



SAN VIRTUAL FORUM – MAY 7 to JUNE 24, 2020

Webinar 1

Summary - Lightning Talks on SAN Working Groups

Stakeholder Advisory Network Kicks off Virtual Forum

Summary: On May 7, 2020, the Stakeholder Advisory Network on Climate Finance (SAN) kicked off its first-ever SAN Virtual Forum, a five-part interactive series of 90-minute sessions, to inform and engage members and other stakeholders on the status and outputs of the SAN’s five Working Groups, launched in October 2019. The first webinar’s “Lightning Talks” gave an overview of the groups’ work to-date covering Governance & Elections, Membership, Fundraising, Products & Services, and Legal Arrangements. It gathered about 40 participants, comprised of SAN members (observers of multiple funds), other civil society organizations, and representatives of climate funds and donor governments.

SAN Benefits: Session moderator, Margaret-Ann Splawn, Executive Director of Climate Markets and Investment Association (CMIA), in her opening remarks likened the SAN to sentiments of anthropologist Margaret Mead, who said “... a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world...” when she shared how the SAN is building a framework and guidelines to support observers to better understand their work, perform their roles, and serve their constituencies and the climate and environmental funds they advise.

Margaret-Ann also shared her feelings of privilege, humility and at times confusion, when describing her own experience as an observer with the Forestry Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF). “I wish the SAN had been around when I first became an observer back in 2016,” she said, because it would have helped her more easily understand her role and guide her way.

SAN History: Ladd Connell, Environment Director of the Bank Information Center and SAN Steering Committee member, briefly told the story of the SAN, from its grounding in the Paris Agreement mandate of transparency, accountability and cooperation, and its subsequent 2015 CIF Joint Trust Fund Committee endorsement to “strengthen the partnership of non-state actors through collaboration, research, advocacy and partnership”, to today’s SAN, set up to become a fully independent and operational entity, with a solidified governance structure and line of products and services.

In more or less 7 – 10-minute talks, progress on the SAN’s Governance & Elections, Membership, Fundraising, Products & Services, and Legal Arrangements was presented by SAN Steering Committee members and two coordinators, followed by a 35-minute discussion with participants.

SAN Legal Arrangements, Budget: Andrea Bacher, International Private Sector and Sustainability Consultant, SAN Steering Committee member, CIF observer, and formerly of the International Chamber of Commerce, along with Ladd Connell, set-off the lightning talks, with a description of the SAN's proposed Legal Arrangements that highlighted the short, medium and long-term options for housing the SAN -- continue to host with the CIF, be hosted by an NGO fiscal sponsor, become an independent non-profit entity, all of which have been researched and resulted in a first draft MOU with an NGO, requiring further consultation with members. Andrea also took on the subject of bylaws, or a more general "framework of good governance", until the SAN is established as an independent legal entity. The bylaws already laid out in the original foundational documents of 2015 and 2018 will be used as a basis, adapted at the next General Assembly 2020 for a general framework, and finalized when the SAN becomes a legally incorporated, non-profit entity. Ladd described the SAN budget, based on the "seed money" provided by the CIF since 2015 that covers the SAN's minimal operating costs. Through June 30, 2021, the SAN hopes to receive funding from the CIF and/or other sources for: a general assembly, election support, coordinator, foundational and follow-up study, communications/ website, and travel costs.

SAN Governance & Elections: Andrea and Ladd's highlights flowed into Cynthia Gears', Coordinator of SAN Steering Committee, overview of the SAN Governance & Elections work underway. "Governance is the backbone of every society and so it is for the SAN" she began. The objectives of this working group, she explained, consider general governance issues relevant to the SAN as well as the process for electing the SAN Coordinating Committee (CC), one of the three governing bodies of the SAN. To build excitement for the upcoming election, Cynthia reviewed the group's Election Process Note, explained its 3-step approach to building consensus, the election process steps, and the composition of the CC, ideally including 12 members from across the Funds, with representatives from 6 CSOs, 3 IPs, 2 private sector, and 1 southern NGO. She also emphasized how observers from across the funds are welcome to submit Expressions of Interest.

