

2026 Global Knowledge Forum on Carbon Pricing and Markets

Country Insights. Collaborative Solutions. Development Impact

May 18-19, 2026, Singapore

The 2026 Global Knowledge Forum on Carbon Pricing and Markets (GKF) brought together 237 participants from more than 50 countries, including countries advancing carbon pricing and markets, with support from World Bank programs, contributing donor countries, and a broad range of international knowledge partners. Together, they work along the carbon value chain to move from analytics to transactions and to accelerate practical implementation of carbon pricing and carbon markets building in a rapidly evolving global policy and market landscape.

The Forum enabled peer exchange across countries at different stages in their carbon pricing and markets journeys, highlighting the progress made by several countries now involved in carbon transactions. Also highlighted were persistent legal and regulatory gaps, and strong demand for practical tools and guidance.

Participant feedback underscored the Forum's high relevance, strong satisfaction, and value of interactive learning in supporting countries to build capacity, mobilize climate finance, and advance carbon markets as a pathway to sustainable development.

Context, objectives, and agenda

Countries are advancing carbon pricing and carbon markets in a context shaped by fiscal pressures, energy considerations, competitiveness concerns, and the need to mobilize investment while supporting economic opportunities and job creation.

The Global Knowledge Forum on Carbon Pricing and Markets is a working platform for countries to exchange experience and focus on implementation as they progress and as the broader landscape evolves. Its objective is to help countries move forward in a practical way, by clarifying choices and identifying next steps.

Informed by multi-year engagements with participating countries and pre-workshop surveys, the [2026 Global Knowledge Forum](#) agenda reflected the partners' technical needs and invited rich interactive knowledge exchanges around challenges and opportunities. The agenda covered both upstream and downstream aspects of carbon pricing and carbon markets.

Agenda

- Day 1: *Advancing Carbon Pricing in a Challenging Global Context*
- Day 2: *Moving to Participation and Transactions on carbon markets*

Partners

GKF brings together policymakers, their partners, and key stakeholders to discuss how they design instruments and address implementation constraints in practice. This year, the forum was attended by 237 participants, with close to 50% female representation, representing 43 participating countries (*), 17 knowledge partners (**) and 9 donor countries (***)

The Forum is convened by the World Bank Group (WBG) with support from the Partnership for Market Implementation ([PMI](#)) and carbon funds including the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility ([TCAF](#)), the Carbon Initiative for Development ([Ci-Dev](#)), the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes ([ISFL](#)), and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility ([FCPF](#)), together with critical contributions from a range of knowledge partners. These programs support countries across the carbon value chain, from policy development and implementation of carbon pricing to participation in carbon markets and transactions.

Learning from and about countries

- Over the course of two days, 24 client countries formally shared their experiences in panels and related presentations on preparing, designing or implementing carbon pricing and carbon markets, while 43 overall participated in the discussions.
- The forum made good use of just-in-time polls and surveys to collect rich data on the learning needs, top objectives and status of countries on carbon pricing and participation in carbon markets:
 - 60% of them are implementing policies, frameworks and projects; 34% are at the design stage; and 6% are new to carbon markets and carbon pricing.
 - A look at country-level needs and interests expressed during [GKF 2025](#) allowed for meaningful comparisons and highlighted the progress made in just one year. Several countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh are now involved in carbon transactions.
 - The World Bank Group collected detailed data points on the preparedness of legal frameworks in 21 countries, with most of them still developing these frameworks for high-integrity carbon markets.

The Forum also provided an opportunity to gather direct feedback from countries and partners on the applicability, usability, and operational value of these products. Discussions highlighted strong demand for practical implementation-oriented tools, particularly in areas related to legal frameworks, market readiness, and operational systems for carbon pricing and carbon markets.

Feedback from participants

- **Overall satisfaction with the 2026 Global Knowledge Forum on Carbon Pricing and Carbon Markets was very high.** 93% of the ratings were positive (4 or 5), with an average rating of 4.6 out of 5.
- **95% indicated they were likely or very likely to attend future PMI events.** 70% strongly agreed that they met their objectives, gained helpful insights, and found the sessions engaging and relevant.
- Open-text feedback highlighted **appreciation for peer-to-peer country exchanges, access to global experts, and practical tools** like the ETS simulator.
- Suggestions for improvement included **expanding participant engagement** across countries and **creating a year-round interactive platform**.

