

## Community of Practice/Webinar:

### Enabling African REDD+ countries to access the International Carbon Markets:

26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025,

Via Howspace, a UNREDD+ academy platform for learning and knowledge sharing

**Daily moderated sessions:** 11.00a.m - 2.00p.m Nairobi time/ 8.00a.m-11.00 am GMT

#### Rationale

Market-based financial sources provide a potential solution to Africa's lack of funding for climate actions by allowing countries to generate revenues from carbon credits to achieve mitigation targets flexibly and cost-efficiently. Globally, the carbon markets have been growing exponentially over the last decade. In 2021, the compliance market soared to US\$850 bn in value – an increase of 2.5 times compared to its value in 2020, with a total transacted volume of 15 Gtco2 eq. (Carbon credit, 2021). The voluntary market reached 2 bn in value – an increase of 4 times its value of 2020, with a total transacted volume of 500 Mtco2 eq. The forestry and other land use sector-generated carbon credits also leapt 20 times from 2016 to 2022, valued at approximately US\$1.5 billion and accounting for 46% of traded volume in 2021, up from 28% of market share in 2020 (Shell & BCG, 2023). Voluntary markets are expected to be 5 times bigger by 2030, potentially reaching a market value of US\$ 10-40 bn and 0.5 to 1.5 Gtco2eq in scale (Trove Research, 2021).

Demand for African-origin carbon credits has grown at a compound annual rate of 36 % between 2016 and 2021 (Climate Champion, 2022). However, this growth is still at a low pace, and in 2022, the retirement value of African carbon credits was only US\$123 million, well below its potential level. Out of the total credits issued worldwide between 2016 and 2021, only about 11% stem from African countries, most of which come from a few large projects (ACMI, 2022). It is estimated that Africa currently generates only 2% of its maximum annual potential of carbon credits, with only a handful of African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, that have successfully accessed carbon markets and results-based finance. This has been explained by the fact that African countries still face challenges, such as obtaining upfront financing for their REDD+ readiness and implementation. In addition, results-based finance (RBF) in payments or via carbon markets remains very low.

Promoted since 2007 as a nature-based solution aiming to mitigate climate change with adaptation benefits through a result-based payment mechanism, REDD+, which constitutes one of the most important opportunities for African countries to access the international carbon market and to monetise Africa's large natural capital endowment, is yet to generate tangible results at scale in Africa. One of the main reasons justifying the slow but steady progress of the REDD+ process in Africa is the limited financial investment in generating the required mitigation results and associated high-integrity carbon credits produced from reduced deforestation and forest degradation. Hence, the results-based finance (RBF) level remains below REDD+ countries' expectations and needs.

In 2024, studies conducted in six African countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo and Uganda) by UN-REDD and African Forest Forum (AFF) revealed that Countries' needs for upfront finance to accelerate climate actions and domestic funding are almost inexistent. In addition to their great need for financial investment to advance their climate agendas, they lack knowledge and capacity and thus have limited awareness of opportunities associated with international carbon markets for the carbon credits to be generated by REDD+. This situation creates great

doubt for countries and national players about the effectiveness of payments for the results they could generate, discouraging action. In countries with some knowledge of carbon markets, players find the conditions for accessing them very complex and demanding. The complexity of the requirements for accessing both voluntary carbon markets and RBP funds can be a significant barrier, especially for countries with limited technical and administrative capacities. Overcoming these challenges will ensure Africa's long-term sustainability of climate mitigation efforts in the forest sector, through increased result-based payment for REDD+ alongside the development and expansion of forest carbon markets. A step toward achieving this goal could be initiating a technical capacity-building platform through discussions, sharing ideas and experiences, and consensus-building on key requirements and approaches to enable access to African countries to Carbon Markets. It is in this context that UN-REDD+ and AFF, through their partnership, are co-organising an innovative two-week-long Community of Practice approach, integrating both web-based discussion through the chat function and a webinar series on "Enabling African REDD+ countries to access the International Carbon Market". The activity is organised from the 26th to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 on Howspace, the UN-REDD platform for learning and knowledge sharing.

### Objectives and Outcomes of the Community of Practice

This session of Community of Practice (CoP) aims to provide African REDD+ stakeholders with a good understanding of the Voluntary Carbon Market, how it functions, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, as well as provide them with better capacity to fulfil the requirements to access these markets.

The event will also provide a platform for sharing knowledge products tailored to better address African countries' specific capacity needs and priorities. It will also help to explore opportunities to support countries in deepening their engagement with forest carbon markets, which could contribute to harnessing carbon finance as part of their climate strategy.

