

11 June 2008

ENGLISH/FRENCH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Views on outstanding methodological issues related to policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the 17 submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.4 and Add.1 and 2, two further submissions have been received.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.4/Add.3

GE.08-70633

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. MEXICO (Submission received 11 June 2008	3
2. SENEGAL (Submission received 7 June 2008).....	5

PAPER NO. 1: MEXICO

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries:
Approaches to Stimulate Action*

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

I. INTRODUCTION

With the aim of contributing to the negotiations on this issue, Mexico's proposal incorporates elements derived from the recommendations and conclusions of the workshops held in Berlin and Santiago de Chile in March, 2008, in which Mexico was an active participant in the discussions. Moreover, the views expressed in this document are the result of a lengthy and thorough consultation process within the relevant national environmental policy-making institutions.

The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its 13th session, requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to undertake a program of work on methodological issues related to a range of policy approaches and positive incentives that aim to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and invited Parties to submit their views on how to address outstanding methodological issues (FCCC/SBSTA/2007-7L.23/Add.1/Rev.1, paragraph 7a).

Mexico welcomes the opportunity to express its views on these issues and looks forward to further discussions at the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

II. VIEWS ON HOW TO ADDRESS OUTSTANDING METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

- ***Assessments of changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions.***

There are existing capacities and data on the assessment of forest cover and associated carbon stocks that could be used in a REDD mechanism. These include: remotely sensed data (to monitor changes in forest and vegetation cover) and established methods and tools for estimating forest carbon stocks, such as the 2003 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Guidance, and/or the IPCC 2006 Guidelines, when relevant and provided that IPCC 2006 is approved by the UNFCCC. However, considering that developing countries face limited financial and human resources that would hinder their use of these capacities and data, it is of utmost importance to provide them with initial financing options (i.e. to cover their capacity building needs and/or access to data and assessment technology). Finally, further IPCC work on the mentioned Guidelines is encouraged, such that the technical requirements of a REDD mechanism could apply to national circumstances of developing countries.

- ***Incremental changes due to sustainable forest management***

As other countries have indicated, "developing countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance carbon stocks due to sustainable forest management, must remain voluntary", and the ways to achieve these goals will be determined by each country alone given their national circumstances.

Three new concepts were included in Article 11 of Decision 2/CP13: (1) sustainable forest management, (2) enhancement of carbon stocks and (3) forest conservation. Sustainable forest management is identified as a tool that is being used to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, but also as a tool that is used to maintain or increase the forest carbon stock. Activities in forest land remaining forest land lead to enhanced carbon stocks or reduced emissions. As other Parties have noted, however, it must be stressed that enhancement corresponds to emissions removals rather than to emission reductions. With respect to forest conservation, Mexico recognizes that it plays an important role in mitigation of emissions (by

emissions removals), and in ensuring the presence of existing forest carbon stocks over time. Forest conservation activities could effectively support a REDD mechanism, and thus this concept should be considered and appropriate methodologies developed under the UNFCCC.

- ***Demonstration of reductions in emissions from deforestation, including reference emissions levels***

Reference emissions levels, at all scales of implementation, should be based on historical data on GHG emissions and should take into account national circumstances. It is expected that the reference emissions level will take into account scenarios or forecasts estimated with the countries' most relevant time frame, and appropriate data, to facilitate a credible and consistent verification process. Although each country is free to decide upon the use of data and methodology to estimate a reference emissions level, it is suggested that the UNFCCC defines a set of applicable criteria that should be met by all countries in the design of its reference emissions levels. These criteria should ensure estimates that are measurable, reportable, and verifiable.

- ***Estimation and demonstration of reduction in emissions from forest degradation***

Recognizing that forest degradation is an effective source of GHG *emissions from forest areas* in developing countries, Parties are encouraged to support the inclusion of "degradation" under a REDD mechanism. Forest degradation is the persistent and long-term reduction of carbon stocks in forest land remaining forest land due to human activities. However, methodologies to determine the emissions reference level of forest degradation are not yet available and no guidance currently exists in the IPCC literature. The IPCC could develop such methodologies by defining classes of degraded forests and estimating activity data for categories of change (e.g. "degraded forest to severely degraded forest").

- ***Implications of national and sub-national approaches including displacement of emissions***

Acknowledging the diversity of circumstances across nations, Mexico favours a flexible implementation approach for REDD, which could either be project level, sub-national or national. Moreover, regardless of the level of the approach, Mexico strongly encourages a national accounting system to facilitate reporting and to avoid double-counting of emission reductions or removals (in the case of enhancement of forest carbon stocks).

The implementation of activities at the national or sub-national level will be determined by each country on a voluntary basis, as their sovereign right, taking into account their specific national circumstances and requirements. However, sub-national approaches for some countries might constitute a step towards the development of national approaches. National, sub-national or project reference levels and estimates should be calculated accordingly, in a way that reflects the spirit and the articles of the Convention. Countries should consider measures and mechanisms to avoid leakage.

