

Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Rainforest Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Wildlife Conservation Society, Woods Hole Research Center

Submission on ADP Workstream 1

Land Use Mitigation Post-2020: Opportunities for Land Use Robust Accounting

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Ambitious emissions reductions, at a global scale, are needed now and beyond 2020 to avoid the worst impacts from climate change. As a source of just under a third of global emissions land use and land use change can help address climate change. Mitigation from agriculture, forestry, and other land uses (AFOLU) can be part of a robust post-2020 framework, while respecting core Convention principles, the Durban outcome, and other relevant UNFCCC decisions. Therefore AFOLU should be considered a top-tier element of ADP Workstream 1 and given equivalent attention as other major mitigation sectors.

A major part of the environmental integrity of AFOLU rules and approaches in ADP Workstream 1 will depend on sound accounting guidelines. They should be established to promote a coherent and comprehensive approach to land use while accommodating all countries. ADP Workstream 1, therefore, should consider how to incorporate the IPCC principles of transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability, and completeness into AFOLU accounting guidelines. In doing so, the following should be taken into account:

- That while striving for comprehensiveness and a robust policy framework, the different national circumstances and technical and financial capacities among countries will require a flexible set of common approaches.
- Decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, and 12/CP.17 already set many standards for these IPCC principles for forestry under REDD+
- Parties should aim for equivalent treatment of land uses and activities wherever they occur (taking appropriate consideration of national circumstances, as mentioned above), and the avoidance of accounting gaps (or double-counting).

Beyond the technical aspects of AFOLU mitigation accounting, ADP Workstream 1 should consider the relationship between land use mitigation and adaptation. Some of the issues that need to be considered carefully are: the need to enhance the resilience of agricultural production and increase food security; the potential for mitigation benefits to be degraded by future climate impacts; and the important role of natural systems in adaptation strategies. Workshops gathering experience and data on synergies or trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation may be a useful

starting point. Furthermore, safeguards to promote sustainable, locally and economically viable solutions may be needed, and should also be considered and prepared in the next few years by ADP Workstream 1.

Suggested further reading:

- *Submission to SBSTA work program to explore more comprehensive accounting of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks from land use, land-use change, and forestry* from the Environmental Defense Fund, September 2012
- *Agriculture – Submission to the UNFCCC* from the Union of Concerned Scientists, March 2012
- *Rainforest Alliance submission to the UNFCCC AWG-LCA: Views on matters relating to agriculture under SBSTA* from Rainforest Alliance, March 2012

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