

Checklist
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MAPPING NATIONAL CAPACITIES

The development and strengthening of national Article 6 structures and capacities requires time, political will, and the involvement of various stakeholders. Each country, depending on its unique motivations and strategic approach to Article 6 cooperation, must chart its own path and prioritise capacity-building needs accordingly.

This checklist serves as a tool to assess a country's current capacities and identify the key areas where additional readiness is needed for Article 6 implementation.

It is divided in the following five sections for clarity:

- 1. Strategic Considerations**
- 2. Legal Foundation and Governance**
- 3. Institutional Arrangements**
- 4. Operational Procedures**
- 5. Infrastructure**

Checklist 1. Key building blocks of Article 6 readiness with potential steps and activities for engagement



Strategic Considerations

Instrumental Steps and Activities

Setting up a national Article 6 Strategy Working Group and multi-stakeholder platform

- Has the country set up a national **Article 6 multi-stakeholder unit/committee/platform** for cross-sectoral collaboration?
- Is there an Article 6 Strategy Working Group **with inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial representation**?
- Have **communication channels** been established for information sharing on Article 6?

Initial capacity building analysis for Article 6

- Has the country **engaged** previously in any carbon market schemes?
- Has a preliminary assessment been conducted by the country's administration to **evaluate existing and past carbon market activities** ?

Gap analysis on Article 6 Readiness

- Have national processes (e.g., MRV systems, NDC implementation committees) been established **to build upon for Article 6 readiness**?
- Have **the gaps** in regulatory, institutional, or operational frameworks **been identified** to determine what is needed for the country to bolster readiness?

Political mandate for Article 6

- Is there a **strong political mandate** to engage in Article 6?
- Have government stakeholders demonstrated **awareness of the opportunities and challenges of participating** in carbon markets?
- Is the **government's willingness to engage in Article 6 clearly stated** in official documents such as the NDC, and publicly communicated?

NDC alignment and contribution

- Has an **assessment been conducted** to identify how Article 6 can directly **contribute to achieving the NDC**?
- Is the NDC structured in a way that allows clear **identification of Article 6-relevant activities beyond the NDC's own targets**?
 - Is Article 6 included in the NDC, with clear differentiation between conditional and unconditional targets and how are those expected to be achieved?
 - Have priority sectors and activities been identified?
- Is there an updated **NDC implementation plan** available?

Article 6 guiding principles (environmental integrity, Sustainable Development (SD) objectives, etc.)

- What processes/laws/etc. can be built on to make sure Article 6 participation **contributes to national Sustainable Development (SD) goals** and **prevents negative social and environmental impacts**?
- What additional guiding principles should be established to ensure that participation in Article 6 effectively supports the **long-term goals of the Paris Agreement**?



Eligibility criteria (methodologies, activity and ITMO)

- Have the conditional and unconditional **NDC targets been quantified?**
- Has the country undertaken an **assessment of the mitigation potential until the NDC target year** (e.g., disaggregated by sectors and technologies, mitigation activities within the scope of the unconditional NDC, and mitigation activities which require international financing for implementation)?

Carbon market strategy (incl. definition of the purpose and type of Article 6 cooperation)

- Has an **assessment of opportunities and risks** for the country involved in engaging in Article 6 been performed? This typically includes:
 - Does the country wish to engage in Article 6.2 and/or the Article 6.4 Mechanism (PACM)?
 - What strategic objective does the country wish to pursue with cooperation under Article 6?
 - What sectors and activities could be relevant to consider for engaging in Article 6 (could be different for Article 6.2 and the PACM)?
 - For what uses would the country authorise carbon credits as ITMOs?
 - What role should voluntary carbon market (VCM) activities play in the national Article 6 engagement?
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Legal Foundation and Governance	Instrumental Steps and Activities
Legal mandate and regulatory framework to allow the country and assigned institutions to engage in Article 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Has a formal (legal) mandate been given to governmental actors responsible for decision-making related to Article 6?<input type="checkbox"/> Have roles and responsibilities (identified in sub element 'Institutional arrangement' below) been formalised through a legal mandate for all national institutions involved in Article 6 based on the strategic considerations above?<input type="checkbox"/> Is there support for developing policies and legal documents (regulations) required to facilitate effective Article 6 engagement?
Cooperation agreements (e.g. bilateral agreements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Are there provisions in place to facilitate negotiations for cooperation agreements under Article 6.2 with potential partner countries?<input type="checkbox"/> Has the country prepared templates and legal support for MoUs, BA and Mitigation Outcome Purchase Agreements (MOPAs)?
Financial procedures and budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Has the country conducted a financial assessment of the costs required for Article 6 operations and engagement?<input type="checkbox"/> Has a legal framework been established to ensure the availability of financial resources required to implement Article 6, including budgets for governance, administration, and operations?



Institutional Arrangements

Set-up and support for the Article 6 focal point and DNA for the PACM specifically

- Has the country nominated an **Article 6 focal point/ DNA** and communicated it to the UNFCCC?
- Are there **structures in place to manage participation** in Article 6, including technical and oversight roles?
 - Do focal points have **access to the necessary knowledge and resources** to effectively implement Article 6 processes?