A national accounting, reporting and assessment system could be established in order to ensure measurable, reportable and verifiable mitigation actions through REDD. However, in order to initiate implementation of such systems, strong support for capacity building, technology transfer and financial resources is needed.

For those developing countries able to start with sub-national activities, short-term funding could be mobilized under the Convention to facilitate national capacity building. In the same manner, funding could be mobilized under the Convention to facilitate steps toward a national accounting, reporting and assessment system.

While it is generally accepted that a national reference level would address concerns over displacement of emissions, sub-national activities should implement measures for appropriate accounting of displacement of emissions. However, further analysis of methodological proposals, is required.

Points de vue du Sénégal sur la lutte contre la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts

I- PROBLEMATIQUE

Le protocole de Kyoto, c'est connu, a fait peu de place à la foresterie. Cela découle de la complexité de la foresterie par rapport aux secteurs de développement.

- l'horizon temporel en foresterie varie de 20 à 50 ans alors qu'il est de 4 à 7 ans ailleurs
- la foresterie, notamment pluviale, bute en Afrique sur beaucoup de risques liés :
 - aux feux de brousse
 - à la divagation des animaux (et aux émondations excessives)
 - à l'exploitation abusive et aux empiètements sur les plantations
 - aux variétés climatiques (pluviométrie) qui détermine la production de biomasse

Voilà pourquoi, jusqu'à date, aucune méthodologie convaincante n'a pu voir le jour sur la foresterie africaine. L'un des aspects les plus difficiles demeure l'élaboration d'un plan de suivi qui intègre tous les aléas mentionnés.

Face à cette situation, le Sénégal propose depuis 2005 la prise en compte de la mise en défens dans le MDP de même que le carbone du sol.

II- L'ESPOIR NÉ DE LA STRATÉGIE REDD

L'impasse dans laquelle se trouve la foresterie, par rapport aux opportunités du protocole de Kyoto, semble trouver une porte d'espoir avec la stratégie REDD. En effet, la lutte contre la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts demeure la voie royale pour restaurer les forêts en Afrique sud-saharienne :

- 1- La réduction des feux de brousse réduit les émissions de GES
- 2- La mise en défens donne les mêmes résultats que la plantation après 4 ans en terme de taux de couverture, avec des coûts moindres (14 000 Fcfa/an contre 640 000 Fcfa/ha)
- 3- La lutte contre la déforestation et la dégradation garantit le retour de la biodiversité végétale et animale. Cet aspect est extrêmement important, par exemple, pour le développement de la pharmacopée locale qui joue beaucoup sur l'économie familiale

Cependant, la stratégie REDD, pour être opérationnelle, ne doit pas avoir les mêmes paramètres d'évaluation que le reboisement.

2.1- Revu des critères d'évaluation

La stratégie REDD ne consiste, concrètement, qu'à éliminer les feux de brousse, la dent du bétail et les coupes frauduleuses. Ces pratiques ne sont pas sans conséquence sur les critères actuelles d'évaluation de la reforestation :

- **l'analyse des fuites** : dans les cas de déforestation évitée, la lutte contre la divagation des animaux consiste souvent à orienter les troupeaux ailleurs que dans les zones à améliorer. Pour contourner cette difficulté à devoir intégrer les fuites sur le bilan carbone, l'on devrait requalifier le concept de « Fuite »

- **l'inventaire de la biomasse ligneuse**, notamment quand il s'agit de prendre en compte la régénération naturelle. Les procédés d'inventaire des plantations et des peuplements naturels ne sont pas applicables aux zones à restaurer où la végétation peut être touffue mais composée d'individus à faible diamètre.

2.2- Nouvelles propositions

Les fuites dans leur conception actuelle doivent changer d'intérêt. En effet, dans les zones à restaurer, les animaux, éloignés des mises en défens clôturées, ne consomment que du tapis herbacé et non ou peu de végétaux ligneux. Autrement dit, l'on devrait intégrer un coefficient zonal dans l'analyse des fuites allant de 0 à 1 dépendant de la densité des arbres dans la zone où se pratique la mise en défens.

Par exemple, dans les zones de steppes herbueses et arbustives, ce coefficient peut être nul, dans les steppes arborées de 0,4, dans les savanes arbustives de 0,7 et dans les savanes arborées de 1. Donc, plus on descend vers les zones boisées, plus le coefficient zonal augmente, et moins on a besoin de procéder à la mise en défens.

Concernant l'estimation du carbone séquestrée, il faudrait développer des techniques d'estimation du carbone par unités de surface (le mètre carré par exemple) où le carbone des végétaux et du sol serait calculé.

L'autre innovation que le REDD devrait apporter est la réduction de la durée des projets. Celle-ci ne devrait pas dépasser 7 ans pour des mesures de séquestration qui pourraient commencer à l'année 2.

III- STRATEGIE DE MISE EN ŒUVRE

Il faudrait dès à présent lancer un projet de recherche pour valider les propositions faites ci-dessus.
