



2020 Mid-Year Report

Climate Change Specialist Group

Prepared by Specialist Group Chair Christina Voigt

I. Activity Updates

The IUCN WCEL [Climate Change Specialist Group](#) (CCSG), chaired by [Prof. Christina Voigt](#), has been developing research and providing advice on a wide range of legal and policy issues related to climate change. In 2020, the group activities included a series of regular online meetings with project coordinators and members. Likewise, the group has supported the organization of the webinar “[Climate Change Litigation in the Courts](#),” which brought together a group of legal experts to discuss the status quo of climate change litigation worldwide, including recent successes and lessons learned.

II. Events & Publications

The group’s membership has increased, and its members have been actively contributing to four main projects, as described below:

Climate change mitigation and land use - a study of policy options for balancing emissions and removals (2019-2022).

Project Coordinator: [Fabiano de Andrade Correa](#)

This project focuses on studying legal and policy options to support the Paris Agreement’s goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The project kick-started its activities in the second half of 2019 and currently has 15 active members from different countries. The project members held one online thematic session to discuss the topic and define the work plan, as well as developed an outline for the study on climate change mitigation and land use that will be delivered in 2022. Moreover, the project members are currently developing the first project output: a contribution to a special issue of the [Carbon and Climate Law Review](#) (CCLR), a specialized journal on law and climate change. The special issue will be published in the first quarter of 2021, focusing on the “getting to zero” target in the land sector and gathering case studies from nine countries.

2. Legal issues in the implementation of the Paris Agreement (2018-2022)

Project Coordinator: [Jessica Owley](#)

This project aims at providing advice and inputs regarding the main legal issues in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which include the legal nature of domestic mitigation measures, the link between international guidance and domestic implementation, interlinkages and integration of climate and biodiversity regulations, among others. The project currently has

12 active members (please check their profiles [here](#)), which are divided into teams working on policy briefs about: the (a) Nationally Determined Contributions, (b) compliance mechanisms, (c) global stocktake, and (d) adaptation. These initial outputs outline and discuss the major requirements, accomplishments and concerns related to the Paris Agreement, and are expected to be delivered by early September. The project members have established different communication channels, including a google group and drive, and are discussing different dissemination and promotion methods for the policy briefs (e.g., book, white paper).

3. *Fighting climate change: a best practice guide for judges and courts*