

Conclusions and Recommendations
Fourth meeting of inventory lead reviewers
Bonn, Germany

4–6 October 2006

The fourth meeting of inventory lead reviewers (LRs) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 4–6 October. Fifty-four experts attended: 26 experts from Annex I Parties and 28 experts from non-Annex I Parties. In addition, one representative of an intergovernmental organization (the IPCC national greenhouse gas inventories programme) attended the meeting as an observer.

The meeting addressed both procedural and technical issues related to the annual review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and to the initial reviews under the Kyoto Protocol. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting are presented below.

Review process

The LRs affirmed that the review transcript is an important tool for the review process, but agreed that the completion of the review transcripts should not detract from other tasks of the ERTs. LRs agreed that experts should be encouraged to complete the review transcript during the early stages of the review, and to use the review transcript as an input into the review report. The LRs requested that the secretariat consider ways to further improve the user-friendliness of the review transcript.

LRs reiterated their request that the secretariat, in consultation with the LRs of the team, update the review transcripts following completion of the review report for each Party.

LRs recognized their role in ensuring that any request from ERTs for additional information from the Party is appropriate to the problem identified. To this end, the requests for inclusion of further information in the national inventory report (NIR) should be consistent with the reporting requirements in the UNFCCC reporting guidelines and should mainly focus on key categories. However, the ERTs should request more detailed information during the review to resolve any potential problems. Any additional information provided by the Party or communication between the ERT and a Party regarding an issue, should be maintained by the secretariat and provided to future ERTs upon request.

LRs also reaffirmed their responsibility to assure that the ERTs recommendations and findings, as reflected in the review report, are clear, precise, feasible and consistent with the review guidelines.

LRs requested that the secretariat give priority to the development of a protected web-based platform to facilitate communication among lead reviewers.

Training

LRs welcomed the secretariat's implementation of the training courses for review under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and endorsed the secretariat's plans to continue to offer the courses on-line, and through seminars when resources allow.

In order to improve the ease of using the on-line courses, LRs requested the secretariat to provide a user-friendly option for printing course materials. LRs also requested the secretariat to update the training programme for the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to reflect recent experiences.

Methodological issues

LRs reiterated the conclusions from the 2nd LRs meeting that Parties should not be criticized for including country specific sources, provided that these sources have been reported transparently, consistently over time and are in accordance with the cross-cutting IPCC good practice guidance principles.

In addition, LRs reiterates that the use of a country-specific methodology, including country-specific emission factors (EF), is encouraged by the IPCC Guidelines and Good Practice Guidance, when the use of such a methodology results in a more accurate estimate. In the case of a country-specific EF, the ERT should check that the EF has been appropriately documented and is in accordance with the IPCC Guidelines and Good Practice Guidance.

LRs agreed that additional guidance to ERTs would facilitate consistent reviews of the industrial processes sector

- In cases where inventory data for a source are considered confidential by a Party, ERTs should encourage Parties to provide additional information in the NIR to facilitate review, for example indexed and relative information. Parties should also be reminded to use the notation key “C” in the CRF.
- IPCC Good Practice Guidance encourages the use of plant-specific data even if such data are not available for all plants. The use of different data and methods across plants can be consistent with good practice. In reviewing an estimate based on more than one method or data type, the ERT should consider the possibility of double-counting or omission, whether appropriate quality assurance/quality control procedures have been applied, that the relevant activity data and implied emission factors (IEFs) are provided in the CRF, and that the methodology has been transparently documented in the NIR.
- LRs requested the secretariat to update the review handbook to indicate that the Solvay process may be a source of CO₂ emissions, and provide more detailed information on the Solvay process.
- LRs agreed that a carbon balance can be a useful tool for verifying emissions in the iron and steel sector, and demonstrating that no double-counting or omission has occurred. If an ERT recommends that a Party include information on its carbon balance in order to improve the transparency of these sectors in the NIR, the ERT should also provide reference to appropriate guidance for preparing a carbon balance. In this regard, the LRs requested the secretariat to compile a list of references for use by ERTs.

