

23 February 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-fourth session

Bonn, 18–26 May 2006

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol

**The numerical value for forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4,
of the Kyoto Protocol inscribed for Italy**

The numerical value for forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol inscribed for Italy

Submission from a Party

1. The Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP), at its first session, took note of the request by the Government of Italy (FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/MISC.2) and a subsequent request by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, for the numerical value for forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol inscribed for Italy in the appendix to the annex to decision 16/CMP.1 to be reconsidered in the context of paragraph 12 of the annex to that decision.
2. At the same session, the COP/MOP requested the Government of Italy to submit country-specific data on forest management activity under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol to the secretariat in a timely manner to facilitate the consideration of this issue by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/8, chapter XVII). This document contains these country-specific data which were received by the secretariat on 29 December 2005.
3. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

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SUBMISSION FROM ITALY

**Country-specific data on forest management activity
under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol**

Background

Following the request made by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its first session (COP/MOP1), held in Montreal on 28 November - 9 December 2005, the Government of Italy submits related country-specific data on forest management activity under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.

Country-specific data on forest management activity under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol

Official national data on anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol are annually submitted by Italy to the UNFCCC Secretariat in its National Inventory Report with attached Common Reporting Format tables.

The latest Italian NIR, submitted by Italy in 2005¹, is the data-source for the country-specific data on forest management activity under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol reported hereafter.

The Italy's forest area on 1st January, 1990 has been reported equal to 9,061,783 ha and this is the total eligible area under forest management activity. The country's forest area on 31st December, 2003 has been reported equal to 10,674,417 ha, thus the increased forest-land area over the period 1990-2003 is 1,612,634 ha. Considering that Italy reported in Table 5.A the total carbon stock change in carbon pools of category "Forest Land", equal to 21,830.298 Gg² C, without distinction between sub-category "Forest Land remaining Forest Land" and sub-category "Land Converted to Forest Land", then the carbon stock changes occurred on area subject to Afforestation/Reforestation activities since 1990 shall be subtracted to such reported value.

Given that, in 2003, the afforested/reforested area since 1st January, 1990 is equal to 15.107 % of the total forest land area, also the total carbon stock change in carbon pools of category "Forest Land" is diminished by such percentage (in absolute value, this means 3,297.903 Gg C, which represents the 15.107 % of the total carbon stock change in carbon pools). By applying this reduction, the resulting value, 18,532.395 Gg C, is the total carbon stock change in carbon pools for the total eligible area under forest management activity. It must be stated that the latter amount has been calculated following a prudent and conservative approach, considering the fact that in novel created forest carbon accumulation rate during the establishment phase is lower than the average one.

Calculation of the value to be inscribed to Italy in the Appendix to the Annex to decision 16/CMP.1

By applying the 85 per cent discount factor - as reported in footnote 5 of paragraph 11 of the Annex to decision 16/CMP.1 - to the total carbon stock change in carbon pools for the total eligible area under forest management activity, the resulting value is equal to 2.78 Mt C/yr.

¹ Available at:

http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/2761.php

² Such value is slightly lower than the value that could be calculated using as data-source the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/32086/en/ita>).