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

Information on experiences and views on needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the seven submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.2 and the three submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.2/Add.1, 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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. JAPAN (Submission received 4 May 2009)	3
2. SWITZERLAND ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP (Submission received 19 April 2009)	9

30 April 2009

Draft Submission of Japan on REDD

On needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation
and
On issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and
application of methodologies

Japan notes the significance of the Joint statement on the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries announced by 24 countries, including Japan, at COP 14.

Japan further notes the importance of conclusions of SBSTA 29, in particular, the following two points:

- The SBSTA recommended the methodological guidance as provided in its annex, and showed that discussions on the methodological issues were to be converged towards COP 15, and
- The SBSTA requested its Chair to inform the AWG-LCA, at its sixth session, of the results of consultations and progress made, which clarified the discussion process.

Discussions made in the process of developing methodological guidance at the SBSTA 29 in Poznan, provided valuable opportunities for Parties to share their views, and as a result, the SBSTA decided to invite Parties to submit information and views on two issues (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23, para.10 and 11).

In this context and recognizing that discussions at the SBSTA well provided, among others, inputs to discussions on policy issues at the AWG-LCA, Japan considers that such inputs should be a prerequisite in making progress and concluding the ongoing discussions. Considering the close relationship of the two issues in the invitations mentioned above, Japan will make its response by presenting this submission.

This submission is consisted of the following:

1. Summary and conclusions
2. Common issues
3. Estimation
4. Reporting
5. Monitoring
6. Actions toward preventing deforestation and forest degradation and reducing emissions
7. Issues on indigenous peoples and local communities

1. Summary and conclusions

To address the needs for capacity-building and cooperation regarding REDD, it is useful to share experiences from preceding and ongoing activities. In particular, evaluation of the effectiveness

of introduced policies is a new challenge and thus important. It is expected that the REDD Web Platform under the UNFCCC site be utilized for the purpose of sharing experiences.

Noting that the variety of actions will depend on the choice of methodological basis for estimating emissions in REDD, the Parties should be able to choose the methodological basis that are applicable for broader activities. Capacity-building and cooperation are necessary and are beneficial not only for the promotion of REDD, but also for Sustainable Forest Management in developing countries. The political implications of providing basic data for allocation of incentives in the future should be taken into account for capacity-building and cooperation related to monitoring, reporting and review. Forest degradation should be the focus of capacity-building and cooperation for monitoring while conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks could be addressed together with forest degradation in perspective of the similarity of monitoring methodologies. While ongoing research and technology development has contributed to reducing the uncertainty of monitoring and estimation of forest degradation to some extent, uncertainty is still relatively high compared to the one with estimation of deforestation.

Active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities is important for effective REDD activities such as improvements in forest governance including measures to combat illegal logging. Such participation is also expected to play a certain role in monitoring. As we are relatively new in experiences in this area, information input from the field activities is much needed. Furthermore, capacity-building and cooperation should be undertaken with active involvement of indigenous and local peoples, which is one of the conditions for wider stakeholder-participation in REDD activities and their effective implementation.

2. Common Issues

Japan recognizes it important that the implementation of REDD activities will actually result in certain reduction of emissions. Japan also strongly recognizes that the development of robust methodologies and capacity-development for implementing such methodologies are essential to realize REDD activities.

(1) The need to learn from experiences of ongoing efforts

Experiences of ongoing multilateral and bilateral efforts should be utilized to address the needs for capacity-building and cooperation related to REDD. They include the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Programme (FIP) of the World Bank, the collaborative partnerships under UN-REDD program and countries' technical support programs and others. With regard to the multilateral efforts, inputs to the UNFCCC and Parties from the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), all of which have focus on forests, are important, as they provide information/knowledge on the position of forest management within the context of efforts towards sustainable development, as well as on activity data and emission factors related to forests.

(2) Sharing experiences from preceding cases

Information on demonstration activities are being collected in such fora as the FCPF of the World Bank. Regarding the REDD Web Platform launched by the UNFCCC secretariat, provision of information by developing countries should be considered on such matters as lessons learned from the past experiences, ongoing activities and future plans in the country

specific information section¹ of the Web Platform. Japan has been carrying out a wide variety of activities including technical cooperation programs to achieve the Sustainable Forest Management in developing countries. Recently, Japan has received requests for new cooperation aimed at REDD from several countries and will consider providing information on previous and future forest-related bilateral technical cooperation (e.g. forest biomass data collection, forest resource monitoring and REDD) and remote sensing on the Web Platform.

Such information will be useful for both developing and developed countries to promote sharing of experiences and to develop efficient and effective implementation in the future. At the same time, the information will help AWG-LCA process to become more familiar with the Land Use, Land-Use Change & Forestry including REDD, and to understand inputs from the SBSTA regarding REDD.

