

Japan's additional informal submission on information and data to facilitate further consideration of the LULUCF options

Japan informally submits additional information and data related to forest to facilitate further consideration of the LULUCF options. The submission shows the preliminary projections of CO₂ emissions/removals from forest. The historical data of net GHGs emissions/removals are presented on the former submission in September, 2009 (http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/japanlulucf290909.pdf).

1. Table shows the following projections of emissions/removals from forests;
 - (1) Net CO₂ emissions/removals from forest land under the UNFCCC¹ in 2015 and 2020;
 - (2) Net CO₂ emissions/removals from the “forest management” of Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol in 2015 and 2020 under the following accounting options;
 - (a) Gross-net with cap (assumed existing cap = 13Mt-Carbon for Japan);
 - (b) Gross-net (no cap);
 - (c) Gross-net (discount rate (85%));
 - (d) Net-net (base year 1990);
 - (e) The Reference level (the bar).
2. The projections are developed using the following assumptions;
 - 1) The current level of forest management activities including thinning continues to be maintained;
 - 2) The change of the level of harvesting and planting and subsequent change of forest area and age class structure are in accordance with the current basic government plans of forest and forestry including the Nationwide Forest Plan (2008).
3. In addition, the forest and forestry policy in Japan may be changed in such ways as putting more focus on the promotion of the forest products utilization including bioenergy use. This likely increases harvesting, which leads to the decline of the CO₂ removals, while it is, on the other hand, expected to contribute to the decline of emissions from other sources.
4. The projections of Gross-net with cap (a) and Gross-net (no cap) (b) are calculated on the assumption that “narrow approach” (only forests subject to “forest management activities since 1990” are accounted) will be used in the same manner as in the first commitment period.
5. The projection of Gross-net with cap (a) assumes that the cap under the first Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol will be applied. The cap under the first commitment period for Japan is 13 Mt Carbon/year (=47.67Mt CO₂/year).

¹ The area of forest land under the UNFCCC equals to that of all forests in Japan.

6. The projection of Gross-net (discount rate) (c) applies 85% discount rate to emissions/ removals from forest land under the UNFCCC (1).
7. The projection of Net-net (d) preliminarily uses 1990 as the base year, and applies the assumption that emissions and removals in the base year and year 2015 and 2020 are those from forest land under the UNFCCC (1). In addition, Japan takes “narrow approach” described in GPG-LULUCF during the first commitment period, and attention should be paid that there is no clear rule about the amount of base year emissions/removals if “narrow approach” is to be applied to Net-net because, by definition, accountable forests are equal to zero at the beginning of 1990 and expand afterwards with the implementation of forest management activities.
8. The projection of the Reference level² (the bar) (e) is the same as the projection of Gross-net. Taking into account the criteria as contained in Option 3 [reference levels] under para 11, Option A of the document¹, Japan considers that the Reference level (the bar) could be set as Zero for Japan because: (i) net removals are expected to decline due to age class structure even in the presence of extensive sustainable forest management activities; (ii) forest management is elected in the first commitment period, and the continuity with treatment of forest management is essential to maintain incentives for continued sustainable forest management created under the current rules; and, (iii) “narrow approach” is taken to strictly identify accountable forests subject to forest management activities since 1990..
9. The projections of each option only demonstrate CO₂ emissions/removals, since emission/removals of other GHGs from forest are negligible.
10. The projections are preliminary and the updated projections may be provided in due course, taking into account the development of updated forest policy.

² See FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10/Add.3/Rev.2 Annex II “Options and proposals on how to address definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines for the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry”, Option A, Section C, Accounting for forest management, Option 3 (reference levels): Para 11 (P.18).

Table: The projections of CO2 emissions and removals on each accounting options

Year	Base Year Total GHG emissions under the Kyoto Protocol (Mt CO2eq)	(1) Net CO2 emissions/removals from forest land under the UNFCCC (Mt CO2)	(2) Net CO2 emissions/removals on each accounting option from "forest management" of Article3.4 under the Kyoto Protocol (Mt CO2)				
			(a) Gross-net with cap	(b) Gross-net (no cap)	(c) Gross-net (discount rate(85%))	(d) Net-net (base year 1990)	(e) Reference Level (the bar)
1990	1,261 (base year)	81					
2015		~67	~39	~39	~10	~△14	~39
	(Percent of BY Total GHG emissions under KP)		(~3.1%)	(~3.1%)	(~0.8%)	(~△1.1%)	(~3.1%)
2020		~62	~37	~37	~9	~△19	~37
	(Percent of BY Total GHG emissions under KP)		(~ 2.9%)	(~ 2.9%)	(~ 0.7%)	(~△1.5%)	(~2.9%)

Note: Positive sign = removal, Negative sign (△) = emission