

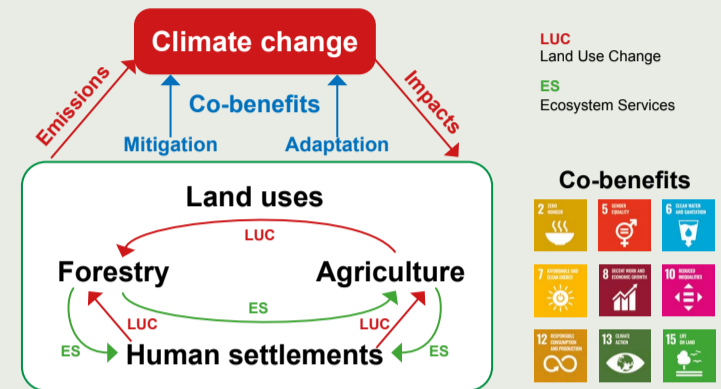
# What place for land use in the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture in UNFCCC?

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Land use and land use change (including related policies) interact with climate and climate change (including related policies) in multiple ways. The purpose of this presentation, resulting from a collaboration with FAO, is to recall those interactions, synthesizing recent reports, and how land use is considered in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in order to identify gaps in coverage of issues by the UNFCCC and to examine if the Koronivia Joint work program on issues related to agriculture (KJWA) of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) might offer opportunities to better consider the role of land use in addressing climate change under the Convention.

This figure illustrates the **complex interactions between land uses and climate change**. Land use and land use change are contributing to global climate change. Conversely, climate change increasingly impacts land-use. Land-use is key to mitigation as well as to adaptation through its impacts on local and regional climates and on natural disaster management. Climate change and the policies to address it will drive major land use changes. Interaction between land uses play a considerable role in terms of mitigation, with land use changes (particularly deforestation and transformation of grasslands in croplands) being a major source of emissions. Land uses, particularly forestry, provide ecosystem services that contribute to adaptation. In land uses synergies and trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation are generated, as well as SDG co-benefits that can be a strong incentive for action. Managing these synergies and trade-offs call for an integrated approach at different scales (landscape, national, regional, global).



The Paris agreement recognizes the importance of land use for the achievement of its goals. All land use activities are now covered in all countries. With the Paris agreement and the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) there is also a better recognition of synergies and trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation as well as of synergies with sustainable development, opening up additional ways to better integrate land use. Most NDCs distinguish, in their mitigation part, agriculture emissions and the Land Use, Land Use change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector that accounts for emissions and captures from carbon sinks. LULUCF is referenced in 77 percent of all countries' NDCs, second to energy. Agriculture is mentioned in 73 percent of the countries' mitigation contributions. 86 percent of countries refer to agriculture and/ or LULUCF. Land use is the most frequently mentioned for synergies between adaptation and mitigation as well as for co-benefits with SDGs.

The potential contribution of land use to mitigation is acknowledged by the Convention but has generally been insufficiently integrated in its implementation mechanisms. Before the creation of the **KJWA**, most of the work on land use under the Convention was focused on the contribution of terrestrial carbon sinks to mitigation, especially that of forests. Moreover, the compartmentalized approach of the UNFCCC (including the distinction between emissions and sinks, forests and agriculture, mitigation and adaptation and poor consideration of co-benefits) has not facilitated a holistic approach to land use.

The Koronivia decision (Decision 4/CP.23) requests the SBI and SBSTA "to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security". This Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA) offers a space to:

- Share experiences and best practices
- Strengthen collaboration among countries
- Promote knowledge and technologies development and transfer of knowledge, best practices and technologies

The **KJWA** presents opportunities for land use related issues to be better considered under the Convention.



Land restoration generates multiple climate change and sustainable development benefits. It addresses the impacts of climate change, reducing soil erosion and improving water retention in the soil and landscape, increases biomass production, increasing carbon sinks above and underground while improving ecosystem services on which agriculture and associated livelihoods and food security depend. Out of 196 countries, **81 (41%)** include forest or land restoration (FLR) as a mitigation and/or adaptation measure in their NDC; **63 (32%)** include FLR as an adaptation measure; **35 (18%)** as a mitigation measure.

Landscape in restoration in Abreha Atsbeha, Tigray, Ethiopia. (Credit: Ake Mamo)

## Proposals for future work in the KJWA

- Harness the role of **agriculture as the main driver of deforestation**
- Adopt a more **integrated approach to natural resources sustainable management** (land and water)
- Recognize **the contribution of trees and agroforestry** to the productivity and resilience of agriculture and adopt a landscape perspective
- Consider the **potential of landscape restoration as a climate action**
- Consider the **potential consequences of broad changes in land use induced by climate change** and by the policies to address it
- Consider how the **specificities of the land use sectors** could be better integrated in the discussions on Article 6 of the Paris agreement, on market and non-market financial mechanisms
- Consider how the **land use sectors could be better integrated** in the work of the various bodies of the Convention as well as their implementation
- **Enhance transparency and participation**

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