3. Estimation

Issues on estimation are described in this section. Japan's views regarding data collection are described in 5. Monitoring.

(1) Basis for estimation

Capacity-building related to the use of the *IPCC 2003 LULUCF-GPG* is important for enabling Parties to deal with forest degradation. Capacity-building for estimation and monitoring should aim to achieve not only consistent representation of land areas but also the quality assurance and control of data under the Tiered approach as described in the *IPCC 2003 LULUCF-GPG*. Regardless of the approach adopted for incentive allocation (funds-based or market-based), this will require careful consideration on its serious implications.

The *IPCC 1996 Guidelines* referred in the methodological guidance by SBSTA 29 are consistent with the *IPCC 2003 LULUCF-GPG*. Therefore, it should be noted that estimation based on the *IPCC 1996 Guidelines* can be conducted under the *IPCC 2003 LULUCF-GPG*. There is some concern that persistence to the *IPCC 1996 Guidelines*, at the time when basic methodological issues are being discussed, may lead to exclusion of land use and land-use change other than forests from estimation and to reduced options for Parties.

(2) Deforestation and forest degradation

Deforestation and forest degradation differ not only in socio-economic driving factors but also in methodologies for monitoring and assessment of carbon emissions. Therefore, the measures against these issues may require different approaches including methodological guidance. On the other hand, with respect to the monitoring of "degradation" and "conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks," similar methodologies to monitor forest carbon stock changes could apply.

Whether it be funds-based or market-based approach, the way how incentives should be allocated is an essential issue to consider. Several programs have been initiated to assist capacity development on REDD, and we have already seen some undertakings of a hybrid incentive mechanism, which provide funds to a country concerned prior to the implementation of REDD program, and allocate incentives according to the outcomes of the

¹ http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/country_specific_information/items/4537.php

activities. In the early stage, it is necessary to develop a REDD mechanism taking into account the level of technology development as well as the uncertainty of estimates of forest degradation monitoring.

4. Reporting

(1) Monitoring and reporting system at national and sub-national level

Concrete actions regarding REDD might include not only those at national level but also project-based ones at local or a defined geographical area of a country. Considering the structure of UNFCCC having countries as Parties and the need to address the displacement of emissions, monitoring and reporting of REDD under the UNFCCC should be based on national level, as many Parties insist. Monitoring of sub-national level projects at local or a defined geographical area may be useful for assessing effectiveness of such activities and may meet the capacity-building needs, but it needs further consideration whether they should be reported to the COP or not.

What is necessary for COP is a responsible national-level reporting from Parties and capacity-building for its implementation. If REDD activities were implemented only at local- or project-level in a country concerned (i.e. no activities implemented at the national-level), then reporting from the country would need to describe the status of displacement and the coordination among related agencies within that country.

(2) Transparent and independent review

The methodological guidance, section 2 (d), in the annex of the SBSTA 29 conclusions reflects the capacity-building need for national forest monitoring systems that ensure transparent and independent review of their results. Japan puts emphasis that not only on methodologies for assessing physical changes of forests (e.g. carbon stocks) but also on the capacity building on methodologies for assessing the effects of additionally introduced policies for REDD. This is important because of its political implications on whether incentives for REDD should be given as a compensation for putting off profits from land use change, or as an assistance for REDD activities.

5. Monitoring

(1) Emissions from forest degradation

Research, development and cooperation on forest monitoring using remote sensing technologies have developed from detection of changes in forest cover (area, vitality, vegetation types, etc.) to estimation of changes in forest biomass. This includes combining data from multiple satellites and sensors as well as combining remote sensing using satellites with ground-based forest survey.

While estimation of emissions from deforestation with the use of remote sensing technologies is already available, estimation of emissions from forest degradation and removals from conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries is more complicated. Although various institutions are conducting researches today, such methodologies have not been applied in the field at a large scale. Therefore, an emphasis should be placed on capacity-building for estimating emissions from forest degradation while estimation of removals from conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing

countries could be addressed together with forest degradation in perspective of the similarity of monitoring methodologies.

In addition, with the current level of technology development, estimated emissions from forest degradation are expected to have greater uncertainty than that from deforestation; however, the level of uncertainty may be reduced as the development of technology progresses.

(2) Development of forest monitoring system and field survey

Estimating emissions from forest degradation requires biomass estimation based on field survey or alternative methods. Accordingly, estimation of past emissions is limited.

Although high resolution satellite imagery taken in the past can be used for estimation, such imagery is available only for limited areas. In order to estimate emissions from forest degradation in the near future, it is necessary to deploy forest monitoring system and initiate field survey based on the system as soon as possible.