LRs agreed that additional guidance to ERTs would facilitate consistent reviews of the ‘Manufacture of solid fuels and other energy industries’ category. LRs requested the secretariat to provide more information on EFs used for this category in the review handbook.

LRs recognized that Parties may use annual or three-year averaged livestock population data to estimate emissions in the agriculture sector. ERTs should encourage Parties to document the method used to estimate the annual livestock population, and the reason for using annual or averaged data.

Adjustments

LRs thanked the secretariat for organizing the exercise for review teams to gain experience with the application of adjustments during the 2005 reviews, and for presenting an overview of these experiences. LRs requested the secretariat to update the inventory review resources on adjustments to include illustrative examples of the calculation of adjustments, based on these experiences that are consistent with the technical guidance on methodologies for adjustment.

LRs recommended that the secretariat and LRs encourage all experts to familiarize themselves with the text of decision 20/CMP.1 (Good practice guidance and adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol), as well as the technical guidance on methodologies for adjustments.

LRs emphasized that interaction between the ERT and the Party is essential to resolve potential adjustment cases, calculate adjustments at the appropriate level, and to obtain information and data necessary for the calculation of adjustments. LRs requested the secretariat to provide guidance to ERTs on the appropriate format for communication with Parties regarding adjustments.

Initial Review under the Kyoto Protocol

LRs welcomed the secretariat's presentation on rules and requirements for accounting for emissions and assigned amount under the Kyoto Protocol, and noted that such information would be useful for Parties and experts involved in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. LRs requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of these rules and requirements, and publish it as a reference manual for use by Parties and experts.

LRs endorsed the secretariat's approach and timeline for conducting the initial reviews and the 2006 inventory reviews in accordance with decisions 26/CMP.1 and 7/CP.11. LRs also agreed that secretariat's plans for the scope of the review, including national inventories, assigned amount, commitment period reserve, national registry and national systems, and the division of responsibility of review team members is appropriate.

LRs requested the secretariat to inform the Registry Systems Administrators Forum of the need to provide the Independent Assessment reports of national registry sufficiently early for consideration by the ERT. LRs also requested the secretariat to ensure that the Independent Assessment reports cover critical registry requirements and that the conclusions of the assessment are presented in a manner that can be understood by ERTs and reflected in the ERTs report, as appropriate.

LRs agreed that the full time series of inventory data must be considered during the initial review, and that the ERT should identify any unresolved inventory problems in the final review report. LRs recognized that omissions or underestimates in the base year could have implications for a Party's accounting of emissions during the commitment period. For this reason, when these types of potential problems are identified, ERTs are encouraged to discuss the implications with the Party.

LRs agreed that the ERTs should give careful consideration to the identification of questions of implementation, as defined in the review guidelines under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. When a question of implementation is identified in a final review report, ERTs should ensure that the problem is clearly described in terminology that can be understood by the Compliance Committee.

LRs agreed that adherence of the ERTs to the review deadlines is essential to enable timely completion of the Kyoto Protocol's procedures for establishment of Annex I Parties' assigned amount. In this regard, LRs recognized their role in ensuring that ERTs meet the appropriate deadlines for preparation and finalization of the review reports. LRs also recognized the importance of Parties meeting the relevant deadlines at all stages of the review process.

LRs expressed concern about the potential financial and human resources constraints for conducting simultaneous review processes for the initial reviews, in conjunction with the 2006 annual review, and the 2007 annual reviews. LRs emphasized the need for Parties to give consideration to ways in which the 2007 annual reviews can be conducted, for example by allowing the secretariat additional flexibility in conducting the 2007 annual reviews with respect to their timing and scope.

The LRs welcomed the effort of the secretariat to improve the management of information for the review process and to develop additional tools to further facilitate the review process.