SAN Membership: Cynthia then directly launched into the SAN Membership Working Group, as Legborsi Saro Pyagbara, SAN Steering Committee member and President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People in Nigeria had difficulty connecting to the webinar. "The membership group would like to know more about you", she said. Are you an active member or a passive member? What do you think the value addition of SAN membership is? Comments from a pre-webinar poll filled a slide with 22 answers on the SAN's value addition—Transparency, Learning, Sharing, Collaboration, Capacity Building, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, Monitoring, among others. Cynthia advised participants that in June, the SAN's first-ever full Membership Questionnaire would be administered, to learn more about membership characteristics and priorities, and to inform an ongoing comprehensive mapping exercise on the SAN membership.

SAN Resource Mobilization: Ladd returned to introduce the SAN's Resource Mobilization strategy: Where we've been, Value proposition, and the SAN as a "Think & Do Tank". He candidly acknowledged the SAN is not fully operational yet because it simply does not have enough funding to be fully operational. "We've been dependent on one donor, the CIF, and we are very grateful for their past and continued support." It's clear, however, that the SAN must diversify its funding sources to cover operating costs and become an independent entity. He explained how Fund Secretariats and

Government Donors of the CIF have been meeting with, listening to, and giving advice to the SAN, and continue to welcome the SAN concept, but they would like to see the proof of concept. He reasoned, so what value proposition does the SAN bring to Secretariats and Donors? It brings transparency and accountability to the donors because this is what effective observers provide. And stakeholder engagement reduces risk, leading to more effective projects, and greater impact on the ground. This linked resource mobilization to the SAN’s Working Group on Products & Services.

SAN Products & Services: Andres Falconer, SAN’s Resource Mobilization Coordinator introduced the SAN’s proposed “line of action”, segmented into three buckets—standard setting, capacity building, and knowledge and information. Andres acknowledged the importance of getting the SAN house in order but also noted the importance of putting the SAN in to action, demonstrating its capacity to address the issues it was created to resolve. He went on to introduce a proposed portfolio of products and services that would serve the SAN mission, its membership and other stakeholders. Under Standard Setting for example, there may be a *certification and verification of adherence and compliance with SE Standard*; under capacity building there may be *Research on capacity, information and other gaps in stakeholder engagement practice*; and under Knowledge & Information there may be Advisory services to non-state stakeholders (observers and constituencies), and much more.

A 35- minute open discussion followed led by Margaret-Ann, who facilitated questions and comments from the audience, which included participants from Guatemala, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States.

Next Steps: Three more webinars in the coming weeks will dive deeper into the SAN’s Products & Services, Governance & Elections, and Legal Arrangements, culminating in a webinar series wrap-up on June 24. The series’ final webinar will take stock of what has been learned, what linkages have been identified among the five working groups, and the best way to advance the work of SAN.

SAN Virtual Forum Calendar	
Webinar 1 May 7	
7:30 – 9:00 am EDT – <i>Introducing the SAN Working Groups</i>:	Lightning Talks introducing the five SAN Working Groups and the status of their work
Webinar 2 May 20	
7:30 - 9:00 am EDT – <i>Introducing the SAN’s Products & Services and Resource Mobilization</i>:	A presentation and discussion on how the SAN can build the capacity of climate and environmental fund observers
Webinar 3 May 27	
7:30 - 9:00 am EDT – <i>Introducing the SAN’s Governance</i>:	A presentation and discussion on the election process of the SAN Coordinating Committee and the value addition of SAN membership
Webinar 4 June 10	
7:30 - 9:00 am EDT – <i>Introducing the SAN’s Legal Arrangements</i>:	A presentation and discussion on SAN hosting arrangements, bylaws, and budget
Webinar 5 June 24	
7:30 - 9:00 am EDT – <i>Webinar Series Wrap-Up – What have we learned?</i>	A stocktaking of the SAN Working Groups’ output. What are the interconnections? How to move the work forward? What do YOU the stakeholders think? Feedback, Polling, Questionnaire, Voting