



Milan, 2 December 2003
SBSTA-19
Agenda Item 4

IPCC Statement on its response to decision 11/CP.7 paragraph 3 (d) – LULUCF Task 3

In decision 11/CP.7, paragraph 3 (d) on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) the Conference of the Parties at its 7th Session in Marrakech invited the IPCC “To develop practicable methodologies to factor out direct human-induced changes in carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks from changes in carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks due to indirect human-induced and natural effects (such as those from carbon dioxide fertilization and nitrogen deposition), and effects due to past practices in forests (pre-reference year), to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session”.

In response to that request the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories organized an expert meeting in September 2002. This expert meeting *inter alia* concluded that to provide the basis and rationale for the development of practicable factoring out methodologies a scientific assessment is deemed as necessary. Subsequently the Task Force Bureau suggested that the task would be carried out in two stages, beginning with an assessment of science relevant for factoring out. The IPCC Bureau at its 28th Session (Geneva, 10–11 December 2002) noted that a number of critical scientific questions needed to be addressed and that many key scientific issues were considered speculative at the time when the Special Report on LULUCF (2000) and the WG1 and WG2 contribution to the TAR were finalized. In view of this it was considered essential that the IPCC survey the current state of the science, and, in particular, the developments in the science since these reports.

Subsequently, the 20th Session of the Panel agreed to a proposal by the Chair that the IPCC would conduct a high level scientific meeting that would survey the current scientific understanding of the processes affecting terrestrial carbon stocks and human influences upon them.

The expert meeting took place in Geneva during July 21-23, 2003. One of the key conclusions from that meeting is that “the scientific community cannot currently provide a practicable methodology that would factor out direct human-induced effects from indirect human-induced and natural effects for any broad range of LULUCF activities and circumstances. Research efforts are addressing some particular effects, such as CO₂ fertilization, over a range of spatial scales and are providing information relevant to the separability and attribution of different effects at specific sites where good historical information is available and intensive measurements are being carried out. Such efforts are expected to provide an increasing understanding of the feasibility and practicability of a broadly based approach to the issues of separability and attribution.”

Following the decision by the Panel at its 21st session, 3 and 6-7 November 2003, Vienna Austria the report of the expert meeting was submitted to SBSTA as a response to the invitation contained in decision 11/CP.7. In deciding to submit the report to SBSTA the Panel recalled that according to the “Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of IPCC Reports” proceedings and reports from IPCC workshops and expert meetings are considered

supporting material. Such supporting material has not been subjected to formal IPCC review processes. The Panel also noted, that while the development of practicable methodologies is not possible at this time, the IPCC remains open to the requirements of SBSTA.

The IPCC looks forward to receiving any further comments that SBSTA has on this report once it has been studied.