More specifically, the objectives of this CoP are as follows:

- Enhance understanding of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and its implications for carbon market access, focusing on enabling REDD+ African countries to participate and benefit effectively.
- Equip participants with knowledge on available forest carbon markets (compliance or voluntary) and requirements to access them.
- Enhance understanding of different carbon schemes and standards (such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCBS), ART-TREES, LEAF process, etc),
- Provide information to support governments better in navigating the complexities of forest carbon markets and REDD+ results-based finance, understanding the risks and potentials, and making better investment decisions.
- Explore local solutions for more integrity of REDD+ carbon credits generated in Africa,
- Share experiences, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges on efforts to access carbon markets.

### Methodology

The (CoP) will be held virtually via **Howspace**, a UN-REDD academy platform for learning and knowledge sharing from 26th to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. It will adopt a two-tiered approach:

- (i) a one-week-long webinar series from 26th to 30th May, during which the community members will be provided with a daily presentation by selected experts on a specific topic, as selected for the day, linked to the CoP theme, such as per the detailed programme below. The webinars aim to ensure a comprehensive and insightful exploration of carbon markets

and related topics and stimulate experience sharing among community members, guest speakers, and experts. Several open live discussions will follow each presentation. They will then continue with a chat session on the Platform to allow participants to continue sharing their countries and experiences and learning from other community members.

- (ii) an open-ended web-based discussion using the chat function of the platform, for the whole period of the CoP and beyond, where members are invited to continuously share their experiences and ask questions in their own time;

At the end of each daily webinar, a list of additional resources will be made available for future reference and to assist those interested in acquiring further information on the subject.

### **Synopsis of the CoP**

#### Webinar series and live discussions on Carbon Markets with more focus on the Voluntary Carbon Market

The aim is to provide participants with all the fundamentals needed to understand the International Carbon Markets, specifically the Voluntary Carbon Markets, with the different mechanisms available, access, procedures, etc. Through PowerPoint presentations delivered by keynote speakers with proven expertise on Climate and REDD+ finance, participants at the end of the week would have:

- Become empowered with a holistic grasp of international carbon markets in the context of REDD+ finance,
- Improved knowledge on the provisions of Article 6 of the Paris agreement for accessing sustainable REDD+ result-based finance,
- Understood the types and financing strategies of carbon markets.
- Gained knowledge on opportunities for Africa to access Carbon Markets.
- Improved knowledge of the architecture of voluntary carbon projects, voluntary carbon credits verification, validation, and issuance.

#### Chat exchange on lessons learned, best practices for improving access to the International Carbon Market

The objective is to consolidate, validate and distil the lessons and good practices learned during this CoP. To this effect, the moderator will prepare summaries/syntheses of the key messages to be presented for discussion with participants to provide additional information and other inputs.

#### **Dates:**

This event will take place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Both web-based (chat) and webinar sessions will be moderated daily from 11.00 a.m - 2:00 pm Nairobi time/08:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. GMT via Howspace.

- 3 hours a day. Participants will be directed to resources to improve their knowledge.
- More case studies in the presentation
- Experts could record sessions beforehand

Day	Activity	Objectives	Responsibility
Pre-CoP 30 April – 24 <sup>th</sup> of 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Familiarisation of the CoP moderator with the platform Invitation and Engagement of the CoP members and speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable good navigation on the platform during the CoP</li> <li>• Enhance visibility, popularity and stakeholders' engagement</li> </ul>	The entire project team and the moderator
Week 1: Webinar series and live discussion on <i>Connecting African REDD+ to Carbon Markets</i>			
Day 1	Virtual meet and greet	To enable participants to meet and interact with others	1. Introduction: Daphine Gitonga 2. CoP Overview: M. Massaoudou 3. UNEP Rep: Achille Momo 4. Moderator: Mene Falayi
	Introduction to compliance markets: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement	This session introduces African REDD+ stakeholders to international carbon markets by exploring approaches to accessing REDD+ markets, differentiating between compliance and voluntary mechanisms, and outlining key standards, pricing structures, and market frameworks under the Paris Agreement and voluntary schemes.	<b>Keynote Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b> 1. Abhishek Kaushik  <b>Guest Speaker Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b> 1. Heather McEwan (Senior Manager for Africa Verra) 2. Mr. Banty Bi Vanie Paul-Anicet, MBA ( <i>Carbon Pricing Assistant, Côte d'Ivoire</i> )

