

New Zealand submission to SBSTA

General guidelines for domestic MRV of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties

March 2013

1. This submission responds to the invitation from SBSTA 37 to provide views on general guidelines for domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.24, paragraph 3 refers).

Context

2. New Zealand notes that the SBSTA is undertaking this work because the UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention Parties state that these Parties should provide information on domestic MRV arrangements (paragraph 14 of Annex III to decision 2/CP.17 refers). Given that there is no guidance on what might be encompassed, the COP requested SBSTA to develop general guidelines for domestic MRV of domestically-supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions (paragraph 37 of decision 2/CP.17 refers).

3. New Zealand further notes the progress made at SBSTA 37 regarding discussion of the above guidelines, in particular noting that SBSTA agreed that the guidelines should be general, voluntary, pragmatic, non-prescriptive, non-intrusive and country driven, take into account national circumstances and national priorities, respect the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, build on existing domestic systems and capacities, recognize existing domestic measurement, reporting and verification systems and promote a cost-effective approach.

4. In New Zealand's view, domestic MRV systems should be designed and operated to ensure the quality of the national greenhouse gas inventory data and other information on mitigation actions and their effects. A well run and well-documented MRV system that follows standard good practice principles will build confidence in reporting at both domestic and international levels.

5. Ultimately the results of national mitigation actions will be reflected in the national greenhouse gas inventory. In this regard New Zealand would further note that Articles 4.1(a) and 12.1(a) of the Convention highlight the importance of Parties using comparable methodologies.

Content of the guidelines

6. New Zealand's submission to the LCA in August 2011 on guidelines for biennial update reports (FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/MISC.7/Add.3 refers) proposed the following for domestic MRV systems:

Recognising different national circumstances, a domestic system for MRV could include:

- (a) Clear identification of an entity or entities responsible for implementing, measuring, reporting and verifying mitigation actions, and clarification of the appropriate roles and responsibilities;*

- (b) Establishment of a system for collection of all relevant data, sources, and methodologies, including any models used for projections or extrapolation;*
- (c) Selection of performance indicators to measure progress in implementation of mitigation actions, and procedures for reporting and collecting performance indicator data;*
- (d) A system of quality assurance and control to ensure reliability of data and performance indicators;*
- (e) A process for verifying implementation of actions and the relevant performance indicators, including through some form of independent, expert third party review or audit;*
- (f) A process for reporting information in a way that is transparent, consistent, comparable, and complete, and made available to the public.*

In providing information on its domestic system for MRV, each non-Annex I Party should describe any methodologies applied and document the rationale for the approaches taken.

7. In this submission New Zealand re-proposes the above outline of a domestic system for MRV as a basis for developing guidelines for domestic MRV of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties. Each of the above points could have further general guidance or illustrative examples under them.

8. The use of decision-trees could also enhance the guidelines for domestic MRV. Decision-trees may prove to be useful tools to ensure that relevant existing systems of data collection, management and reporting serve as a basis, and that the principles of good practice are applied, including with respect to national circumstances and promoting a cost-effective approach.

Conclusion

9. New Zealand looks forward to further discussion of the domestic MRV guidelines at SBSTA38 and to finalising the work and adopting a decision containing the domestic MRV guidelines at COP 19 in November 2013.