

6 October 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES*

Fourth session

Buenos Aires, 2-13 November 1998

Item 5 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS RELATED TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

MATTERS RELATED TO DECISION 1/CP.3, PARAGRAPH 5

LAND-USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

Submission by a Party

Note by the secretariat

1. In addition to the submissions included in FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.1, one further submission has been received.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and is reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* Including the ninth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.1/Add.1

GE.98-63961

PAPER NO.1: SOUTH AFRICA

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3.3 OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, PARTICULARLY ON DATA AND METHODS, AND QUESTIONS AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.1

1. South Africa, as a developing country, seeks a coherent approach (taking into account developing country needs) to land-use change and forestry (LUCF) that is sustainable, environmentally- and scientifically sound.
2. The IPCC should be requested (through SBSTA) to “finalise” the:
 - a. Definitions of reforestation, afforestation and deforestation;
 - b. Guidelines to distinguish between possible approaches for developing countries;
 - c. The African Group requests SBSTA to task the IPCC to undertake a detailed investigation into the technical issues surrounding the role of land-use change and forestry, and to expedite their current activities in this regard. Amongst other issues to be evaluated, the IPCC could include the following in their studies:
 - Methods to apply in distinguishing between natural and anthropogenic sinks;
 - How to distinguish between the managed part of “natural” sinks and the rest, particularly as forests become more managed;
 - The role of carbon stocks and wood products and methods to apply to ensure their inclusion - if appropriate:
 - Definitions of eligible land-uses and forestry activities;
 - The quantification of potential negative impacts of sinks on other components of the environment, including social, cultural and economic issues;
 - The potential role of sinks in promoting biodiversity, preventing of soil erosion, reducing local water supplies and displacing of local peoples.
 - d. Qualification of the impact(s) should only forests be considered as sinks.
3. The link between CDM and LUCF (sinks) should be clearly defined so as to enable countries to pursue complementarity (this could be linking);
4. Criteria should be established for real, measurable and long-term sustainable benefits related to climate change;
5. There should be compatibility with sustainable development priorities;
6. There should now be a clearer and acceptable definition and understanding of the results of the methodological work on Articles 3.3 and 3.4 before commitment, work or projects are undertaken;
7. South Africa maintains its position as outlined by the Africa position.