Institutional arrangements for participation in Article 6.2 (oversight functions; technical functions; administrative functions)

- Has the country defined and developed a **suitable inter-ministerial governance structure for Article 6** (i.e., defining key ministries and their roles, and setting up an intergovernmental oversight body)?
- Has the country **defined all relevant institutional roles and responsibilities** for participating in and implementing Article 6? This typically includes:
 - Oversight functions, such as steering committee or task force with representatives from different line ministries for shaping and refining Article 6 strategy and provide general guidance.
 - Technical functions, tasked with offering technical advice for operational procedures (approval & authorisation) and to define eligibility criteria for environmental integrity.
 - Administrative functions, responsible for communication with stakeholders, as well as managing and processing information and data.

Private sector and third-party actor engagement

- Has the government **identified sector-relevant** private activity developers, technology providers and other third-party actors?
- Is there an **established private-public sector communication** channel?
- Has the country identified and **approved third-party auditors**?

The following sections go beyond governance and institutional arrangements to focus on the operational and technical aspects of Article 6 implementation. As countries progress along their Article 6 journey, these elements will become increasingly relevant, making early consideration advisable.



Operational Procedures Instrumental Steps and Activities

Guidance and support in mitigation activity cycle

- Has the country **established operational procedures for the full mitigation activity cycle** (from sourcing to approval, issuance, and authorisation of ITMOs)?
- Have **support structures been created** for technical assistance during the mitigation activity cycle?

Sourcing and piloting mitigation activities (oversight functions; technical functions; administrative functions)

- Has the country **established procedures for identifying** potential mitigation activities and activity developers?
- Has the country **defined the technical support needed** to initiate or advance the development of pilot activities?
- Has the government **promoted knowledge sharing and capacity building** through knowledge repositories and workshops?

Activity approval

- Has the country set up **procedures, criteria and timelines for approving activities as Article 6 activities**, including the required information from activity developers, responsibilities, interactions with developers and templates?
- Has the country **created templates** for requesting and granting activity approval, such as forms, requests procedures, letters of intent, and letters of approval)?

Issuance and Authorisation for ITMO transfer

- Has a **process** for the **submission of requests** for authorisation been established?
- Has the country set up **procedures, criteria and timelines for authorising activities for the (first) transfer of ITMOs**?
- Has the country implemented and set up **issuance and ITMO authorisation structures**? This typically includes:
 - Information required from activity developers.
 - Timelines for issuance and authorisations.
 - Timing of authorisation.
 - Templates (e.g., form for requesting authorisation, authorisation letter issued by the host country).
- Is the country familiar with the **mandatory information** required for authorisation and **the available voluntary standardised template** provided by the UNFCCC (for 6.2 and for the PACM)?

Accreditation of auditors

- Has the country defined and implemented **procedures for assessing, approving and/or accrediting** and overseeing third-party auditors for **validation** at different stages of the activity cycle (e.g., during validation and prior to issuance of mitigation outcomes)?

Validation & verification

- Are the **procedures, timelines, and roles of third-party auditors** for validation and verification clearly defined?



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- Are there structures in place **to oversee the validation and verification of Article 6 activities?**
 - Is the country **familiar with the Designated Operational Entities (DOEs)** and their accreditation process **under the PACM?**

Corresponding adjustments

- Has the country determined its **Article 6 accounting approach** and does it have procedures in place to **apply and report corresponding adjustments?**
- How are **linkages with Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, NDC, MRV system** ensured?
- Are the **procedures for filling and submitting Article 6 reports** (initial report, annual information as annex to the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), and regular information as annex to BTR), **consistent** to meet Article 6 requirements and align with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)?
- Has the country considered **implementing its own national Article 6 registry** to track closed, planned and implemented mitigation activities?
- Has the country considered using **the international registry** being developed by the UNFCCC Secretariat with procedures for **automatic pulling** of required information for Article 6 reporting?

Tracking

- Has the country **defined and implemented procedures for tracking** Article 6 activities and related mitigation outcomes (also see sub element 'Tracking system' below)?
- Has the country **introduced safeguards** to mitigate the risk of overselling ITMOs (i.e., to avoid putting the achievement of its NDC at risk)?

Participation in the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) under Article 6.4

- How is the **compliance with the participation responsibilities** under the PACM ensured?
 - Are the eligible **activity types and methodology requirements communicated** to the SBM?
 - Has the country outlined how its **participation in the PACM** is contributing to the NDC and to SD?
 - Has the country **applied to open an account in the (Interim) Mechanism Registry?**
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Infrastructure

Instrumental Steps and Activities

Tracking system (e.g., registry) of activities and/or mitigation outcomes

- Has the country chosen an **appropriate tracking system** for mitigation outcomes, either using a national or international registry as per COP29 guidelines?
- Has the country defined and implemented an **adequate system for tracking** Article 6 mitigation activities, mitigation outcomes, authorisation of ITMOs and other relevant information?
- Has a **work plan** been developed for the operationalisation of the tracking system, including the **human and financial resources needed** (e.g., support for programming the registry).
- Has the development of an **operational manual** been planned/prepared **to assist users** of the tracking system?

MRV tools (e.g., data collection, management, reporting, storage)

- Have **robust tools been developed and guidelines established** for collecting, monitoring, reporting, and storing data on GHG emissions reductions?
- Has a **work plan for testing and refining MRV tools** been introduced, with clear responsibilities and actions outlined?

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