



4th June 2003
Co-chair, TFB

Statement on Progress in the IPCC NGGIP LULUCF Programme

COP7 in its decision 11/CP.7 on Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) invited IPCC to develop methodologies and good practice guidance related to LULUCF. The work was divided into three tasks by the IPCC's NGGIP-LULUCF Programme.

Task 1 (Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF) and Task 2 (Definitions and methodological options to inventory emissions from direct human-induced degradation of forests and devegetation of other vegetation types) have advanced to near-final stage. The second review of the draft reports by governments and experts is currently underway with 27 June 2003 as the deadline for comments. The first review took place in December 2002 and January 2003 and resulted in about 6000 comments. These comments were considered by the authors at the Authors/Experts Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 1 – 3 April 2003. The authors found the comments constructive and useful in improving the draft reports for the second review.

While some categories within the LULUCF sector are well-established and it is relatively straightforward to carry out the estimation of emissions or removals, there are complex areas where additional methodological advice is required.

For example, following the conclusions of SBSTA 15, the Task 1 draft report has elaborated the reporting structure in a way that allows for better association of above-ground and below-ground carbon but still allows comparison with the categories in the Revised 96 Guidelines. Furthermore there is advice on consistent representation of land areas. This is also in line with the SBSTA15 conclusions, and will reduce possible double counting and omissions of land-areas and associated emissions and removals.

The Task 1 Draft Report includes methodologies for certain pools and categories that countries may account for, but which

- are mentioned in the IPCC Guidelines but for which methodologies are not provided (notably Managed Wetlands and some non-CO₂ categories), or
- have a default approach the IPCC Guidelines and a SBSTA work programme underway (in the case of Harvested Wood)
- are not mentioned in the 96 Guidelines but which are needed to complete estimation for categories which are included (in the case of Settlements).

The second-order draft covers these as annexes to indicate transitional status.

Task 1 also provides policy-neutral, scientific methods and good practice guidance for reporting on LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol. In some cases judgement has been required to respond to SBSTA's request for good practice guidance. For example, the treatment of the geographical identification issue where the phrase, "*geographical boundaries of areas of lands that encompass units of land under Article 3.3 and lands under Article 3.4*" is interpreted as consistent with either a

sampling approach, or complete enumeration. Any further elaboration on this, if needed, would be clearly a matter for the COP rather than IPCC.

The second order draft of the Task 2 report provides definitions for direct human-induced degradation of forests and devegetation of other vegetation types, and options for how the related activities could be defined and inventoried. Many comments were received on the first-order draft and we believe that the second order draft report has substantially improved. The definitions have been revised taking the comments from the review and an analysis of potential definitions into account. Particular processes that can, under particular circumstances lead to degradation or devegetation are considered. Methodologies for identification of the “degradation” and “devegetation” are given. The methods for estimating associated carbon stock changes and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions are consistent with those described in the Task 1 report.

The Task 1 and Task 2 reports are still under development. The acceptance and adoption of the reports by the IPCC is scheduled for early November with the aim to submit the reports to COP9. The progress in the Task 1 and Task 2 of the IPCC NGGIP LULUCF Programme will be presented in more detail during the side-event on Friday, 6 June at 6 – 8 pm. The focus of the side-event will be on the content of the second-order drafts, and on how policy-relevant, complex and/or difficult issues raised during the first review have been addressed.

Task 3 deals with the development of practicable methodologies to factor out direct human-induced changes in carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks from those due to indirect human-induced and natural effects, and effects due to past practice in forests. The activities carried out so far as a result of the SBSTA request are principally the organization and conduct of an expert meeting in Geneva, September 16 to 18, 2002, where draft Terms of Reference, Table of Contents and Work Plan for this Task were developed for consideration by the IPCC Plenary. As a result the IPCC Plenary in February 2003 decided to convene a “Terrestrial Carbon Stocks” meeting on scientific aspects of the carbon cycle relating to Task 3. This meeting will take place in Geneva, 21-23 July, 2003. A final decision on how to progress Task 3 will be taken by the IPCC Plenary at its 21st Session in November this year and will be communicated to SBSTA.