

Submission by the Government of Japan
Consideration how to reflect the supplemental guidance on wetlands in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guideline and the CRF tables as mentioned in paragraph 4 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.15 (8 November, 2013)

1. Background

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views in response to the invitation made by Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its thirty-eight session on issues related to how to reflect the supplemental guidance on wetlands (Wetlands Supplements) in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guideline and the CRF tables (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.15, paragraph 4).

Japan has submitted its preliminary views on treatment of Wetlands Supplements (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/MISC.14). This submission presents Japan's further views on this matter.

2. General Comments

Japan welcomes the acceptance of the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: (Wetlands Supplement) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 37th Session, held in Georgia, on 14-18 October 2013. Japan appreciates efforts made by IPCC in the preparing of the Wetlands Supplement.

Japan considers that some part of new methodologies in the Wetlands Supplement leads to the revision of the CRF tables and the following issues in section 3 and 4 in this submission should be included in the consideration how to reflect the Wetlands Supplement in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guideline by SBSTA 39. It should be noted that some comments from Japan are not directly relating to the Wetlands Supplement but are based on the remaining issues which SBSTA38 could not reach a consent.

3. Specific Comments

Table 3.D (Direct and indirect N₂O emissions from agricultural soil in Agriculture sector)

Suggestion

Reiterate a need of adding the row of "Mineralization of soil organic matter" in this table.

Rationale

As we discussed in SBSTA 38, 2006 IPCC guideline provides the methodology about this sub-category and Footnote 2 in Table 4(III) of AFOLU clearly indicates N₂O emissions from Cropland remaining cropland are included in the agriculture sector. Thus, reporting cell under Agriculture sector is necessary.

Table 4.1 (Land transition matrix)

Suggestion

Add a new footnote "Coastal wetlands areas which are not part of total land area should not be included in this land matrix."

Rationale

Chapter 7.2.1.3, the Wetlands Supplements clearly indicates "Only areas which are part of the total land

areas would be included in the land matrix.”

Implication

Each background table 4.A ~ 4.E may need an additional footnote to describe separation of land areas part of and not-part of total land when a party applies coastal wetland calculation.

Table 4.A (Forest land), 4.B (Cropland), 4.C (Grassland)

Suggestion

Add a new footnote to the cell of “Organic soil” under “CHANGES IN CARBON STOCK” and say “Annual on-site CO₂-C emissions/removals and off-site CO₂-C emissions from drained organic soils are reported here” in each sheet.

Rationale

New methodologies for on-site CO₂ removals from rewetting (Chapter 3.2.1) and off-site CO₂ emissions (Chapter 2.2.1.2) are provided in the Wetlands Supplement.

Table 4.D (wetlands)

Suggestion

- (1) Add a new row of “Other wetlands remaining other wetlands”. (Already in the afolu table at the end of SBSTA 38)
- (2) Add a new footnote to the cell of “Other wetlands remaining other wetlands” and say “Detailed information on Other wetlands should be included in the NIR.

Rationale

- (1) Coastal wetland chapter in the Wetlands Supplement (Chapter 4.1) suggests creating a sub-category “Other wetlands remaining other wetlands”.
- (2) Based on the suggestion in the Wetlands Supplement (Table 3.3 in ANNEX 7.2).

Table 4(II) Non-CO₂ emissions from management and drainage of organic soils

General note

The preference of Japan is using a separate sheet of Table 4(II) for reporting CH₄ and N₂O emissions/removals from drainage and rewetting of organic soils, not using 4.A ~ 4.F sheets. Because it becomes complicated if the tables 4.A ~4.F include CH₄ and N₂O cells in the reporting. Japan is open to further discussing the way of reporting CH₄ and N₂O from this source/sink.

Japan notes the following potential new reporting should be included in the relevant reporting table.

- CH₄ emissions/removals due to drainage or rewetting in inland organic soils (except for rice cultivation reported in the agriculture sector)
- CH₄ emissions from restored and created wetlands on managed lands with inland wetland mineral soils (except for rice cultivation reported in the agriculture sector)
- CH₄ emissions from rewetting of mangroves and tidal marshes
- N₂O emissions/removals due to drainage or rewetting in organic soils (except for cropland and grassland reported in the agriculture sector)

- N₂O emissions from aquaculture

Suggestions

- (1) Add new rows of “B. Cropland” and “C. Grassland” for CH₄ emissions/removals reporting. N₂O cells should be shaded because Agriculture sector already covers the relevant sources.
- (2) The cell of “B Cropland” is accompanied with a footnote “On-site CH₄ emissions/removals from rice cultivation are included in the agriculture sector”.
- (3) Add a new sub-category of “Other wetlands” under wetlands. (Already in the afolu table at the end of SBSTA 38)
- (4) Add new footnotes to the cell of “CH₄” and “N₂O” under “EMISSIONS” and refer the sources/sinks listed in the general note above.

Rationale

- (1) CH₄ emissions/removals in cropland and grassland can occur based on the Wetlands Supplement (Chapter 2.2.2.1, 3.2.2, and 5.2.2).
- (2) CH₄ emissions in rice cultivation are reported in the agriculture sector.
- (3) See the comment under Table 4.D.
- (4) It is better to clarify what sources/sinks are included.

Table 4.(III) (Direct nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions from nitrogen (N) mineralization/immobilization associated with loss/gain of soil organic matter resulting from change of land use or management of mineral soils)

Suggestion

- (1) For the options in the top row, Japan prefers Option 2: ACTIVITY DATA AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION.
- (2) For the options in the second top row, Japan prefers Option 2: AREA.

Rationale

- (1) Because area is very useful information to fill in this CRF table, but the real activity data for calculation is amount of gain/loss of soil carbon. So “ACTIVITY DATA” is not a correct word here.
- (2) Area is very information what a party should report here.