

REPORT ON HATOF Foundation’s PARTICIPATION AT THE UNFCCC COP25 MADRID, SPAIN DECEMBER 2-13, 2019



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Table of Contents	i
1. Background and Introduction	1
1.2. Preparation towards the participation of the COP25	1
1.2.1 Sponsorship	2
2. The Side Events Organised	3
2.1. HATOF, BLI Global, Youth Climate Lab, and Plant-for-the-Planet	3
2.2. HATOF, UNDP, and Forestry Commission.....	4
2.2.1. Participants	4
3. Presentations at HATOF, UNDP, & Forestry Commission Side Event	5
3.1. Panel Discussion	5
4. Other Side Events Attended	6
5. The Exhibition	6
6. HATOF Engagement within the Negotiations	7
6.1 Finance	7
6.2. Article 6.....	7
6.3. Common timeframes	8
7. Conclusion	8

1. Background and Introduction

The 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP25 was held in Madrid, Spain from 2 – 13 December, 2019. The Conference which took place under the Presidency of Chile was held with logistical support from the Government of Spain. The conference was designed to take the next crucial steps in the UN climate change process. Following agreement on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement at COP 24 in Poland last year, a key objective is to complete several matters with respect to the full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The conference also serves to build ambition ahead of 2020, the year in which countries have committed to submit new and updated national climate action plans. Crucial climate action expected to be taken forward including finance, the transparency of climate action, forests and agriculture, technology, capacity building, loss and damage, indigenous peoples, cities, oceans and gender. The conference also included the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25), the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15), and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2). The fifty-first sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 51) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 51) and was took place from 2 - 9 December 2019. The meeting also showcased the wealth of climate action undertaken by non-Party Stakeholders at side events and exhibitions, and help galvanize the action of regions, cities, business, investors and civil society. Owing to the principle that organization of side events and exhibitions at the Conference are the prerogatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, HATOF Foundation partnered with the UNDP and Forestry Commission of Ghana as well as three youth-led organisations to organize a side event at the COP25. HATOF also staged an exhibition at the Conference. This report therefore presents update on HATOF's engagement at the COP25 in Madrid, Spain which was partially supported by the French Embassy in Ghana and the UNDP Ghana office.

1.2.Preparation towards the participation of the COP25

As an admitted observer to the UNFCCC, HATOF has the privilege to participate in the annual meetings and conference of the Convention. Therefore as usual, the HATOF team planned to attend the COP25 with two senior staff – the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy to organise its annual side event and exhibition, and to respectively follow issues on

Article 6 (carbon market) Transparency, and finance. Having supported the Forestry Commission of Ghana in hosting a side event and exhibition at the COP24 in Katowice, Poland, the Commission and its partner UNDP, Ghana requested to partner with the HATOF team to organise a side event at the COP25 in Madrid, Spain to showcase the contribution of the forestry sector in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Particularly, HATOF facilitated the application of the side event and exhibition by developing the concept note for events, uploading same on the application portal for consideration by the UNFCCC secretariat and constantly and frequently following up with calls and mails to relevant stakeholders including the secretariat.

Once the event had been approved, HATOF engaged the UNDP and the COP25 task team from the Climate Change Department of the Forestry Commission to develop and maintain a logistical roadmap and timelines including budgeting for catering services, identification of speakers, presentations, and delivery format to optimize time. To ensure that the event attract the necessary participation, HATOF team publicized the event among several networks and mailing list within the UNFCCC, including; FIP list server, REDD list server, PACJA group, Women and Gender groups, CAN-Agriculture group, Coalition on Sustainable Lands, the media, and partners and individual delegates at the COP whilst maintaining an updated schedule of events.

1.2.1. Sponsorship

As part of the commitments of the Department of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs of the French Embassy of Ghana to the Government of Ghana, and under the powers of the Ambassador Mrs. Anne Sophie AVÉ, the Embassy sponsored the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Samuel Confidence Dotse with a returned air ticket and allocated a per Diem for 7 days (first week) to participate in COP 25 which was to originally take place in Santiago, Chile in December 2019. However due to the cancellation of the COP25 in Chile and rescheduled to be hosted in Madrid, Spain, and the fact that ticket to Chile was cancelled and could not be refunded, the Embassy went ahead to issue the per diem allocated to Mr. Dotse to enable him participate in the COP 25 in Madrid. In view of UNDP's partnership with HATOF to host a side event at the COP25, the agency supported Mr. Samuel Dotse with the return ticket and additional per diem for the second week of the COP25, and also absorbed other costs associated with the facilitation of the side event.