6. Actions toward preventing deforestation and forest degradation and reducing emissions

Along with the development of methodologies and systems for estimation, reporting and monitoring, actions for actually reducing emissions constitute an important element of REDD. Therefore, it is also necessary to address the need for capacity-building regarding development of action plans.

So far, relevant international organizations such as FAO and ITTO, and countries including Japan have implemented various programs for promotion of sustainable forest management, including establishment and coordination of policy systems, participatory forest management, forest fire prevention, fire and forest management in peat forest, measures to combat illegal logging, and approaches to co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation, etc. Results/outcomes of relevant programs already implemented have been presented, in many cases by NGOs, at side events held during meetings of the UNFCCC. It is essential to refer to knowledge and experiences gained in such programs in developing concrete measures to achieve the prevention of deforestation and forest degradation and reduction of associated emissions.

Also, improvement of forest governance, including measures to combat illegal logging, through enhancement of institutional capacity is important to realize actual reduction of deforestation and forest degradation and associated emissions. Sharing of data and coordination of policies among relevant agencies within a country concerned will be necessary for this purpose.

Because conditions of forests including species composition and density of forest cover widely differ among countries and regions, actions for preventing deforestation and forest degradation and reducing emissions should also vary among countries and regions. Accordingly, it is assumed that these actual actions are even less compatible with the “one-size-fits-all” approach than in the case of estimation, reporting and monitoring. It is often inappropriate to apply a “best practice” activity from one country or region to another in a simple way. Therefore, collection of best practices in various conditions and environment should be promoted. At the same time, participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be ensured and their views should be sufficiently reflected in the implementation.

7. Issues relating to indigenous peoples and local communities for the development and application of methodologies

Active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities is very important for effective implementation of concrete REDD activities including enhancing forest governance and promoting measures to combat illegal logging. Participation of local communities in monitoring is also important as this will provide opportunities to ensure that REDD activities “do no harm” to the livelihood of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Regarding collection of activity data for REDD, we should further accumulate experiences on what roles indigenous and local communities would play and how this may contribute to forest monitoring in a country concerned. It is expected that such information will be provided, for example, through the REDD Web Platform.

Note:

The Government of Japan has submitted six submissions on REDD to the SBSTA and AWGLCA. These submissions are contained in the following documents:

FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.5, p.91-92

FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.2, p.62-63

FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.14, p.36

FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.4, p.35-37

FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/MISC.2, p.26

FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/MISC.4/Add.1, p.8-9

PAPER NO. 2: SWITZERLAND ON BEHALF OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP

SWITZERLAND ON BEHALF OF THE EIG
Submission on: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

SBSTA 30

Experiences and views on needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation in, inter alia, the implementation of methodologies for estimating and monitoring changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of forests, reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, national and sub-national monitoring and reporting systems, and methodologies for forest inventories, ground-based and remote-sensing approaches related to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries

Response to FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23, paragraph 10.

Importance of REDD in the UNFCCC process

1. We consider REDD to be important and offering mostly win-win benefits for many reasons:

Firstly, changes in land uses are currently responsible for about one fifth of all anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Inevitably, any substantial reduction of those emissions can significantly contribute to reducing total anthropogenic emissions.

Secondly, it is expected that in developing countries REDD may support endeavors toward sustainable forest management and the preservation of many forests that provide services contributing to the well-being of all humans (forest wood and non-wood products, regulating services, cultural and spiritual services) and constitute an immeasurable value (e.g. biodiversity). REDD regimes that fulfill the design principles for common pool resources are a crucial part of sustainable national food, water, energy and commodity provision policies. For many countries food security will not be attainable if poor rural populations won't be recompensed for their efforts to ensure a sustainable management of forests that provide the environmental services provided by forests.

2. Furthermore, progress on REDD is needed for a successful outcome of COP 15. In this context we propose that COP 15 has an agenda item dedicated to REDD. Several crunch issues related to REDD negotiations can only be adequately dealt with if all relevant bodies of the UNFCCC, i.e. COP, SBSTA, AWG-LCA, and SBI are involved in an appropriate, coordinated, and timely manner. This seems to call for an agenda item dedicated to REDD at the highest, i.e. the COP level. In addition we expect an agenda item dedicated to REDD at SBSTA 30.

Views on further work

3. As discussed during the workshop on REDD held in Accra in August 2009 during the AWG-KP 6 meeting, as well as in Poznan in the SBSTA 29, there are still many issues ranging from methodology to finance and policy that need further treatment.
 - The role of governance issues for the effectiveness of REDD activities
 - The consistency of REDD plus activities with other multilateral environmental agreements, including conformance to the LULUCF principles as contained in decisions 11/CP.7 and 16/CMP.1, paragraph 1.
 - REDD plus financing schemes *interalia* including incentives for conservation of carbon stocks have to be designed within the framework of the AWG-LCA.

