

20 November 2008

**Wetlands International**  
Droevendaalsesteeg 3A  
PO Box 471  
6700 AL Wageningen  
The Netherlands  
Phone +31 (0)317 486774  
Fax +31(0) 317 486770  
post@wetlands.org  
<http://www.wetlands.org>



## **UNFCCC, COP14, 1-12 December Poznan**

Wetlands International Submission to:

**The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)**  
and to:

**The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)**

and to:

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its  
twenty-ninth session**

**Global emissions from loss of organic peat soils amount more than 3000 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (Mt/CO<sub>2</sub>) per year; around 10% of all global anthropogenic emissions. These emissions from peat soil loss are currently not accounted under the Kyoto Protocol; just reported<sup>1</sup>. Preventing emissions from drained and degrading peat soils in non-Annex 1 is not currently eligible under CDM. The Bali Action Plan allows to address the large soil carbon emissions.**

### **Wetlands International calls for:**

- Mandatory (net-net) accounting of peatland emissions under the Kyoto second commitment period
- Options for developed countries to reduce emissions by addressing peatland degradation in developing countries
- For any REDD policy: inclusion of soil-carbon but also of deforested peatlands

## **Guidance for the relevant Poznan meetings:**

### **AWG-KP: Status of LULUCF emissions in 2nd commitment period**

Under point 3 b) on the agenda, Parties will discuss the status of LULUCF emissions in the 2nd commitment period (Agenda item 17). Discussion is about the 4 options in <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/awg6/eng/l11.pdf>

The most effective incentive to target emissions from peatlands can be provided by option 4 in this document: the land based approach. This will lead to full accounting of the emissions, inclusion of all greenhouse gas emissions and removals for accounting with 1990 as base year.

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<sup>1</sup> Kyoto Protocol 3.4: no mandatory accounting. Reporting under land use categories.

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The peatland emissions will in this approach be treated similarly to for instance emissions from fossil fuel use.

A second best would be option 3 (forward looking baseline for article 3.4) with the choice under 'Other issues' to make accounting for all activities under 3.4 compulsory.

**SBSTA: methodological decision on REDD**

Point 5 on the SBSTA agenda is to discuss the decision on "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries: approaches to stimulate action". In line with article 7 and 8 of this decision SBSTA will discuss methodological issues to assess forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions.

Contracting parties are urged to incorporate all five carbon pools named by IPCC<sup>2</sup> to calculate Land Use and Forestry emissions, including soil carbon<sup>3</sup>. This will enable appropriate incentives for maintaining forests with high soil carbon stocks such as peatlands while not disadvantaging those with other forest types.

**AWG-LCA: include ending peatland emissions under REDD**

Point 3 b) on the agenda is to discuss national and international mitigation.

Wetlands International urges the Contracting Parties to work on options under the Bali Action Plan:

- Regarding b) ii '*mitigation in developing countries, supported by technology, financing and capacity building*', to include projects that end or prevent the predictable emissions from peatland loss (drained areas), to be supported by developed countries.
- Regarding point b) iii dealing with REDD:
  - To use the IPCC five carbon pools to determine stocks and losses for forests
  - To include areas deforested since 1990 with still substantial carbon stocks for REDD activities

Wetlands International looks forward to working with Parties to develop an effective post-2012 response to the challenges posed by the impacts of wetland loss on climate change.

Jane Madgwick  
Chief Executive Officer

*Contact point:*

Alex Kaat  
Communications Manager of Wetlands International  
[Alex.kaat@wetlands.org](mailto:Alex.kaat@wetlands.org)  
+(0)6 5060 1917 (mobile)  
+(0)317 478856

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<sup>2</sup> IPCC 2006, [National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Volume 4](#)

<sup>3</sup> Other carbon pools are living biomass divided into above and underground, dead biomass divided into litter and dead wood.