



IEAGHG Information Paper: 2017-IP4; Brief review of COP-22 and CCS

A good review of COP-22 and its work and outcomes has been provided by Arthur Lee in an IEAGHG webinar on 8 Dec 2016, and the recording is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCThjzmbJU89kF7OqqQW9lw>. This Information Paper adds further information on some CCS aspects.

COP-22 was hosted by the Moroccan government in Marrakesh over 7-18 November 2017. Over 22,000 delegates attended over the two weeks to start developing the implementation details of the Paris Agreement from COP-21, in terms of frameworks, processes and mechanisms, all to be in place and commence operation from 2020. This was in the positive context that the Paris Agreement had been ratified ahead of expected timescales and had entered into force on 4 November 2016.

The big topic of discussion was the USA election result, and its implications for climate change. The Paris Agreement has enough parties and percentage of emissions to continue without the USA should the new administration want to leave. Against this context, there were calls from participants at COP for clear and consistent leadership on climate issues to continue from everyone, including industry. Indeed, industry attendance was high in the public Green Zone exhibits and events. This overall sentiment was confirmed in the high level political statement called the '*Marrakesh Action Proclamation*'. Overall, the outcomes from COP-22 were agreements on the processes to develop the details of the many parts of the Paris Agreement to be ready for its implementation in 2020, including a financial roadmap for the \$100bn of climate finance by 2020, with an ambition to have much of these rules ready by an earlier than expected timescale of 2018.

CCS and CDM at COP-22

At Marrakech, SBSTA-45 had on its agenda to revisit the two unresolved issues for CCS in the CDM, which were (i) how to deal with transnational projects and (ii) the question of creating a global reserve of credits (the idea being as insurance for potential future seepage). CCS in the CDM with its associated rules was adopted in 2011 at COP-17 in Durban, but leaving these two issues to be resolved later. In Marrakech, the SBSTA chair proposed to not initiate a negotiation group on this but instead to draft conclusions in consultation with interested countries. It was noted by them that no projects had applied over the period since COP-12, even though the process and documents had been created and were in place¹.

The results of this process were that SBSTA agreed *"to conclude the consideration of the eligibility under the CDM of project activities consisting of CCS and storage in geological formations that involve the transport of CO₂ from one country to another or geological storage sites that are in more than one country, and the establishment of a global reserve of CERs for CCS in geological formations."*

So the consideration of these two issues is ended and not scheduled to be raised again. This means that the potential of an unnecessary burden on projects of funding a global reserve of credits is removed, and for any future projects with a transnational component, it is assumed that the international aspects related to CDM requirements will have to be proposed and considered on a project-by-project basis. The decision document FCCC/SBSTA/2016/L.19/Add.1 is available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbsta/eng/l19a01.pdf>.

¹ Note that whilst there was some interest from potential projects early on, this lack of actual applications is thought to be because of the low CER price which has been driven down by the EU market for CERs.

CCS at COP-22

In addition, the Paris Agreement has many parts that are relevant for CCS. Negotiations commenced under SBSTA on the Paris Agreement's new 'Technology Framework' to assist the existing Technology Mechanism, the work in terms of agreeing its purpose, characteristics, structure and themes. Negotiations also started on the future "cooperative approaches", ie mechanisms, under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The term 'sustainable development mechanism' started to be used colloquially for a future mitigation mechanism as well as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). These are expected to draw upon the experiences of the CDM and JI mechanisms. Work is also underway to further links between climate finance and the Technology Mechanism. The UNFCCC is requesting various submissions on some of the above to inform their development. Nothing appeared in the work at COP-22 on any of these that was other than technology neutral, an aspect to be followed carefully as they all are developed.

IEAGHG activities at COP-22

IEAGHG was active at COP-22 to provide evidence-based information on CCS and related technologies to the delegates, drawing upon outputs from our technical programme and our members.

A Side-event on CCS was held in the UNFCCC area "Blue Zone" on the 8th. November, organised by IEAGHG with the University of Texas in collaboration with CO2GeoNet and CCSA. This was again the only official UNFCCC Side-event which focussed on CCS (there were other events on CCS). Titled "CCS Opportunities for Africa" it had scene-setting presentations from IEAGHG on the context of CCS in the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and from Ghana on the economic potential of CCS for the whole of Africa in terms of decoupling emissions from their economic growth. It had updates on CCS activities from South Africa and Nigeria, and opportunities for collaboration from The International CCS Knowledge Centre in Saskatchewan, CO2GeoNet, and on offshore opportunities and CSLF and CTCN from the Gulf Coast Carbon Center at the University of Texas. Around 100 delegates attended with a high level of interest such that there were more questions than time allowed. IISD, who report daily on UNFCCC events, chose to cover our event and their coverage is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop22/enbots/8nov.html> and new at this COP the UNFCCC provided webinar-style coverage whose recording is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zapb3U2zU_8.



Photo courtesy of IISD/ENB

IEAGHG also presented at the following events:

- 7 Nov. 1830-2000. CCS is necessary for meeting 2C. Venue: EU Pavilion, Blue Zone. Organiser CO2GeoNet. IEAGHG talk title: "CCS in achieving negative emissions"
- 10 Nov. 0900-1030. CCS what its all about and why we need it. Venue: Green Zone (public). Organiser CO2GeoNet. IEAGHG talk title: "Why we need CCS".
- 10 Nov. 1530-1630. Climate readiness – Ocean based adaptation and mitigation. Venue: UK Pavilion, Green Zone. Organiser PML. IEAGHG talk title: "Large scale CCS - pros and cons for the oceans".



IEAGHG contributed to the CCS exhibit booth inside the UNFCCC Blue Area which was organised by CO2GeoNet in collaboration with the University of Texas and CCSA. This had a steady stream of positive interest in the information and videos on CCS, with CO2GeoNet colleagues doing a great job of staffing it at all times.

For more information, a detailed summary of COP-22 is provided by IISD at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12689e.pdf> , and for more UNFCCC information, documents and updates see <http://unfccc.int/2860.php> , as well as the links provided in the text above.

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