

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPCC
Bali, 26-29 October 2009

IPCC-XXXI/Doc. 9
(7.X.2009)
Agenda Item: 10.3
ENGLISH ONLY

PROGRESS REPORT

Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force Bureau)

PROGRESS REPORT

Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Expert meetings held/to be held in 2009

1. The expert meeting on “Revisiting the Use of Managed Land as a Proxy for Estimating National Anthropogenic Emissions and Removals” was held in Brazil on 5-7 May. The meeting started with invited papers reviewing some of the background and current scientific causal understanding of natural and anthropogenic effects on terrestrial greenhouse gas fluxes and practical approaches to estimating them. The meeting then continued with discussions in break-out groups. This meeting assessed the use of managed land as a proxy for anthropogenic effects in different contexts and considered methods being developed to apportion greenhouse gas emissions and removals to specific drivers. Major conclusions are summarized below.
 - Since 2003 the scientific understanding of the drivers of greenhouse gas fluxes from LULUCF sources has developed and so the IPCC decided to revisit the use of the managed land proxy.
 - This meeting came to the conclusion there were no grounds for altering the advice to use managed land as a proxy for anthropogenic emissions and removals. The meeting briefly reviewed a number of proposed alternatives to the managed land proxy and considered they still needed further development before they can be assessed for use by the IPCC. These methods need to be reviewed with regard to their methodological implications, data requirements and compatibility with the inventory principles.
 - While the meeting agreed that annual emission inventories should estimate the actual emissions in the inventory year, it was also noted that there is a need to be able to identify the impact of mitigation and management effects even where these are obscured by inter-annual variations in greenhouse gas fluxes.
 - A clearer common understanding of ‘anthropogenic’ is needed particularly in relation to the distinction between direct, indirect and natural effects, and how to classify effects that have a range of natural and direct influences, for example where there is a “natural” origin but the emission is mainly determined by direct anthropogenic factors.
 - Guidance for wetlands will need development in the future but currently the scientific understanding of the factors determining these fluxes is still developing. One issue that will need to be addressed is how to deal with areas with significant natural fluxes, so that emissions estimated using the IPCC guidelines do not reflect the changes seen by the atmosphere. This situation occurs in other sectors but is particularly acute in the wetland sector.
2. IPCC/FAO Joint Expert Meeting on “Activity Data for LULUCF/AFOLU”. The FAO holds much useful data and providing a guide to this will be useful to many developing countries. This meeting was held in Rome on 20-22 October.
3. 2006 Guidelines Software review meeting is planned for 18-20 November.

Activities of the Emission Factor Database (EFDB)

4. The overall objective of the Emission Factor Database (EFDB) is to be an updated companion for the IPCC Inventory Guidelines that is seen as a worldwide resource for greenhouse gas inventory compilers and developers. The EFDB aims at increasing the range of emission factors and other related parameters available, so as to provide users with data that may be

more appropriate for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals for their national inventories under the UNFCCC.

5. The database is open for proposals of new emission factors and parameters, which are evaluated as per their robustness, applicability and appropriate documentation by the Editorial Board composed of thirty-five experts recommended by IPCC Member States.
6. The seventh meeting of Editorial Board of the EFDB with the newly nominated members was held in Santiago, Chile, on 22-24 June, 2009. Two EFDB Data meetings on agriculture, and LULUCF were held immediately following the EB meeting to consider potential candidate emission factors and parameters.
7. The term of some members of the Editorial Board will expire at the end of this year. Nomination of experts for new members will be called for in due course.

21st Session of the TFB

8. The 21st session of the IPCC's Task Force Inventory Bureau (TFB) will meet in Geneva on 16-18 November 2009. It will consider the future work of the TFI, which are described subsequently in this paper.
9. The TFB consideration will centre around the following issues:
 - The work to promote the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas inventories: This work includes development of the TFI web site, production of supporting materials such as the Primer and brochures, and representation of the IPCC at meetings.
 - The 2006 Guidelines Software development: work is on-going towards the completion of Phase 2. The demonstration version for the Energy sector alone (Phase 1) is available for download from our web site¹ and the software components for other sectors are being developed. Evaluation will be carried out at an expert meeting in November 2009 for the components developed in 2009.
 - The Emission factor database: Please see above.
 - Any requests from the UNFCCC: In the on-going negotiations several areas of future work for the IPCC Inventory Programme are mentioned. It is hoped by the time of the IPCC Panel XXXI, some more details of UNFCCC Parties' expectations will become available, so that any future work of TFI can be considered. .
 - UNFCCC SBSTA30 consideration of the use of 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories by the UNFCCC: Conclusions of SBSTA30 is contained in the appendix to this paper. TFI will need to continue any actions required to respond to UNFCCC on this matter.

Meetings planned for 2010

10. An Expert Meeting on Uncertainty and Validation of Emission Inventories. This would cover a number of linked areas and produce a meeting report (IPCC "Supporting material") to assist inventory compilers. This would cover: more explanation on uncertainty assessment; treatment of uncertainties associated with remote sensing; Tier 3 models: how they should be reported and documented and how they could, in general be validated; comparison of inventories with ambient measurements and a validation/verification process.

¹ <http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/support/support.html>

11. An Expert Meeting on Higher Detail in Inventories. This would look at the linked ideas of the use of facility level data (estimates and measurements) in national inventories; ensuring that inventories can track mitigation efforts in a transparent way and the use of Tier 3 approaches in national greenhouse gas inventories.
12. In addition to the above, an additional expert meeting will be held, largely using Japanese funding. It is now planned, in view of the increasing attention and importance of forest-related inventories, an expert meeting on inventory methodologies related to forestry will be held in Japan in February²
13. The eighth meeting of the EFDB Editorial Board and two Data meetings will be held.

² This meeting was planned originally in 2009.

SBSTA 30 Conclusions on the IPCC Inventory Guidelines (Excerpts)
[FCCC/SBSTA/2009/L.11]

3. The SBSTA acknowledged that the 2006 IPCC Guidelines contain the most recent scientific methodologies available to estimate emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHGs) not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and recognized that Parties have gained experience

with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The SBSTA also acknowledged that the information contained in the

2006 IPCC Guidelines enables Parties to further improve the quality of their GHG inventories. It further acknowledged the need to address methodological issues arising from the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, including, inter alia, those listed in the annex, in relation to reporting of anthropogenic emissions and removals of GHGs under the Convention.

4. The SBSTA agreed that the process for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) to implement the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines should be through a revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the common reporting format (CRF) tables, taking into consideration the methodological issues in paragraph 3 above.

5. In undertaking a revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, the SBSTA also noted the need to take into account the ongoing considerations under the Convention.

6. The SBSTA agreed to launch a work programme in 2010 for the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, with a view to recommending revised UNFCCC reporting guidelines for adoption by the Conference of the Parties, for regular use starting in 2015.

7. The SBSTA agreed on the scope of the work programme, covering the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines and addressing the methodological issues related to reporting when using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, as presented in the annex.

8. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2010, their views on the following issues for compilation into a miscellaneous document:

(a) ... (d).

- The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, subject to the availability of resources, two workshops on this work programme in 2010: one in the first half of the year, and the other in the second half. The first workshop should address key issues relating to the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines and the second should address the methodological issues related to reporting when using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. ...

12. The SBSTA noted the need for capacity-building to facilitate all Parties' use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The SBSTA also noted the work of the IPCC that is helping to facilitate the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, including its efforts to develop inventory software and the emission factor database. It invited the IPCC and other relevant organizations to strengthen their efforts in this area, including on the elements of the work programme contained in the annex.

.....