



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-eighth session
Bonn, 4–13 June 2008

Agenda item 5

Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

**Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries:
approaches to stimulate action**

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the views of Parties¹ on outstanding methodological issues as referred to in decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 7, and initiated consideration of how to address this matter.
2. The SBSTA identified the main methodological issues that could be included in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session, as provided in the annex to these conclusions.
3. The SBSTA decided to continue consideration of the outstanding methodological issues, including advancing the development of possible methodological approaches, on the basis of the annex, at its twenty-ninth session (December 2008), taking into account:
 - (a) The outcome of the workshop to be held on 25–27 June 2008 in Tokyo, Japan, in accordance with decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 7 (b);
 - (b) The views from Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above;
 - (c) Outcomes that the SBSTA recognizes as methodologically relevant from the consideration of policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and any other relevant paragraphs under decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan).
4. The SBSTA requested its Chair to inform the AWG-LCA, at its third session, of the results of consultations and progress made during SBSTA 28 and at the workshop referred to in paragraph 3 (a) above.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.4 and Add.1–3.

5. The SBSTA also agreed to consider, at its twenty-ninth session, ways to move the process forward, including the possible need for a fourth workshop, expert meetings and/or informal consultations to be initiated before its thirtieth session (June 2009), subject to availability of supplementary funding.

Annex**Main methodological issues**

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, in undertaking its programme of work on methodological issues as referred to in decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 7, based on the views of Parties, identified, inter alia, the following issues for further consideration:

1. Estimation and monitoring

Issues for estimating and monitoring changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of the forest, reduction of emissions from deforestation, and reduction of emissions from forest degradation, in relation to:

- (a) National monitoring systems to facilitate results-based, demonstrable, transparent and verifiable estimates;
- (b) Options for robust, consistent methodologies including forest inventories, ground-based, and remote-sensing approaches, as appropriate;
- (c) Applicability of the considered methodologies, including those in existing good practice guidance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to the assessment of reductions in emissions from deforestation; reductions in emissions from degradation, and incremental changes due to sustainable management of the forest.

2. Reference emissions levels

Means to establish reference emission levels, based on historical data, taking into account, inter alia, trends, starting dates and the length of the reference period, availability and reliability of historical data, and other specific national circumstances.

3. Displacement of emissions

Means to identify and address displacement of emissions.

4. National and subnational approaches

- (a) Implications of national approaches, including reference levels, estimates, reporting, and intra-national displacement of emissions if appropriate, taking into account national circumstances;
- (b) Implications of subnational approaches, including reference levels and estimates, reporting, intra-national displacement of emissions, taking into account national circumstances;
- (c) How subnational approaches can be used to develop national approaches.

5. Capacity-building

Identification of capacity-building needs to implement the methodologies considered in this annex, including inter alia technology, data collection, institutional arrangements and

national monitoring systems; in order to facilitate technical support and cooperation where appropriate.

6. Effectiveness of actions

- (a) Effectiveness of actions relating to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of decision 2/CP.13, and criteria for evaluation of actions including ongoing efforts, emission reductions and/or enhancement of removals achieved, further efforts needed and mobilization of resources;
- (b) Lessons learned from demonstration activities.

7. Cross-cutting issues

- (a) Means to address non-permanence;
- (b) Comparability and transparency in assessment of carbon stocks of diverse ecosystems;
- (c) Financial implications for implementing methodological approaches;
- (d) Institutional requirements for implementing methodological approaches;
- (e) Any implications of methodological approaches for indigenous people and local communities;
- (f) Implications for the promotion of co-benefits taking note of the aims and objectives of other relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (g) Implications of methods to verify estimates of emission reductions and enhancement of removals and changes in forest cover;
- (h) Implications of different definitions of forest and relevant forest-related activities on assessment of emissions reductions and enhancement of removals and changes in forest cover;
- (i) Means to deal with uncertainties in estimates aiming to ensure that reductions in emissions or increases in removals are not over-estimated, including those existing in IPCC guidance.