Day 2	Status of VCM and Domestic Carbon Markets - Identification of Key Issues	This session examines the current status of voluntary and domestic carbon markets in Africa, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and highlights critical policy, regulatory, and institutional issues affecting market development and participation.	<b>Keynote Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b> 1. Micaela Passetti  <b>Guest Speaker Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b>  1. Dr Alick Muvunduki -Zambia (GGGI) 2. Andrew Ocama (Coordinator for Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets & Climate Finance)
Day 3	Key conditions and requirements for accessing Carbon Markets and key players to engage with	This session examines the key technical, legal, and institutional requirements for accessing carbon markets, while identifying the major players—such as regulators, standard-setting bodies, and intermediaries—essential for successful project registration and market engagement.	<b>Keynote Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b> <b>1.</b> Guest Speaker Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&A  1. Ditebogo Lebea (Technical Advisor, South Africa: Article 6). 2. Kadiri Ishutu (Senior Associate, Policy at Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART)) 3. Tarah Inema (Energy Policy/ Carbon Markets Activation Plans Support (SEforALL))
Day 4	Improving accessibility of African REDD+ countries to carbon Markets:	This session explores how African governments can proactively and strategically enhance their engagement with voluntary carbon markets to improve national REDD+ accessibility and participation.	<b>Keynote Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b> 1. Daniel Fisher  <b>Guest Speaker Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Djeta Penemakunzu: Deputy Logistics Manager – Sustainable Agriculture, Mining &amp; Environmental Operations</li> <li>2. Victor Wagude (Carbon Market Policy Manager, Africa)</li> </ol>
Day 5	International Lessons Learned & recap of the Community of Practice and Webinar Series on Carbon Market Access	To synthesise key international lessons and insights from the Community of Practice and webinar series, highlighting best practices, challenges, and strategic recommendations for improving African REDD+ countries' access to carbon markets.	<p>Reflection Session: Mene Falayi</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker Session: 1 hour of presentations + 30 minutes of interactive Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Vo Viet Cuong (US Forest Service in Vietnam)</p>

### Day 1: Understanding REDD+ Carbon Markets and Article 6

**Objective:** Empower participants with a foundational understanding of REDD+ carbon markets—compliance and voluntary—and introduce Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

#### Interactive Questions:

1. What is the most practical benefit of Article 6 for your country's REDD+ strategy?
2. Can you share an example of how your country or organisation has engaged—or plans to engage—with either compliance or voluntary carbon markets?

### Day 2: Voluntary and Domestic Carbon Market Ecosystems

**Objective:** Deepen understanding of the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) and domestic carbon market ecosystems, including their architecture, key challenges, and implications for African stakeholders.

#### Interactive Questions:

1. What domestic policy or institutional change would make it easier for your country to engage with the VCM?
2. Which sectors in your country (e.g., forestry, agriculture, mangroves) are most ready to benefit from VCM participation?

### Day 3: Requirements and Key Actors for Market Access

**Objective:** Equip participants with knowledge of the requirements and key stakeholders in accessing carbon markets, focusing on standards, institutional readiness, and funding options.

#### Interactive Questions:

1. Which carbon standard (e.g., Verra, ART-TREES, Plan Vivo) do you see as most suitable for your national context, and why?
2. Are there gaps in institutional capacity or coordination that make it hard to access carbon finance in your country?

#### **Day 4: Improving Accessibility and Policy Readiness**

**Objective:** Explore scalable strategies and policy actions to improve the accessibility of carbon markets for African REDD+ countries, focusing on credit integrity, legal frameworks, and successful case studies.

##### **Interactive Questions:**

1. What is one policy reform your government could adopt to boost REDD+ carbon market readiness?
2. Can you share a success story or good practice from your country or region that could be scaled elsewhere?

#### **Day 5: Synthesis and Next Steps**

**Objective:** Synthesise lessons learned, validate key takeaways, and define next steps for continuous learning and engagement beyond the CoP.

##### **Interactive Questions:**

1. What concrete action will you take after this CoP to advance your country's participation in carbon markets?
2. What support or resources do you need from partners or the CoP team going forward?

## References

- <https://carboncredits.com/a-guide-to-compliance-carbon-credit-markets/#:~:text=cover%20the%20shortfall.-,Compliance%20Carbon%20Market%20Landscape,a%20164%25%20increase%20from%202020.>
- [The voluntary carbon market: 2022 insights and trends - a report by Shell and BCG 2023 \(BCG Carbon Report 03\) \(shell.com\)](#)
- [Future Size of the VCM, Trove Research, 2021.](#)
- <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/africa-carbon-markets-initiative/>
- [https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2022-11/ACMI\\_Roadmap\\_Report\\_Nov\\_16.pdf](https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2022-11/ACMI_Roadmap_Report_Nov_16.pdf)
- <https://gfw.global/47folrY>

