

Article 6.4 Shenanigans At COP29

What is Article 6.4?

Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement established a new international carbon crediting mechanism. The Article 6.4 mechanism, also known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism, has a Supervisory Body tasked with developing and supervising the requirements and processes needed to operationalize the mechanism.

At COP29

Earlier this year, the Supervisory Body finalized the rules establishing a grievance mechanism and a Sustainable Development Tool. These policies are intended to prevent human rights violations and environmental harm in carbon market projects, and to provide pathways for remedy if harms occur, though they still require significant improvement.

Additionally, there are two documents concerning methodologies and activities related to removals, which the Supervisory Body is supposed to present to the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) for approval during COP29. These two documents should be submitted as recommendations, as they have at the previous climate negotiations, allowing for discussion and potential approval by States. However, in a dangerous move at its final meeting before COP29, the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body took an unprecedented step of "finalizing" its standards on methodologies and removal activities and claimed they immediately took effect - bypassing CMA approval.

The versions of the removals and methodologies documents now put forward for COP29 have many of the same flaws from the versions previously presented and not accepted at COP28.

For example, there are still issues with definitions of removals, handling reversals, permanence, and other technical concerns, as well as being vague on a number of topics which could all lead to human rights violations and environmental harm. This move by the Supervisory Body risks circumventing the CMA's oversight and embedding dangerous guidelines into the Paris Agreement.



Human Rights Violations



Environmental Harm

We call on States at COP29 to:

- Reject this attempt by the Supervisory Body to move forward these documents without CMA approval and instead ask the Supervisory Body to present the documents for recommendation (not as approved standards already in force).
- Provide additional guidance to the Supervisory Body that the methodologies and removals documents should be developed in line with science and international law.