Presentation and application of new operational knowledge products

The Global Knowledge Forum served as a practical platform to present and apply a range of new operational knowledge products developed by PMI and other World Bank carbon programs. These tools were introduced and discussed in the context of country experiences and implementation challenges, allowing participants to familiarize themselves with their practical use and relevance across different stages of carbon pricing and carbon market development.

Key products showcased included the [State & Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026](#) (officially launched on May 20), [Guidance for Policymakers on the Role of Domestic Carbon Pricing and International Carbon Credit Markets in Achieving LTs and NDCs](#), and the [Legal & Regulatory Reforms Toolkit for High-Integrity Carbon Markets](#). These resources were contextualized through country discussions and made available through the [PMI Knowledge Center](#), including a new [Country Climate Toolbox](#) developed specifically for this year's Forum.

Key takeaways and implications for the technical agenda

This year's Forum confirmed a clear shift toward implementation, with countries now engaging with concrete technical and policy choices shaped by domestic priorities and external constraints. The technical agenda on carbon pricing and carbon markets is correspondingly evolving toward clarifying operational decisions, strengthening system architecture, and addressing the interfaces between domestic frameworks and international requirements. It is also becoming more grounded in country experience, reflecting a move from conceptual design toward practical execution and system-level coherence.

#1. Implementation is now defined by concrete policy and technical choices.

Country discussions consistently moved beyond high-level design toward more granular questions on how to operationalize carbon pricing systems, such as coverage, sequencing, and integration with sectoral and economic priorities. Experiences shared during the Forum reflected this transition, with several countries moving into implementation phases and others preparing for the next stage of rollout. This increasingly centers the discussion on how

to navigate key decision points along the implementation pathway, rather than expanding general design frameworks.

#2. External developments are increasingly shaping domestic system design.

Discussions on the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and global trends highlighted how countries are now designing carbon pricing approaches in the context of trade exposure and competitiveness concerns. Countries are navigating how to align domestic systems with evolving international frameworks while managing economic impacts, with technical questions increasingly focused on these external interfaces. This reflects a shift toward more outward-looking system design, where domestic choices are made with international alignment in mind.

#3. Carbon markets are becoming operational systems, not just policy frameworks.

On the carbon markets side, country exchanges showed clear progress in putting in place the core building blocks of participation: legal and governance arrangements for Article 6, authorization systems, and national registries. The examples discussed, from country level authorization processes (e.g. Thailand, Zambia) to registry development (e.g., Brazil, Uzbekistan) and crediting approaches such as jurisdictional REDD+ and programmatic models, illustrate how countries are now working towards making these elements function together in practice. The emphasis is increasingly on connecting these components into coherent systems that can support real transactions.

#4. Systems and infrastructure are emerging as the main constraints to progress.

Across both pricing and markets, countries consistently highlighted challenges related to MRV systems, registries, data management, and institutional coordination. These constraints reflect the complexity of translating policy into operational systems capable of tracking, accounting for, and transacting mitigation outcomes. As a result, technical discussions are increasingly centered on system architecture and how data, institutions, and infrastructure interact to ensure functionality and integrity.

#5. Country experience is increasingly shaping the technical agenda.

The substantive exchanges were grounded in practical country experience, including lessons from early implementation efforts and emerging approaches to market participation. Examples ranged from countries advancing crediting approaches to those establishing registries and authorization frameworks, highlighting how knowledge is increasingly generated through implementation itself and how impact flows from a global collaboration. Rather than just sharing technical answers, the countries involved in the Global Knowledge Forum are co-creating solutions, opening new strategic pathways, and acting as a global coalition for change.

(*) Participating countries: Bangladesh; Belize; Bhutan ; Botswana; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Cambodia; Chile; China ; Colombia; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ecuador; Egypt ; Ethiopia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Indonesia; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; Moldova; Mongolia; Morocco; Nepal; Pakistan; Panama; Philippines; Rwanda; Senegal; South Africa;

Tanzania; Thailand; Türkiye; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; Zambia;

() Knowledge Partners:** AfIP; ADB; AUDA-NEPAD; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); GGGI; GIZ; Gold Standard; ICAP; ICVCM; IEA; IETA; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade; OECD; UNDP; UNFCCC; VCMI; West African Alliance.

(*) Donor partners present at the GKF:** European Commission; Germany; Italy; Japan; Norway; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; UK.