP24

It was unknown what kind of guidance will come and therefore want to make sure we don't set something in track that will end up unable to configure

Disagreements coming on next slide

Article 6 at Bonn Intersessional

- if it is handled badly, experts are concerned poor accounting could result in large amounts of extra emissions being produced, with ambition weakened as a result
- goal at Bonn was to prepare a text for ministers to sign off at COP25, on a new trading system that would kick in beyond 2020
- i.e. replacing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM – Kyoto Protocol 1997)
 - suggestions that many of the carbon credits generated by this scheme are effectively worthless
 - most clean energy projects paid for by the scheme would likely have happened anyway – only 2% CDM projects actually additional
- An important sticking point is the issue of avoiding “double counting”,
 - A nation that has successfully sold credits off the back of emissions cutting projects must not be allowed to also count those emissions cuts towards its own nationally determined contribution (NDC).
 - Since COP24, Brazil has resisted attempts to curtail double counting, a position it maintained in Bonn.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-june-2019-un-climate-conference>

Article 6 at Bonn Ctd..

- the Arab Group, India, and Brazil called for all existing credits from the CDM to be carried forward beyond 2020.
- UNFCCC estimates there will be between 2.3-5.4 billion of them up to 2020. At the top end, this is equivalent to the EU's entire annual emissions.
- AOSIS group and the African Group want to avoid this transition, which they say would bring a huge surplus of weak credits into the market, reducing the need to actually cut emissions
- if countries' unambitious existing NDCs are easily overachieved and they are allowed to sell or carry forward credit for having beaten their weak targets, Article 6 could create bad outcomes – enough to compromise the Paris Agreement
- Didn't manage to agree a text for Santiago – it will have to be worked out and agreed in Chile. There is now only one text though – progress.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-june-2019-un-climate-conference>

- Very controversial at Bonn Intersessional still
- Talks in Bonn aimed to reach an agreement on how to “consider” this report in future UN climate processes
- the Saudis, with notable support from regional rivals Iran, and input from Russia and the US, tried to add in sections of text highlighting uncertainties within the report and questioning its usefulness
- By the time of the closing plenary, an “agreement” had been finalised, although not a popular one. A “watered-down” five paragraph version of the document was produced that included a reference to the IPCC report being “the best available science”, and no longer emphasised “uncertainties”, but also removed any formal inclusion of its findings in future UN negotiations

The IPCC Special Report on 1.5C Warming

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-june-2019-un-climate-conference>

Agriculture– What was decided?

- At Bonn, The African Group and other developing nations have called for more money to support adaptation measures for their farmers, something developing nations have opposed.
- Seems funding bodies don't really understand how to fund agriculture - existing finance is not sufficiently benefiting farmers on the ground, and this realisation led to an agreement in Bonn to create guidance that ensures money for agriculture is well spent.
- Parties also agreed on an additional workshop on sustainable land and water management to take place in New Zealand next year



Agriculture is becoming more of an important factor in the negotiations. Concerning that it would be hijacked by eg New Zealand and their meat issues, where the important bits of agriculture for Africa are much more adaptation related.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-june-2019-un-climate-conference>

More themes:

I can prepare more information on any you are interested in

Mitigation

Adaptation

Finance

Markets

Technology

Transparency

Global Stocktake

Gender

Indigenous People

Agriculture

Please get in touch if there is something you are really interested in following
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