Effectiveness of REDD activities

4. The raison d'être of REDD activities is their effectiveness in being able to contribute to reducing emissions at the global scale. This has to be addressed in the framework of a process of measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) these activities.
5. In order to enhance the effectiveness of REDD activities, we propose discussing a set of criteria (similar to what has also been discussed e.g. in the "Forests Dialogue" www.theforestsdialogue.org or at the UNFF Country-led Initiative on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/cli/cli_durban_report.pdf) in order to specify eligibility of REDD activities for funding. We are convinced that any significant funding, especially in the long run, can only be sustained if the effectiveness of REDD activities can be reported, verified and measured in a manner that suffices QA&QC as for instance described in the IPCC GPG LULUCF. Therefore, we call on all other Parties to cooperate in such negotiations, since we believe it will be a prerequisite to meaningfully address all other open issues as well.

Swiss experience on REDD activities

6. Finally, Switzerland can provide insights from the experiences that we gained by supporting REDD pilot activities, notably in Madagascar (see box below, which describes also other pilot activities in developing countries that Switzerland supports). First, they confirmed that forests contribute substantially to human and environmental well-being. The experiences also showed clearly that significant efforts are needed to bring capacities in most developing countries to the levels needed by RVM for REDD activities. This is in particular the case where remote sensing is still too limited in estimating carbon stock changes where only degradation, but no clearly detectable deforestation has yet taken place. Switzerland believes that this presents a challenge which would even call for further research and development in parallel to all the other efforts to promote REDD. Moreover, in cases where an over-arching SFM approach is to be furthered, e.g. in the case of restoration of once degraded forests, such

considerations become even more relevant to the success of all REDD activities in the very long run.

Swiss REDD-AFOLU Experiences in Developing Countries: Synergies Between Forest Programs, Capacity-Building and Multilateral Cooperation

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in Madagascar: The pilot REDD project [FORECA \("Forests Committed as Carbon Reservoirs"\)](#) will enable Madagascar to participate in the conceptualization of a new international REDD-transfer payment scheme for non-Annex 1 countries and is expected to foster sustainable rural development through the promotion of effective and equitable land-use practices. The project data and insights are based on seven pilot sites, different ecosystems and socio-economic framework conditions. The project tackles challenging areas such as the articulation of national and sub-national approaches, forest-relevant policies (e.g. agriculture, livestock, water, energy), the role of decentralized authorities (municipalities, villages), forest tenure, the ownership of reduced emissions, and the design and establishment of an incentive system that reduces pressure on forest resources and benefits local people. FORECA contributed significantly to the participation of Madagascar in the multilaterally funded Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank and will be crucial for the implementation of Madagascar's FCPF Readiness Plan.

SDC in Nepal: The well-known [Nepal-Swiss Community Forestry Project \(NSCFP\)](#) has been strengthening Nepal's Community Forestry Program since 1990 to make Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and grassroots organizations institutionally, economically and ecologically sustainable. Achievements include the improvement of livelihood and income of disadvantaged groups, the sustainable management of resources, the governance of CFUG's, enabling local service providing institutions, the development of pro-poor enterprises based on processing of forest resources, and the dissemination of the project's experiences. SDC and NSCFP are now able to contribute with substantial methodological inputs to the institutional design and implementation of Nepal's Readiness Plan in the context of the (FCPF) of the World Bank.

SDC's Climate Change Capacity Building Program: a capacity-building program on Climate Change and Natural Resource Management since 2003, in which more than 500 national experts have been trained in Latin America, Africa and Asia through several partners. It includes mitigation and adaptation issues as well as disaster risk reduction in the context of adapting to climate change. The AFOLU mitigation options, especially A/R CDM and REDD are included in the training modules. Many of these experts already have their stake in the national design of AFOLU Mechanisms.

SECO Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs: SECO supports three main lines of AFOLU mitigation options: (a) Sustainable management of tropical forest through support of activities in the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); (b) Development of tools and methods; (c) Promotion of compensation mechanisms. An example of the first option is its financial and operational support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for the sustainable management of tropical forest in different pilot projects including San Nicolas Colombia. An innovative financing method combining SFM with the potential of forest mitigation options is being tested. Methods for quantifying and monitoring carbon sinks and emission reductions for deforestation and degradation have been locally developed. Switzerland is also supporting the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) by paying annually US\$ 8 million, making Switzerland the 5th most important of the 11 contributing donor agencies.