2. The Side Events Organised

2.1. HATOF, BLI Global, Youth Climate Lab, and Plant-for-the-Planet

The COP25 Presidency, with partners HATOF Foundation, Youth Climate Lab, BLI Global and Plant-for-the-Planet, hosted an interactive *Fireside Chat: Youth and Business Leaders* on December 6, 2019 to explore the role of young people in driving sustainable finance to achieve a just, climate-resilient future. The dynamic event aimed to generate intergenerational discussion and collaboration on corporate social responsibility; accountability in sustainable investments; scaling financing to support climate projects, positioning young people in the financial spreadsheet of business strategy; and assessment of impact measurement in returns on investments.



The event brought in the following esteemed leaders in corporate and finance:

- Angelique Poupponeau, CEO of Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
- Claudio Munoz Zuniga, President of Aguas Andinas;
- Verónica de la cerda, CEO of TriCiclos Chile;
- Alastair Handley, President, Carbon Credit Solutions Inc.
- Marie Trogstam, Head of Sustainability AFRY
- Alex Watson, Marketing Manager

2.2. HATOF, UNDP, and Forestry Commission

HATOF led and coordinated the side event in collaboration with the UNDP and COP25 task team of the Climate Change Department, provided support and ensured quality control during the event. The side event took place on Monday 9 December, 2019 at 11:30-13:00pm at the Blue Zone, Side Event Room 4 under the Theme: **“Contributions of Nature-Based Solution to achieve Ghana’s NDC.”** It aimed at showcasing the contributions of Nature Based Solutions (NBS), particularly the forestry sector to achieving Ghana’s work to raise ambition in its NDC and also to draw strategic partnerships on the side-lines of COP25 in Madrid in order to attract a host of blended finance in meeting the implementation requirements of these ambitions by end of 2020.



2.2.1. Participants

The side event brought together 130 participants from developed and developing country delegations and observers including international media persons. Participants also included; the Acting Director for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Deputy the UNFCCC Focal Point for Ghana, representatives from Nigeria, and Kenya.



3. Presentations at HATOF, UNDP, & Forestry Commission Side Event

The Director, Climate Change Department of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and the National REDD+ Coordinator, Ms. **Roselyn Fosuah Adjei**, highlighted on Ghana's efforts and national approach and architecture to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). She also weaved the story around Ghana's exciting journey towards developing concrete actions for results based performance and payments, and delved further into some of the issues that have to be tackled with respect to monitoring, reporting and verification, methodological approaches, benefit sharing, accounting and reporting and alignment with Article 6 through linkages to the NDC.

The Senior Programme Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana, **Dr. Daniel Benefor**, addressed the various targets and activities in Ghana's NDC and touched on the way in which Ghana's NDC integrates nature based solutions through the proposed NDC actions whilst highlighting on an innovative initiative to operationalize Article 6.2.

3.1. Panel Discussion



The Panellists: from right: Prof Adeshola Adepoju, Director General of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Nigeria, Samuel Dotse, HATOF Foundation, Ghana; Dr. Daniel Benefor (EPA, Ghana) and Ms. Roselyn Adjei (Forestry Commission, Ghana)

Moderated by **Wahida Patwa Shah**, Climate and Forests Team, from the UNDP, the Panel discussion began with reflections/reactions from Nigeria on the presentations made by Ghana and how the process was aligned to their country situations or not for cross learning. HATOF Foundation representing Civil Society also discussed the crucial role of community engagement in these processes. Ghana, and Nigeria's efforts, experience and progress

towards integrating nature based solutions were then discussed and the floor was opened to the audience for further discussions and question.

