

Switzerland's Initial Report under Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Kyoto Protocol

Update following the UNFCCC review



SWISS CONFEDERATION

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Introduction

On 10 November 2006, Switzerland submitted its Initial Report under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This report was subject to an in-depth review by a UNFCCC expert team, including an in-country visit in Berne from 5 to 10 March 2007 (see document [FCCC/IRR/2007/CHE](#), Report of the review of the initial report of Switzerland).

In the course of the review, two issues were raised by the review team, the resolution of which had an impact on the content of the Initial Report. The first issue concerned a revised estimate for emissions from natural gas losses in the gas pipeline network in the 2006 GHG inventory. This revision led to a minor correction of the entire time series 1990–2004, thereby affecting the assigned amount and the commitment period reserve. The second issue concerned the modification of LULUCF parameters proposed by Switzerland for the definition of forest in order to fully comply with Decision 16/CMP.1.

The subsequent modifications of the content of Switzerland's Initial Report are documented in this update. The affected excerpts are presented in the same format as in the Initial Report.

By decision of the National Inventory System Supervisory Body (NISSB) of 17 October 2007 this update is submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat for publication on its website as a complement to the original report.

Part I

C) Calculation of the assigned amount

(...)

Table C.1 Calculation of Switzerland's assigned amount

| Base year emission [t CO ₂ equivalent] | Base year emission times 5 [t CO ₂ equivalent] | Percentage according to Annex B [%] | Calculated assigned amount [t CO ₂ equivalent] |
|--|---|---|---|
| 52 790 957 | 263 954 785 | 92 % | 242 838 402 |

The calculated assigned amount of Switzerland is 242 838 402 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

Part II

D) Calculation of the commitment period reserve

(...)

Table D.1 Calculation of the commitment period reserve

| Method 1 | Method 2 |
|---|--|
| 90 % of the assigned amount (see Table C.1) [t CO ₂ equivalent] | Total of 2004 emissions without LULUCF (see FCCC/IRR/2007/CHE, Table 3) times 5 [t CO ₂ equivalent] |
| 242 838 402 x 0.9 = 218 554 562 | 53 084 530.49 x 5 = 265 422 652 |

Method 1 results in the lower value.

The commitment period reserve of Switzerland is calculated as 218 554 562 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

E) Selected definitions for reporting under Article 3, paras 3 and 4

Definition of forest

For activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Kyoto Protocol, the Marrakech Accords (in the annex to decision 16/CMP.1¹) list the definitions to be specified by Parties. For forest, Switzerland chooses the following definition (see left-hand side of Figure E.1):

Forest is

a minimum area of land of 0.0625 ha with crown cover of at least 20 % and a minimum width of 25 m. The minimum height of the dominant trees must be 3 m or have the potential to reach 3 m at maturity in situ.

The following forest areas are not subject of the criteria of minimum stand height and minimum crown cover, but must have the potential to achieve it: afforested, regenerated, as well as burned, cut or damaged areas. Although orchards, parks, camping grounds, open tree formations in settlements, gardens, cemeteries, sports and parking fields may fulfil the (quantitative) forest definition, they are not considered as forests.

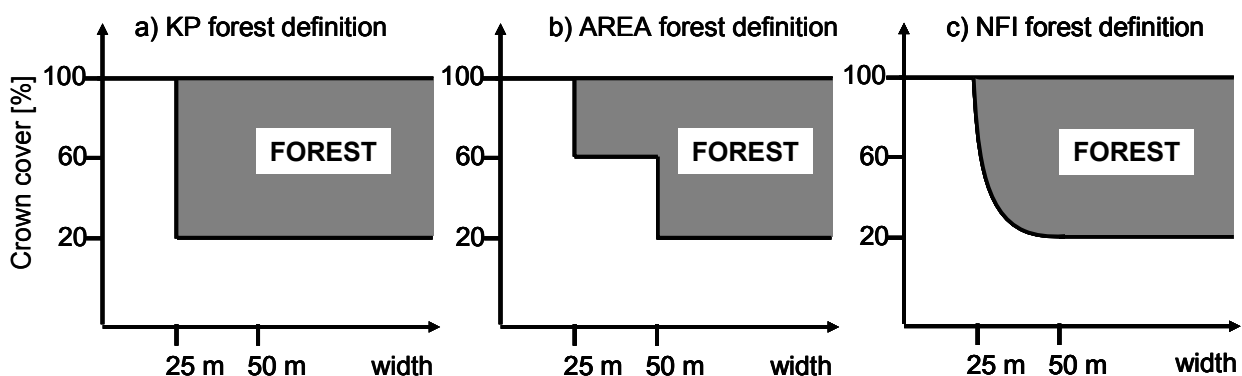


Figure E.1 Forest definition used for Kyoto reporting, the Swiss Land Use Statistics (AREA) of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, and the Swiss National Forest Inventory, respectively.

For reporting under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, Switzerland applies the forest definition as shown in Figure E.1 a).

The forest definition of the Swiss Land Use Statistics (AREA) of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office is displayed in Figure E.1 b). AREA provides an excellent data base to derive accurate, detailed information of not only forest areas, but all types of land use and land cover. Forest definition in the Swiss National Forest Inventory (NFI, Figure E.1 c) is used for reporting to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Due to decision 16/CMP.1 asking for single minimum values, the forest definition applied for Kyoto reporting deviates from the definition applied for FAO reporting.

Quantitative data about forest growing stock, increment, harvesting, and mortality reported to the Kyoto Protocol as well as to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations are derived from the first and the second NFI (NFI I: 1983-1985; NFI II: 1993-1995).

¹ Definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/8/Add.3)

Definition of afforestation and reforestation

Reforestation does not occur in Switzerland. Switzerland chooses the following definition of afforestation:

Afforestation is

the conversion to forest of an area not fulfilling the definition of forest for a period of at least 50 years if the conversion is a direct human-induced activity.

Natural forest regeneration due to abandonment of land is not considered to be a direct human-induced activity.

(...)

Definition of deforestation

Switzerland chooses the following definition of deforestation:

Deforestation is

the permanent conversion of areas fulfilling the definition of forest in terms of minimum forest area to areas not fulfilling the definition of forest as a consequence of direct human influence.

(...)

F) Elected activities under Article 3, para. 4

(...)

According to the Swiss Federal Law on Forests, the extent and the spatial distribution of the total forest area in Switzerland has to be preserved (WaG, Art. 1). Therefore, any change of the forested area has to be authorized. Therefore, all forests in Switzerland are subject to forest management as defined above, excluding afforestations.
