

Summary of OIBC4 Co-Conveners Meeting held on 22 May 2025 on Microsoft Teams

Participants:

- Edward Kilawe (FAO, Chair, Co-Convener)
- Matthias Naab (UNDP, Convener)
- Charles Nyandiga (UNDP)
- Linus Asanji Mofor (UNESCO)
- Christian Berretta (UNESCO)
- Amjad Abbashar (UNDRR)
- Excellent Hachileka (UNDP)
- Catherine Mwangi (UNEP)
- Kindie Alamneh (FAO)

Absent with apologies

- James (UNECA)
- Rose Mwebaza (UNEP)

Agenda

1. Reflections on the Pre-event Dialogue held with UNRCs on 6 April 2025 on the margins of ARFSD-11
2. Review of the final workplan 2025-2026
3. Identification of lead agencies for the thematic areas and implementation modalities
4. DCO/Adhoc request from DR Congo
5. Discussion on membership of OIBC-4 and the process for verification

The chair sought approval on whether the quorum could be considered adequate to proceed with the meeting. While members acknowledged that the meeting could proceed, they stressed the need for OIBC4 members to give equal attention to OIBC4 activities and to avoid sending last minute cancellation of meetings.

Summary of meeting

1. Reflections on the Pre-Event Dialogue (6 April)

The purpose of this agenda item was to solicit reflections on issues that could be taken as best practices and as lessons learned in preparing similar dialogues in the future. Key reflections are as follows:

- The dialogue was well-coordinated and impactful.
- Recommendations from the dialogue were integrated into the draft 2025 work plan.
- The need for earlier planning and better coordination for future events.
- Suggestion to include coordination and resource mobilization in the work plan.
- The need for OIBC4 to work towards a self-financing mechanism, instead of continued reliance on sponsorship which could result in delaying preparations and in excluding potential participation of individuals/experts from attending the discussions and associated events.
- The need to make future dialogues more structured and focused with topics suggested by the OIBC4 that address the needs of RCs.

2. Review of the final workplan 2025-2026

- OIBC4 work plan for the year 2025/26 was prepared using the template provided by the RCP JS and was circulated to all OIBC4 agencies for their inputs.
- The work plan consolidates agency inputs and aligns with flagship areas.
- Agencies have indicated interest in specific activities; however, clarity is needed on lead roles.
- Flagship leads will coordinate internal planning and implementation since the work plan only shows the broad activity and areas to be prioritized under each flagship. The agencies responsible for different flagships will organise their meetings, and provide implementation reports as may be required.
- Agencies to confirm participation and resource commitments.

3. Identification of lead agencies for the thematic areas and implementation modalities

The effective implementation of the OIBC4 2025/26 Work Plan hinges on the strong commitment of flagship leads and co-leads. In this regard, it was agreed to reinforce flagship leadership and establish mechanisms to hold leaders accountable for delivering on the activities outlined in the plan. To this end, the OIBC Conveners agreed to hold an internal meeting to discuss matters related to flagship leadership among other issues. The proposals and outcomes of this discussion will be communicated to all OIBC4 members during the upcoming OIBC4 plenary.

4. Request from DRC on Carbon Credit Research Centre

A request was submitted by Kwasi from Development Coordination Office (DCO) to OIBC4 for support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on carbon markets and the establishment of a Regional Research Centre on Carbon Credits. While the Conveners expressed their willingness to provide the required support, they found it necessary to obtain more information about the nature and specifics of the request before OIBC4 could formally commit to delivering such services. Considering this, it was agreed that the OIBC4 Secretariat would request further information and clarification from Kwasi regarding the specific support being sought. Once a response with the necessary details was received, the request would be discussed and a decision taken accordingly.

5. Membership Participation and verification

- There was concern over inconsistent participation from some agencies.
- The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should map current membership and assess engagement.
- Agencies were encouraged to update names of focal points and nominate alternates to ensure representation and continuity.
- Co-conveners to follow up with agency leadership to ensure active participation.

6. Next Steps Towards Plenary Meeting

- Secretariat to propose two potential dates in June for the plenary.
- Co-conveners to meet informally (via WhatsApp or call) to agree on the date

Action items

The following are the key action items from the meeting.

Action items	Responsible	Target date
Include coordination and resource mobilization in the work plan	Secretariat	31 May 2025
Clean up the OIBC4 data base	OIBC4 Secretariat	30 May 2025
Map current OIBC4 membership and assess engagement	Secretariat (with Co-conveners)	31 May 2025
Finalize flagship leads and internal coordination mechanisms	Co-conveners	Before Plenary
Clarify DRC request and report back	Secretariat (via DCO)	5 June 2025
Propose two dates for plenary and consult Co-conveners	Secretariat	27 May 2025

Convene Co-conveners' informal meeting to finalize plenary date	Chair	29 May 2025
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