4. Other Side Events Attended

The HATOF Team honoured a number of side events including those on climate finance, organised by the UNFCCC and World Green Economy Organisation, and climate Finance Committee. Particularly, the HATOF Team joined the Climate Chance team from France for the press conference on the publication of the 2019 Synthesis Report on non-state climate action on Wednesday December 11 2019 at Hall 4 MOCHA and also Climate Chance's Strategic Orientation Committee – which sought to discuss about Climate Chance's activities of the year 2019 and its orientations for the coming year at the French Pavilion. The discussion focused on global climate action, African Strategy, and the Global Observatory of Climate Action.

5. The Exhibition



Exhibition Booth

Due to limited space, the UNFCCC Secretariat gave a two-day slot to each eligible organisations to stage their exhibition. So HATOF's exhibition was scheduled from December 9-11, 2019 at Exhibition booth 31 on the theme: ***“Showcasing the collaborative effort of private sector and government of Ghana in the energy sector.”*** The exhibition fell under the Category of Nationally Determined Contributions and was specifically aimed at the showcasing the significant success chalked private sector and the government of in pursuing its sustainable development agenda with the energy sector. The exhibition attracted key

personalities from government and private sector including representatives of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organisations from the China, Japan, Denmark, US, Norway, Turkey, Brazil and Belgium.

6. HATOF Engagement within the Negotiations

Arriving in the Spanish capital in December 3, 2019, the team's expectations which is also the aim of negotiators was to finalise the “rulebook” of the Paris Agreement – the operating manual needed when it takes effect in 2020 – by settling on rules for carbon markets and other forms of international cooperation under “Article 6” of the deal. In spite of the yawning gap between current progress and global goals to limit warming, the negotiations were unable to reach consensus in many areas, pushing decisions into next year. Matters including Article 6, reporting requirements for transparency and “common timeframes” for climate pledges were all punted into 2020, when countries are also due to raise the ambition of their efforts.

At the COP25, and as already indicated, the team followed Finance, Article 6 (carbon market), issues on Transparency and we share few highlights of events.

6.1.Finance

The main financial matter discussed at this year's COP was how to support countries affected by extreme climate impacts, and the usual standing items were also considered. Both the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) guidance documents were caught up in the debate around whether to instruct them to start working more specifically on loss and damage. There was also some discussion about the creation of a new climate finance goal, now that the deadline for “\$100bn by 2020” (agreed in 2009 at the Copenhagen COP) is almost up. Another issue considered was long-term climate finance (LTF), a work stream that examines progress and scaling up of climate finance, but which is due to end in 2020. There was a debate about whether to continue it at all, or whether to bring it under the CMA (i.e. the Paris Agreement) and how to continue holding developed countries accountable as they continue this finance mobilisation through 2025 – negotiators were unable to agree on these.

6.2.Article 6

Ahead of COP25, many expected a key focus to be agreeing rules for “Article 6” carbon markets and other forms of international cooperation. This is the last remaining piece of

the Paris regime to be resolved, after the rest of its “rulebook” was agreed in late 2018. By the end of the talks, Article 6 had become one of the highest profile casualties of the negotiations. With parties falling just short of reaching a deal, it will be taken up again at an intersessional meeting in June and at COP26 in November 2020.

6.3. Common timeframes

One of the many matters pushed into next year was “common timeframes” for climate pledges. Ahead of the Paris COP21, countries submitted their “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) in an ad hoc fashion, covering a range of timeframes out to 2025 or 2030. At a series of meetings during COP25, countries discussed an expanding list of options for common timeframes that grew from eight to 10 and then 12 alternative formulations. This list includes five-year timeframes, 10 years, a choice of either, or hybrids of the two. For example, countries might fix a 10-year NDC with a checkpoint half-way through, or offer a rolling pledge of “5+5” years, with firm and indicative targets. Alternatively, developed countries might be told to offer five-year pledges and developing nations a 10-year timeframe, or a choice of either.

7. Conclusion

In spite of the logistical challenges faced due to the cancelation of the COP in Chile, HATOF fully participated in the COP25 – for the entire two weeks period and did had two successful side events, and a 2-day exhibition. The event gave HATOF further global outlook within the UNFCCC fraternity and also afforded the organization the opportunity to engage potential partners for future collaborations. We hereby thank all our partners and sponsors including the French Embassy of Ghana and the UNDP for facilitating the smooth participation of the HATOF Team at the COP25.

